



Services of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Economic and Environmental Justice

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September 18, 2011



Urban Habitat: Mission Statement

- Urban Habitat (UH) builds power in low-income communities and communities of color by combining education, advocacy, research and coalition building to advance environmental, economic and social justice in the Bay Area.
- Urban Habitat focuses primarily on environmental justice, transportation and housing, and equitable development issues.



Urban Habitat: Organizational Approach

- Regional organization
- Work multi-sector and multi-issue
- Proactive versus Reactive
- Ensure meaningful and broad-based community participation in decision-making processes
- Focus on systems change



Urban Habitat: Oakland Airport Connector

- Civil rights, faith-based, and environmental groups filed a complaint with the Federal Transit Administration, contending that the OAC was planned without regard of the effect on surrounding neighborhoods, largely populated by low-income people of color.





Millions for Airport Travelers and Service Cuts for Bus Riders

Oakland Airport Connector:
\$492 million

AC Transit: \$57 million budget
shortfall (2009-2011) = fare
hikes and 15% service cuts



Oakland Airport Connector Then vs. Now

<u>Then (2000)</u>	<u>Now (2009)</u>
Cost: \$130 million	Cost: \$500 million
13,540 riders (2020)	4,350 riders (2020)
6 minute trip	16-19 minute trip
2 intermediate stops	No stops
Thousands of jobs!	700 jobs
Jobs for Oakland	No guarantees



What Was Won?

- \$70 M for Transit
- Forces BART to revamp and establish Civil Rights policies
- MTC Civil Rights compliance under review
- Notice to Transit operators that echoed across the country
- Important changes to BART Policies



Urban Habitat: Leadership Development

- Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute





Urban Habitat: Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute

- Identifies, supports, places, and trains low-income people and people of color in priority boards and commissions in the Bay Area through a cohort-driven, “seats first” model.
- Prioritizes boards and commissions that influence equity in terms of local and regional planning processes.
- Balances individual transformation with collective action to feed a progressive movement.
- Supports equitable decision making for advocate commissioners at the project level -- and builds power and encourages alignment at the policy development level.
- Includes an 80-hour initial training component, ongoing political support and technical assistance, and a growing alumni program.
- Is expanding in the region and replicating outside of the region.



Success Stories: Entering Year Three

- **Regional Seats**
 - Metropolitan Transportation Commission Policy Advisory Council
- **San Francisco Seats**
 - Citizen Committee in Community Development (2)
 - Hunters Point Shipyard Citizen Advisory Committee
 - Metropolitan Transit Agency Pedestrian Safety Advisory Commission (2)
 - Public Utilities Commission Community Advisory Committee (2)
 - Redistricting Task Force
 - SRO Task Force
- **Oakland Seats**
 - Planning Commission (2)
 - Rent Board (2)
 - Housing Authority (2)
- **Richmond Seats**
 - Planning Commission (2)
 - Human Relations Commission
 - Community Development Commission
 - Economic Development Commission
 - Healthy Richmond Steering Committee (2)
- **County Seats**
 - Alameda County Parks, Recreation, and Historical Landmark Commission
 - Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women
 - Contra Costa County Economic Opportunity Council
 - Contra Costa Commission on the Status of Women



SFPUC: Environmental Justice Policy

- The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission affirms and commits to the goals of environmental justice to prevent, mitigate, and lessen disproportionate environmental impacts of its activities on communities in all SFPUC service areas and to ensure that public benefits are shared across all communities.



SFPUC: Environmental Justice Policy

- The SFPUC defines environmental justice as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes and believes that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences resulting from the operations, programs, and/or policies of the SFPUC.



SFPUC: Environmental Justice Policy

- The SFPUC believes that everyone has the right to a job and reaffirms its commitment as an equal opportunity provider.



Application of Environmental Justice Policy

- Develop and implement training in SFPUC environmental justice issues in conjunction with staff orientation and continuing education efforts.
- Recognize community need for employment through continuation and expansion of workforce development strategies, including green job opportunities in communities historically and disproportionately burdened by pollution.



Application of Environmental Justice Policy

- Identify new and continue to implement existing initiatives to avoid or eliminate disproportionate impacts of SFPUC decisions and activities in all service areas.
- Develop diverse and culturally appropriate communication strategies to ensure that stakeholders can participate in decisions and actions that may impact their communities.



Application of Environmental Justice Policy

- Work with stakeholders, including the SFPUC's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and CAC Environmental Justice Subcommittee.



SFPUC: Jobs

- SF PUC Jobs Hearing December 2009
- Partnership with other city agencies and elected officials.
- Local hire policy December 2010



SFPUC: Improving conditions in Bayview/Hunters Point

- Diverse Environmental Justice Community
- Mitigation Agreement in 1980s
- Community Benefits Research
- Upcoming Sewer System Improvement Program



Lessons Learned

- Important for equity advocates to get onto decision making bodies.
- Scale of impact from policy making seat significant.
- Implementation of policy critical.



