

From: [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
To: riquerique@yahoo.com
Cc: [Wong, Linda \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: RE: 3/3 B&F Meeting Public Comment : a note from one of the callers you failed to recognize this morning at the committee hearing (March 3)
Date: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 5:44:59 PM

Hello Mr. Bernstein,

I was alerted to your email below regarding public comment issues you were experiencing during today's Budget meeting.

First, I want to assure you that we at the Office of the Clerk of the Board view the public's right to participate in the legislative process as one of our main charges as Clerks. As you can imagine, conducting remote meetings first started off challenging but we have adapted and refined our processes over the last year to ensure we are accommodating and capturing everyone who wants to participate. While this is obviously not perfect, we have installed back-ups and multiple layers of oversight to ensure we do not miss anything or anyone.

During today's hearing for Item 2 on the Budget and Finance agenda, there were 5 staff watching the public comment platform, including myself. During the entire Item 2 Hearing there were only 2 people on the phone listening, and both of them raised their hand and were allowed to provide comment. From your email it seems you may have tried to call in at the tail end of public comment and may have missed your opportunity to speak. We did notice another caller enter the public comment queue, but it was after Item 2 was disposed of and we were already on to the next item.

Please note, when the Clerk calls the item they request all members of the public to press *3 at the beginning of the hearing to ensure they don't miss their opportunity. Unfortunately a remote setting means there are streaming delays between the various platforms and if you wait until the very end of the hearing session to call in and line up, you may not get connected in time.

As I indicated, we take our charge very seriously and are also disappointed you were not able to connect and provide your very important testimony at the meeting. We will take your comments and place them in the legislative file for this matter so that they may be considered with the legislation. Thank you for your interest and please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Alisa Somera

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(VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS) To schedule a "virtual" meeting with me (on Microsoft Teams), please ask and I can answer your questions in real time.

Due to the current COVID-19 health emergency and the Shelter in Place Order, the Office of the Clerk of the Board is working remotely while providing complete access to the legislative process and our services.

Click [HERE](#) to complete a Board of Supervisors Customer Service Satisfaction form.

The [Legislative Research Center](#) provides 24-hour access to Board of Supervisors legislation, and archived matters since August 1998.

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**From:** Harry Bernstein <[riquerique@yahoo.com](mailto:riquerique@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 11:47 AM  
**To:** Wong, Linda (BOS) <[linda.wong@sfgov.org](mailto:linda.wong@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** a note from one of the callers you failed to recognize this morning at the committee hearing (March 3)

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Clerk Linda Wong

I was alerted to item 2 on this morning's Budget and Finance Committee. There were two public comments heard. I called and was in the queue while the second comment was being heard on the phone. After pressing \*3, I heard a voice say that I was in the queue. After that came the query, are there any more public comments and, *while I was sitting there waiting to make my comment*, the clerk--possibly you--said that there were no more public comments. THERE IS NO REMEDY FOR THIS TYPE OF ERROR. I cannot understand why I was overlooked. This 62% increase in the budget for this project was handled in a rather perfunctory manner. The substantial cost overrun in the cost of the overall wastewater project has been rather significant and the New Headworks Facility Project is just one component, though apparently a significant one. It seems that Mr. Pilpel's observation about the need to have sufficient management in-house at the PUC should be noted so that there is less of a need to contract out management services in the future.

The project update, if approved, won't have to come back to the Board until 2022. The prospect for another change order at that time appears more than likely, and these impact the ratepayers.

You, the Committee members, are the stewards of these resources. Now is not a time for increasing the costs for ratepayers.

Please share my comments with the three Supervisors.

I hope in the future that you and your staff will do all you can to keep trac of people who are waiting to make public comments and not overlook them. This experience was extremely disappointing.

Harry Bernstein

(one of Mr. Safai's constituents, though I won't get any extra points for that distinction)