

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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June 6, 2018

File No. 180571

Lisa Gibson
Environmental Review Officer
Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Gibson:


On May 31, 2018, Mayor Farrell introduced legislation for the following proposed General Obligation Bond for the November 6, 2018, Election:

File No. 180571

Ordinance adopting a question to appear on the November 6, 2018 ballot regarding the proposed ordinance to incur \$425,000,000 of bonded debt of the City and County to finance the construction, reconstruction, acquisition, improvement, demolition, seismic strengthening and repair of the Embarcadero Seawall and other critical infrastructure, and related costs necessary or convenient for the foregoing purposes.

This legislation is being transmitted to you for environmental review.

Angela Galvillo, Clerk of the Board

for 
By: Linda Wong, Assistant Clerk
Budget and Finance Committee

Attachment

c: Joy Navarrete, Environmental Planner
Laura Lynch, Environmental Planner

1 [General Obligation Bond Election - Seawall and Other Critical Infrastructure - Ballot Question]

2 **Ordinance adopting a question to appear on the November 6, 2018 ballot regarding the**
 3 **proposed ordinance to incur \$425,000,000 of bonded debt of the City and County to**
 4 **finance the construction, reconstruction, acquisition, improvement, demolition, seismic**
 5 **strengthening and repair of the Embarcadero Seawall and other critical infrastructure,**
 6 **and related costs necessary or convenient for the foregoing purposes.**
 7

8 **NOTE:** **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
 9 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
 10 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.
 11 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.
 12 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
 13 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
 14 subsections or parts of tables.

15 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

16 Section 1. Findings.

17 a. ~~The Embarcadero Seawall (the "Seawall"), which serves as the foundation of the~~
 18 ~~northern waterfront, is one of San Francisco's oldest pieces of infrastructure.~~

19 b. ~~Constructed by the State of California over one hundred years ago, the Seawall~~
 20 ~~supports San Francisco's historic piers, wharves, local businesses, maritime uses, iconic tourist~~
 21 ~~destinations, recreation facilities, and restaurants, which bring an estimated 24 million people~~
 22 ~~to the waterfront annually.~~

23 c. ~~The Seawall also supports key lifeline utility networks and infrastructure, including~~
 24 ~~the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), Muni Metro, and ferry transportation networks.~~

25 d. ~~The Seawall serves as a critical emergency response, evacuation and recovery~~
 area and provides flood protection to downtown San Francisco ("City") neighborhoods. All told,
 the Seawall protects over \$100 billion of assets and economic activity.

1 e. ~~Recent analysis by the City and the Port of San Francisco (the "Port") found that~~
2 ~~the Seawall will likely suffer significant damage during a major earthquake, causing widespread~~
3 ~~harm to the Embarcadero; historic buildings and piers; critical transportation, utility, and~~
4 ~~emergency response infrastructure; and the residents, workers, and visitors who depend on~~
5 ~~them. A major earthquake would likely cause the Seawall to move towards the bay, potentially~~
6 ~~by as much as five feet. This seismic risk is compounded by the accelerating risk of flooding,~~
7 ~~which occurs today during high tides and larger storm events.~~

8 f. ~~The Seawall is named as a critical infrastructure priority in the City's Lifelines~~
9 ~~Interdependency Study published in 2014, and the Bond (as defined below) is planned for the~~
10 ~~November 2018 election as part of the General Obligation Bond Program in the City's FY 2018-~~
11 ~~27 Capital Plan.~~

12 g. ~~The Embarcadero Roadway encircles downtown San Francisco. After a major~~
13 ~~seismic event, up to 250,000 people are expected to exit downtown towards the waterfront.~~
14 ~~The Embarcadero must provide access to first responders, safe locations for people exiting~~
15 ~~downtown, and routes for transporting emergency supplies and equipment.~~

16 h. ~~To address earthquake and flood risks to the Seawall, the Port is leading the~~
17 ~~Seawall Earthquake Safety and Disaster Prevention Program ("Seawall Program"), a program~~
18 ~~that will invest a projected \$2.5 billion over the next three decades to protect the San Francisco~~
19 ~~waterfront from imminent seismic risk and increasing flood risk due to sea level rise.~~

20 i. ~~This Board of Supervisors (this "Board") recognizes the need to improve the~~
21 ~~earthquake safety and performance of the Seawall and other critical infrastructure, provide~~
22 ~~near-term flood protection improvements, and plan for long-term resilience and sea level rise~~
23 ~~adaptation along this important stretch of the City's waterfront.~~

24 j. ~~The Seawall Earthquake Safety Bond (the "Bond") will provide funding to the~~
25 ~~Seawall Program and other critical infrastructure (as described below in Section 3).~~

