

File No. 260142

Committee Item No. _____

Board Item No. 37

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: _____

Date: _____

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: February 24, 2026

Cmte Board

- Motion
- Resolution
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- Legislative Digest
- Budget and Legislative Analyst Report
- Youth Commission Report
- Introduction Form
- Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report
- MOU
- Grant Information Form
- Grant Budget
- Subcontract Budget
- Contract/Agreement
- Award Letter
- Application
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OTHER

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Prepared by: Jocelyn Wong

Date: February 20, 2026

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____

1 [Emergency Preparedness - Restoration of Outdoor Public Warning System]

2
3 **Resolution urging the Department of Emergency Management and Department of**
4 **Technology to prioritize the restoration of San Francisco's outdoor public warning**
5 **system in tsunami evacuation zones and coastal areas, and to allocate funding for this**
6 **critical public safety infrastructure.**

7
8 WHEREAS, San Francisco's outdoor public warning system, consisting of
9 approximately 119 sirens located throughout the City, was taken offline in December 2019
10 due to cybersecurity concerns, and has remained non-operational for over six years; and

11 WHEREAS, An operational outdoor public warning system is a valuable tool for alerting
12 residents and visitors to imminent dangers, including tsunamis, earthquakes, and other
13 emergencies, particularly when cell phone-based alerts may be insufficient; and

14 WHEREAS, On December 5, 2024, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake off the coast of
15 Humboldt County triggered a tsunami warning for San Francisco, during which the City lacked
16 a functional outdoor warning system to supplement cell phone alerts, requiring first
17 responders to physically drive to Ocean Beach with loudspeakers to warn residents; and

18 WHEREAS, The December 20, 2025, power outage, which affected approximately
19 130,000 San Francisco customers for up to 48 hours, demonstrated the vulnerability of relying
20 solely on cell phone-based emergency alerts, as residents' phones lost battery power and
21 with it, their ability to receive emergency notifications or contact 911; and

22 WHEREAS, On July 4, 2025, catastrophic flash floods along the Guadalupe River in
23 Texas killed at least 119 people in Kerr County, which lacked a warning siren system, while
24 the nearby community of Comfort, Texas, which had operational warning sirens, experienced
25 zero fatalities despite significant flooding; and

1 WHEREAS, Kerr County, Texas had previously rejected a warning system costing
2 approximately \$1 million due to budget concerns, and in the wake of the tragedy, the Texas
3 Legislature appropriated \$50 million for flood warning systems, underscoring the
4 consequences of delayed investment in emergency warning infrastructure; and

5 WHEREAS, The August 2023 Maui wildfires, which killed over 100 people in Lahaina,
6 demonstrated both the limitations of cell phone-based alerts during power outages and the
7 need for outdoor warning systems capable of broadcasting specific evacuation instructions;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, San Francisco's AlertSF system, while valuable, has only approximately
10 195,000 subscribers out of more than 800,000 residents, leaving the majority of the population
11 without opt-in emergency notifications; and

12 WHEREAS, Cell phone-based alerts, while useful, have significant limitations: they
13 may not reach people who are sleeping, outdoors, or in areas with poor cellular reception, and
14 they do not effectively reach tourists, unhoused residents, elderly individuals, or others who
15 may not have smartphones; and

16 WHEREAS, Emergency management experts emphasize the importance of
17 redundancy in warning systems, and outdoor sirens provide a critical backup when other
18 communication methods fail; and

19 WHEREAS, The estimated cost to restore San Francisco's outdoor public Warning
20 system has continued to escalate the longer the project has been delayed; and

21 WHEREAS, San Francisco faces ongoing risks from earthquakes, tsunamis, severe
22 weather events, and other emergencies that require rapid public notification; now, therefore,
23 be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Capital Planning Committee to
25 identify funding for restoration of the outdoor public warning system, beginning with sirens in

1 tsunami evacuation zones and coastal areas, through unallocated Earthquake Safety and
2 Emergency Response (ESER) bond funds or other existing emergency preparedness
3 resources; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of
5 Emergency Management to pursue state and federal grant opportunities, including through
6 FEMA and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, to offset costs of modern
7 warning system infrastructure; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon identification of funding, the Board of Supervisors
9 urges the Department of Emergency Management and Department of Technology to develop
10 and present a plan and timeline for restoration of the system, prioritizing tsunami evacuation
11 zones and coastal areas; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports the restoration of the
13 outdoor public warning system as an important component of a comprehensive emergency
14 alert strategy for protecting the lives and safety of San Francisco residents, workers, and
15 visitors, and that further delay in addressing this critical infrastructure gap is unacceptable.

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Introduction Form

(by a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor)

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
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JA

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee (Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment)
- 2. Request for next printed agenda (For Adoption Without Committee Reference)
(Routine, non-controversial and/or commendatory matters only)
- 3. Request for Hearing on a subject matter at Committee
- 4. Request for Letter beginning with "Supervisor _____ inquires..."
- 5. City Attorney Request
- 6. Call File No. _____ from Committee.
- 7. Budget and Legislative Analyst Request (attached written Motion)
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No. _____
- 9. Reactivate File No. _____
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the Board on _____

The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following (please check all appropriate boxes):

- Small Business Commission Youth Commission Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission Building Inspection Commission Human Resources Department

General Plan Referral sent to the Planning Department (proposed legislation subject to Charter 4.105 & Admin 2A.53):

- Yes No

(Note: For Imperative Agenda items (a Resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Agenda Form.)

Sponsor(s):

Wong

Subject:

Restoration of San Francisco's Outdoor Public Warning System

Long Title or text listed:

Resolution urging funding and restoration of San Francisco's Outdoor Public Warning System, prioritizing coastal and tsunami evacuation zones.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:

[Handwritten Signature]