

1 [Emergency Declaration - Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital Building 2 - Chiller and  
2 Boiler and Cooling Tower Replacement - Estimated Cost of Repairs Exceeds \$250,000]

3 **Resolution approving the Director of Public Works' declaration of emergency under**  
4 **Administrative Code, Section 6.60, to replace chiller, boiler, and cooling tower and**  
5 **perform associated repair and upgrades at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital**  
6 **located at 1001 Potrero Avenue, estimated to cost in excess of \$250,000; and affirming**  
7 **the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality**  
8 **Act.**

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10 WHEREAS, In 2016, the Department of Public Health ("SFDPH") opened a new  
11 inpatient Acute Care Hospital and Trauma Center (Building 25) on the campus of Zuckerberg  
12 San Francisco General Hospital located at 1001 Potrero Avenue; and

13 WHEREAS, The former Acute Care Building (Building 5) currently houses inpatient  
14 psychiatric units, a skilled nursing unit, many outpatient clinics and services, the campus-wide  
15 materials management and central supply, and critical inpatient services including the clinical  
16 laboratory, linen room, and the kitchen that serves the inpatient units in Buildings 25 and 5;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Building 3 houses the pathology lab which services all patient care  
19 services on campus; and

20 WHEREAS, A series of cooling towers ("Cooling Towers") located adjacent to the  
21 powerplant and Building 2 chillers provide cooling to Building 5 and Building 3; and

22 WHEREAS, On September 6, 2023, the Cooling Towers unexpectedly and  
23 catastrophically failed, subsequently ejecting six-foot long, 75-pound fan blades into the air;  
24 and

1           WHEREAS, The catastrophic failure damaged safety fencing and caused debris to land  
2 in parking areas, but did not result in any human injury; and

3           WHEREAS, The Cooling Towers are unrepairable and will remain inoperable until a  
4 replacement project is completed; and

5           WHEREAS, An absence of adequate cooling during high-heat days could result in the  
6 suspension of outpatient care, serious effects to inpatient acute care services, and require  
7 relocation of inpatient beds away from Building 5; and

8           WHEREAS, Public Works staff have determined that the extensive and technical scope  
9 of repair and replacement work necessitated by the failure of the Cooling Towers requires the  
10 hiring of an outside contractor or contractors to perform the critical replacement of the Cooling  
11 Towers, boiler, and chiller, and associated repairs and upgrades; and

12           WHEREAS, Public Works staff analyzed the circumstances extensively and  
13 determined that the estimated cost of the replacement work, repairs, and upgrades is  
14 expected to exceed \$250,000; and

15           WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 6.60(c)(3) of the Administrative Code, an “actual  
16 emergency” includes “[u]nforeseen occurrences of unusual character resulting in an  
17 insufficient number of hospital beds or the lack of hospital beds or the lack of hospital,  
18 surgical, mental health or hospital ancillary services so as to leave patients of the City without  
19 required hospital or medical services”; and

20           WHEREAS, In response to a written request of SFDPH Director Colfax concerning the  
21 implications of the failure of the onsite Cooling Towers, on September 13, 2023, with the  
22 written approval of Public Works Commission Chair Post, Interim Public Works Director Short  
23 issued Public Works Order No. 208613 declaring the existence of an emergency at  
24 Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital due to the failure of the onsite Cooling Towers  
25 and chillers; and

1           WHEREAS, According to Administrative Code, Section 6.60(b), on September 13,  
2 2023, Interim Public Works Director Short gave notice of the emergency declaration to the  
3 Board of Supervisors, Mayor, and Controller; and

4           WHEREAS, Administrative Code, Section 6.60(d), requires that the Board of  
5 Supervisors approve emergency declarations for work estimated to cost in excess of  
6 \$250,000; and

7           WHEREAS, The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in  
8 this Resolution comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public  
9 Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.); said determination is on file with the Clerk of the  
10 Board of Supervisors in File No. 231202 and is incorporated herein by reference; the Board  
11 affirms this determination; and

12           WHEREAS, The SFDPH budget contains sufficient funds to complete the critical  
13 replacement work and associated repairs and upgrades; now, therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors approves the declaration of emergency set  
15 forth in Public Works Order No. 208613 to address the catastrophic failure of the Cooling  
16 Towers at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital.

17

18 RECOMMENDED:

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20 /s/\_\_\_\_\_  
21 San Francisco Public Works  
22 Carla Short, Director

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