1 k. ~~The Bond sets up a financing mechanism to be used for certain kinds of work,~~
2 ~~and specific projects at specified locations will not be determined until additional design and~~
3 ~~budget development, as well as further planning and environmental review processes, are~~
4 ~~complete.~~

5 l. ~~This Board now wishes to describe the terms of a ballot measure seeking approval~~
6 ~~for the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance all or a portion of the City's Seawall and~~
7 ~~other critical infrastructure needs as described below.~~

8 Section 2. ~~A special election is called and ordered to be held on Tuesday, November~~
9 ~~6, 2018, for the purpose of submitting to the electors of the City a proposition to incur bonded~~
10 ~~indebtedness of the City for the project described in the amount and for the purposes stated:~~

11 ~~"SAN FRANCISCO SEAWALL EARTHQUAKE SAFETY BOND, 2018. \$425,000,000 of~~
12 ~~bonded indebtedness to finance the cost: repairing and upgrading the City's 100 year old~~
13 ~~Embarcadero Seawall; strengthening the Embarcadero; protecting transit infrastructure and~~
14 ~~utilities that provide water, wastewater, power and telecommunications to residents and~~
15 ~~businesses; and to pay related costs, subject to independent citizen oversight and regular~~
16 ~~audits, all to protect San Francisco's waterfront, BART and Muni tunnels, buildings, historic~~
17 ~~piers, and roads from earthquakes, flooding and rising sea levels; and authorizing landlords to~~
18 ~~pass through to residential tenants in units subject to Chapter 37 of the Administrative Code~~
19 ~~(the "Residential Rent Stabilization and Arbitration Ordinance") 50% of the increase in the real~~
20 ~~property taxes attributable to the cost of the repayment of the bonds."~~

21 ~~The special election called and ordered shall be referred to in this ordinance as the~~
22 ~~"Seawall Earthquake Safety Bond Special Election."~~

23 Section 3. ~~PROPOSED PROGRAM. All contracts that are funded with the proceeds~~
24 ~~of bonds authorized hereby shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter 83 of the Administrative~~
25 ~~Code (the "First Source Hiring Program"), which fosters construction and permanent~~

1 employment opportunities for qualified economically disadvantaged individuals. In addition, all
2 contracts that are funded with the proceeds of bonds authorized hereby shall be subject to the
3 provisions of Chapter 14B of the Administrative Code (the "Local Business Enterprise and Non-
4 Discrimination in Contracting Ordinance"), which assists small and micro local businesses to
5 increase their ability to compete effectively for the award of City contracts. To the extent
6 permitted by law, eligible costs for the proposed program include all costs associated with
7 Seawall Program development and planning, including planning for future sea level rise
8 adaptation, pre design, design, engineering and other soft costs; and construction
9 management. The proposed program can be summarized as follows:

10 a. ~~EARTHQUAKE PROJECTS.~~ Several construction options are available to
11 improve Seawall seismic reliability. All or a portion of these options may be implemented
12 together, individually, or sequenced over time. A portion of the Bond may be allocated to:

- 13 1) ~~Ground strengthening and liquefaction remediation~~
- 14 2) ~~Constructing a new Seawall~~
- 15 3) ~~Bulkhead wall, wharf and pier retrofits and replacements~~
- 16 4) ~~Bulkhead building retrofits and seismic joints~~
- 17 5) ~~Critical facility retrofits and replacements~~
- 18 6) ~~Utility replacements, relocations and bypasses~~
- 19 7) ~~Matching funds for public and private sources or~~
- 20 8) ~~Other life safety improvements.~~

21 b. ~~FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECTS.~~ The Port will co-design flood mitigations with
22 seismic improvements and will evaluate the applicability, effectiveness, risks, and costs of the
23 short and mid-term seismic reinforcements and flood mitigations to Seawall reaches. Among
24 the projects a portion of this Bond may be allocated to are the following:

- 25 1) ~~Flood walls and barriers~~

- ~~2) Changes to surface grading~~
- ~~3) Flood proofing~~
- ~~4) Enhanced foundation for future adaptation or~~
- ~~5) Other flood control improvements.~~

~~e. MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS. The Port will decide whether to include enhancements for both the urban landscape and the bay environment based on the scale and location of the site-specific seismic and near-term flood risk reduction methods and the cost-benefit ratio of these infrastructure investments. A portion of the Bond may be allocated to:~~

- ~~1) Public access enhancements~~
- ~~2) Transportation/mobility improvements~~
- ~~3) Environmental benefits or~~
- ~~4) Other public benefits.~~

~~d. CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. A portion of the Bond shall be used to perform audits of the Bond, as further described in Section 15.~~

