



# Come Hell or High Water

*Flood Management in a Changing Climate*

SFCGJ Response at BoS' GAO

*A Climate of Complacent Denial*

*September 19, 2024*

## The City Disagreed...

- ...that ClimateSF governance was inadequate...yet acknowledge the need to improve.
- ...that additional debt funding capacity is needed yet the City reports a lack of understanding of projected adaptation costs.
- ...that more formal flood coordination is needed, yet subsequently established a *Sea Level Rise and Flood Hazard Coordinating Committee*.
- ...that the City is failing to communicate future impacts of climate change – physical and financial – yet the City concedes the need to communicate more effectively.

## The City's Responses To Our Findings Are Inadequate

- The City's disagreement with Findings 1, 3, 4, and 6 et al, represent a denial of the reality of our investigative interviews and 3rd party studies.
- The City government has not adequately organized for City-wide implementation of plans for adaptation to Climate Change.
- The City has not provided adequate transparency to San Francisco voters and taxpayers on how necessary climate adaptation projects will be funded and delivered.
- Civic leadership must engage unpleasant and difficult challenges, not make "too hard, too complicated" excuses.
- The defensive response to our report lacks the leadership needed to address effectively the climate adaptation challenges facing all Districts, particularly Districts 2, 6, 7, 9, and 10.

## The SFCGJ recommends to the Board of Supervisors...

- R1.4 Require an annual report for the public summarizing the ongoing climate resilience projects with standardized metrics, parties accountable, budget status and, project timelines.
- R3.2 Direct the BLA to perform an analysis of the impact on the General Fund of increasing the current limits on General Obligation debt.
- R4.1 Request the City Administrator to report on optimal governance structure for implementation of flood adaptation procedures.
- R6.2 Direct the BLA to prepare a financial analysis of the adverse impacts of climate resilience projects on marginalized communities.
- R6.3 Hold annual public hearings on the adverse environmental justice effects of climate resilience projects.

**Districts 2, 6, 7, 9,  
and 10 likely  
experience unequal  
and serious impacts  
of Climate Change**

- Districts 6, 7, 9, and 10 - some of the most affected - are absent from this hearing.
- Supervisors from these Districts must be part of the public hearing process.
- Considering the lack of executive branch leadership, The Board of Supervisors, sitting as a Committee of the Whole, is the proper forum for investigation and debate on this important existential issue.



**Thank You!**

**The San Francisco Civil Grand Jury  
appreciates the Government Audit & Oversight  
Committee's and the Board of Supervisors' attention to  
these critically important topics.**