



**San Francisco**  
**Water Power Sewer**  
 Operator of the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System

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February 20, 2019

**TO:** Ann Moller Caen, Vice President  
**FROM:** Harlan L. Kelly, Jr., General Manager *HK*  
**SUBJECT:** Declaration of Emergency — 2019 February Transmission Line Incident

Under Chapter 6, Section 6.60, subdivision (b) of the Administrative Code of the City and County of San Francisco, I hereby declare an emergency on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission. This declaration provides notice to the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, the Controller, and the Public Utilities Commission in accordance with the requirements of subdivision (b). This declaration requests approval from the President of the Public Utilities Commission for expenditures not to exceed \$600,000 to perform the emergency repairs discussed below.

As described below, the present facts and circumstances meet the definition of an “actual emergency” under Section 6.60, subdivision (c) as a sudden, unforeseeable and unexpected occurrence, which requires immediate repairs to maintain essential public services.

On February 16, 2019, during a large snow storm, a tree fell into Hetch Hetchy Water and Power’s 230kV transmission line near Big Creek Shaft Road near Groveland, California. The tree was located immediately next to but outside of the SFPUC right of way. The tree damaged about 1500 feet of conductor (all three phases) and at least one transmission tower.

Prior to hitting SFPUC’s 230kV transmission line, the tree also fell into PG&E’s distribution line affecting power distribution to customers near Groveland and power to the Groveland Community Services District’s (GCSD) Big Creek Shaft facility. Big Creek Shaft is a diversion point for GCSD from the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System (HHRWS). Because this emergency coincides with the interim repairs of Mountain Tunnel, this emergency is not currently impacting the GCSD water supply. PG&E has restored power to all but 6 customers. PG&E has one day of work to repair their distribution line that runs under SFPUC’s transmission line before PG&E can restore power to the remaining customers. PG&E is waiting for SFPUC to repair its transmission line so that PG&E can safely make repairs to PG&E’s distribution line.

Hetch Hetchy Water and Power activated its Incident Command System to manage the incident. This request for emergency declaration is necessary to authorize immediate procurement of

- London N. Breed**  
Mayor
- Ann Moller Caen**  
Vice President
- Francesca Vietor**  
Commissioner
- Anson Moran**  
Commissioner
- Ike Kwon**  
Commissioner
- Harlan L. Kelly, Jr.**  
General Manager

Services of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

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contractor services to perform assessments, design services, and repairs to restore the 230kV system, which will make it possible for PG&E to repair the distribution power lines that run under SFPUC transmission lines. PG&E's distribution line outage is impacting 6 PG&E customers, who are currently without power, and power is needed to restore water service to GCSD once the Mountain Tunnel refill begins on March 4, 2019.

Finally, the SFPUC conveys water from Hetch Hetchy Reservoir through hydrogeneration units at Kirkwood Powerhouse before it flows into the Mountain Tunnel for delivery to the Regional Water System. In order to deliver water to the Bay Area, the water first flows through the hydrogeneration units at Kirkwood Power House; that hydroelectric power is conveyed to the Intake Switchyard and conveyed through transmission lines to the electric grid. An emergency bypass function at Kirkwood Powerhouse is available, but that system is meant for system redundancy and reliability in an emergency, not for long-term use that could damage the bypass infrastructure. As such, restoring the power transmission system is also required to allow for the hydrogeneration that provides water to upcountry and Regional Water System customers. The immediate and high-priority activities required include: (1) repair to transmission tower 116S, including repair of structural damage and replacement of insulators; (2) removal and replacement of 230kV conductor as needed (all three phases); and (3) potential repair of structural damage to adjacent towers 118S and 114S.

This request for emergency declaration is for resources to perform the necessary work beyond the capabilities of City forces as soon as possible. Work has already commenced under an existing contract of appropriate scope. However, that existing contract can only be amended by up to \$170,000 without Commission action. Staff projects that the cost of the repair work will not exceed an additional \$600,000.

Section 6.60, subdivision (b) permits the Department Head to execute the repairs necessitated by the emergency in the most expeditious manner. Since the estimated cost for the repairs (not-to-exceed \$600,000) exceeds \$250,000, Section 6.60, subdivision (d), requires the General Manager to obtain the approval of the President of the Public Utilities Commission prior to authorizing the commencement of the work. Because the Commission President resigned and a new President has not yet been elected, we are seeking your concurrence as Vice President. Section 6.60, subdivision (d) also requires the General Manager to obtain the approval of the Board of Supervisors.

In this case, the emergency does not permit the General Manager to obtain the required Board of Supervisors approval before the work is commenced. The SFPUC will seek that approval as soon as it is possible to do so by submitting a Resolution no later than 60 days following the date of issuance of this emergency declaration. Because the work will commence prior to obtaining Board of Supervisors approval, this Declaration also provides notice to the Controller of the work involved and the estimated cost thereof in accordance with the requirements of Section 6.60, subdivision (d).



CONCUR AND APPROVE:  
Ann Moller Caer, Vice President  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

cc:  
Mayor

Board of Supervisors  
Controller  
Commissioner F. Vietor  
Commissioner A. Moran  
Commissioner I. Kwon  
S. Ritchie