~~e. ART ENRICHMENT. Consistent with Section 3.19 of the San Francisco Administrative Code and to the extent permitted by law, up to 2% of Bond proceeds may be used to 1) fund educational and interpretative art to inform the public about the Seawall and earthquake and flood risks to the City's waterfront, and 2) fund other art enrichment, in either case on Port property as approved by the Port Commission in consultation with the Arts Commission.~~

~~Section 4. BOND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.~~

~~The Bond shall include the following administrative rules and principles:~~

~~a. OVERSIGHT. The proposed bond funds shall be subjected to approval processes and rules described in the Charter and Administrative Code. Pursuant to Administrative Code~~

1 ~~Section 5.31, the Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee shall conduct an~~
2 ~~annual review of bond spending, and shall provide an annual report of the bond program to the~~
3 ~~Mayor and the Board of Supervisors.~~

4 ~~##~~

5 ~~_____ b. _____ TRANSPARENCY. The City shall create and maintain a Web page outlining and~~
6 ~~describing the bond program, progress, and activity updates. The City shall also hold an annual~~
7 ~~public hearing and reviews on the bond program and its implementation before the Board of~~
8 ~~Supervisors, the Port Commission, the Capital Planning Committee, and the Citizens' General~~
9 ~~Obligation Bond Oversight Committee.~~

10 ~~Section 5._____ The estimated cost of the bond financed portion of the project described in~~
11 ~~Section 2 above was fixed by the Board by Resolution No. _____, in the amount of~~
12 ~~\$425,000,000. Said resolution was passed by two thirds or more of the Board and approved by~~
13 ~~the Mayor. In such resolution it was recited and found by the Board that the sum of money~~
14 ~~specified is too great to be paid out of the ordinary annual income and revenue of the City in~~
15 ~~addition to the other annual expenses or other funds derived from taxes levied for those~~
16 ~~purposes and will require expenditures greater than the amount allowed by the annual tax levy.~~

17 ~~_____ The method and manner of payment of the estimated costs described in this ordinance~~
18 ~~are by the issuance of bonds of the City not exceeding the principal amount specified.~~

19 ~~Such estimate of costs as set forth in such resolution is adopted and determined to be~~
20 ~~the estimated cost of such bond financed improvements and financing, as designed to date.~~

21 ~~Section 6._____ The Bond Special Election shall be held and conducted and the votes~~
22 ~~received and canvassed, and the returns made and the results ascertained, determined, and~~
23 ~~declared as provided in this ordinance and in all particulars not recited in this ordinance such~~
24 ~~election shall be held according to State law and the Charter and any regulations adopted under~~

1 State law or the Charter, providing for and governing elections in the City, and the polls for such
2 election shall be and remain open during the time required by such laws and regulations.

3 Section 7. The Bond Special Election is consolidated with the General Election
4 scheduled to be held in the City on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. The voting precincts, polling
5 places, and officers of election for the November 6, 2018 General Election are hereby adopted,
6 established, designated, and named, respectively, as the voting precincts, polling places, and
7 officers of election for the Bond Special Election called, and reference is made to the notice of
8 election setting forth the voting precincts, polling places, and officers of election for the
9 November 6, 2018 General Election by the Director of Elections to be published in the official
10 newspaper of the City on the date required under State law.

11 Section 18. The ballots to be used at the Bond Special Election shall be the ballots
12 used at the November 6, 2018 General Election. The word limit for ballot propositions imposed
13 by Municipal Elections Code Section 510 is waived. On the ballots to be used at the Bond
14 Special Election, in addition to any other matter required by law to be printed thereon, shall
15 appear the following as a separate proposition:

16 "SAN FRANCISCO SEAWALL EARTHQUAKE SAFETY BOND, 2018. "To protect San
17 Francisco's waterfront, BART and Muni tunnels, buildings, historic piers, and roads from
18 earthquakes, flooding and rising sea levels by: repairing and upgrading the City's 100 year old
19 Embarcadero Seawall; strengthening the Embarcadero; protecting transit infrastructure and
20 utilities that provide water, wastewater, power and telecommunications to residents and
21 businesses; shall the City of San Francisco issue \$425,000,000 in bonds, subject to
22 independent citizen oversight and regular audits?"

23 Each voter to vote in favor of the issuance of the foregoing bond proposition shall mark
24 the ballot in the location corresponding to a "YES" vote for the proposition, and each voter to
25

1 vote against the proposition shall mark the ballot in the location corresponding to a "NO" vote
2 for the proposition.