Implementation: Community Benefits Policy and Program

- Community Benefits Report
- Adoption of Community Benefits Policy
- Commitment to Develop Agency-Wide Community Benefits Program



Implementation: Community Benefits Report

- Interviewed more than 30 internal and external stakeholders, facilitated conversations through focus groups, and developed a project website, which included a comprehensive survey.
- Conducted inventory of existing efforts.
- Engaged stakeholders: Board of Supervisors, Commissioners, community.



Implementation: Community Benefits Policy

- Adoption of Community Benefits Policy January 2011.
- The SFPUC affirms and commits to the goal of developing an inclusive and comprehensive community benefits program to better serve and foster partnership with communities in all our service areas and to ensure that public benefits are shared across all communities.



Implementation: Community Benefits Policy

- The SFPUC acknowledges its responsibility to develop a community benefits program that is intentional, centrally coordinated and applies to all of SFPUC's operations and activities
- Program will be sustainable, transparent, measurable, and accessible by stakeholders and SFPUC staff.



Implementation: Community Benefits Policy and Program

- The SFPUC defines community benefits as those positive effects on a community that result from the SFPUC's operation and improvement of its water, wastewater and power services.
- The SFPUC seeks to be a good neighbor to all whose lives or neighborhoods are directly affected by its activities.
- The SFPUC has adopted a "triple bottom line" to guide its decisions, balancing the SFPUC's economic, environmental and social equity goals, to promote sustainability and community benefits.



Implementation: Community Benefits Policy and Program

Primary Focus

- Stakeholder and community involvement in the design, implementation and evaluation of SFPUC programs and policies;
- Workforce development, including coordination of internal and external workforce programs and strategic recruitment, training, placement, and succession planning for current and future SFPUC staff to ensure a skilled and diverse workforce;
- Use of land in a way that maximizes health, environmental sustainability and innovative
- ideas;



Implementation: Community Benefits Policy and Program

- Environmental programs and policies which preserve and expand clean, renewable water and energy resources, decrease pollution, reduce environmental impacts, and reward proposals for innovative and creative new environmental programs;
- Economic development resulting from collaborative partnerships which promote contracting with local companies, hiring local workers, and providing efficient, renewable energy at reduced costs;



Implementation: Community Benefits Policy and Program

- Support for arts and culture related to the SFPUC's mission, goals and activities;
- Educational programs;
- Diversity and inclusion programs and initiatives;
- In-kind contributions and volunteerism; and
- Improvement in community health through SFPUC activities, services and contributions



Implementation: Jobs and Economic Development

- Internal and External Job Opportunities
- Local Hire
- Stimulating local businesses



Implementation: Education

- Two recent State and Federal mandates require schools to provide access to clean drinking water, particularly during meal times (Health, Hungry-Free Kids Act of 2010 and CA SB1413).
- We are working with SFUSD and SFDPH to promote “Drink Tap”, install tap stations in public schools, and evaluate student behavior and decision making around beverage choice.



Implementation: Education

- The tap stations will allow students to easily fill cups and reusable containers throughout the day, providing more access to clean drinking water and reducing solid waste.



Implementation: Land Use

- Large land owner.
- History of supporting secondary use on PUC land.
- Innovative projects: Garden Project, Garden for the Environment, and Sunol Interpretive Education Center.
- Urban Agriculture Land Use Policy.



Implementation: Arts Enrichment

- City's 2% requirement.
- Misalignment of arts spending to SFPUC's priorities.
- New approach to arts enrichment culminating in SFPUC Arts Resolution and Policy.



Implementation: Arts Enrichment



Implementation: Arts Enrichment

SFPUC-Funded Arts Projects should:

- Have a nexus to SFPUC's functions, services, projects and priorities.
- Be aligned with SFPUC's Community Benefits Policy.
- Focus on geographic areas affected by SFPUC's projects and operations.
- Leverage and develop partnerships with other City agencies.
- Ensure that art is accessible to people with disabilities.



Implementation: Arts Enrichment

SFPUC art enrichment funds should be used to:

- Utilize local artists who reflect SF's rich diversity.
- Benefit the City's cultural centers that provide low-cost arts programs (such as the Bayview Opera House).
- Support arts education programs.
- Bolster Arts Commission CAEP programs that maximize community revitalization and youth arts programs.



Implementation: Sewer System Improvement Project

- \$4-6 Billion Rebuild of Sewer System
- All the work will take place in SF
- Contractor Assistance Center
- Community Benefits Language in Contracts



Implementation: Sewer System Improvement Project

- 1800 Oakdale
- Community Benefits Agreement



Lessons Learned

- Implementation
- Leadership
- Scale