3 ~~Section 9.— If at the Bond Special Election it shall appear that two-thirds of all the voters~~
4 ~~voting on the proposition voted in favor of and authorized the incurring of bonded indebtedness~~
5 ~~for the purposes set forth in such proposition, then such proposition shall have been accepted~~
6 ~~by the electors, and bonds authorized shall be issued upon the order of the Board. Such bonds~~
7 ~~shall bear interest at a rate not exceeding applicable legal limits.~~

8 ~~Section 10.— For the purpose of paying the principal and interest on the bonds, the Board~~
9 ~~shall, at the time of fixing the general tax levy and in the manner for such general tax levy~~
10 ~~provided, levy and collect annually each year until such bonds are paid, or until there is a sum~~
11 ~~in the Treasury of the City, or other account held on behalf of the Treasurer of the City, set apart~~
12 ~~for that purpose to meet all sums coming due for the principal and interest on the bonds, a tax~~
13 ~~sufficient to pay the annual interest on such bonds as the same becomes due and also such~~
14 ~~part of the principal thereof as shall become due before the proceeds of a tax levied at the time~~
15 ~~for making the next general tax levy can be made available for the payment of such principal.~~

16 ~~Section 11.— This ordinance shall be published in accordance with any State law~~
17 ~~requirements, and such publication shall constitute notice of the Bond Special Election and no~~
18 ~~other notice of the Bond Special Election hereby called need be given.~~

19 ~~Section 12.— The Board, having reviewed the proposed legislation, makes the following~~
20 ~~findings in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, California Public~~
21 ~~Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq., the CEQA Guidelines, 15 California Administrative~~
22 ~~Code Sections 15000 et seq., and San Francisco Administrative Code Chapter 31 (collectively,~~
23 ~~"CEQA"): The Planning Department has determined that this legislation is not defined as a~~
24 ~~"project" under CEQA, because it is only the creation of a government funding mechanism and~~
25

1 ~~does not involve any commitment to any specific project, as defined in CEQA Guidelines~~
2 ~~Section 15378(b)(4). The Board affirms this determination.~~

3 ~~Section 13. The Board finds and declares that the proposed Bond is in conformity with~~
4 ~~the priority policies of Section 101.1(b) of the San Francisco Planning Code and consistent with~~
5 ~~the City's General Plan, and adopts the findings of the Planning Department, as set forth in the~~
6 ~~General Plan Referral Report dated _____, a copy of which is on file with the~~
7 ~~Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. _____ and incorporates such findings by~~
8 ~~reference.~~

9 ~~Section 14. Under Section 53410 of the California Government Code, the bonds shall~~
10 ~~be for the specific purposes authorized in this ordinance and the proceeds of such bonds will~~
11 ~~be applied only for such specific purposes. The City will comply with the requirements of~~
12 ~~Sections 53410(c) and 53410(d) of the California Government Code.~~

13 ~~Section 15. The Bonds are subject to, and incorporate by reference, the applicable~~
14 ~~provisions of Administrative Code Sections 5.30—5.36 (the "Citizens' General Obligation Bond~~
15 ~~Oversight Committee"). Under Section 5.31, to the extent permitted by law, one-tenth of one~~
16 ~~percent (0.1%) of the gross proceeds of the Bonds shall be deposited in a fund established by~~
17 ~~the Controller's Office and appropriated by the Board of Supervisors at the direction of the~~
18 ~~Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee to cover the costs of said committee.~~

19 ~~Section 16. The time requirements specified in Section 2.34 of the Administrative Code~~
20 ~~are waived.~~

21 ~~Section 17. The appropriate officers, employees, representatives, and agents of the~~
22 ~~City are hereby authorized and directed to do everything necessary or desirable to accomplish~~
23 ~~the calling and holding of the Bond Special Election, and to otherwise carry out the provisions~~
24 ~~of this ordinance.~~

1 Section 18. ~~Documents referenced in this ordinance are on file with the Clerk of the~~
2 Board of Supervisors in File No. _____ which is hereby declared to be a part of
3 ~~this ordinance as if set forth fully herein.~~

4
5 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
6 DENNIS J. HERRERA,
7 City Attorney

8 By: 
9 Kenneth David Roux
10 Deputy City Attorney
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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[General Obligation Bond Election - Seawall and Other Critical Infrastructure - Ballot Question]

Ordinance adopting a question to appear on the November 6, 2018 ballot regarding the proposed ordinance to incur \$425,000,000 of bonded debt of the City and County to finance the construction, reconstruction, acquisition, improvement, demolition, seismic strengthening and repair of the Embarcadero Seawall and other critical infrastructure, and related costs necessary or convenient for the foregoing purposes.

Existing Law

In Board of Supervisors File No. 180454, the Board of Supervisors is considering placing a General Obligation Bond ordinance on the ballot at the November 6, 2018 election to finance the construction, reconstruction, acquisition, improvement, demolition, seismic strengthening and repair of the Embarcadero Seawall and other critical infrastructure.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would provide the question that would appear on the ballot for the bond measure.

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