




INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: October 19, 2020

To: Commissioner Sophie Maxwell
 President, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

From: Harlan L. Kelly, Jr. 
 General Manager

Subject: **Declaration of Emergency – Replacement and Repair of Fences damaged in the SCU Lightning Complex Fire**

In accordance with Chapter 6, Article IV, Section 6.60(d) of the Administrative Code of the City and County of San Francisco, I am declaring an emergency on behalf of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC).

Beginning on August 16, numerous lightning strikes ignited what was eventually labeled the SCU Lightning Complex Fire (SCU Fire) that ultimately burned 396,624 acres, including approximately 10,500 acres of SFPUC Alameda watershed property. On SFPUC property, the SCU Fire damaged or destroyed approximately 50 miles of security and grazing operation fencing. This fencing needs to be repaired and/or replaced immediately to reestablish the security barrier to protect SFPUC Alameda watershed lands and regional water system infrastructure from trespass, vandalism, and contamination of drinking water sources (e.g., Calaveras and San Antonio Reservoirs). The fencing ensures that cattle from SFPUC grazing tenants remain separated from public roadways, drinking water sources, and sensitive environmental resources.

According to Chapter 6.60 of the Administrative Code, an "actual emergency" means a sudden, unforeseeable and unexpected occurrence involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of or damage to, life, health, property or essential public services. Unrestrained cattle and the risk of trespass at the facilities have created a clear and imminent danger to the safety of drivers, the integrity of infrastructure, and the quality of drinking water. The prompt erection of replacement fencing is needed to prevent such dangers.

- London N. Breed**
Mayor
- Sophie Maxwell**
President
- Anson Moran**
Vice President
- Tim Paulson**
Commissioner
- Ed Harrington**
Commissioner
- Harlan L. Kelly, Jr.**
General Manager



This request for emergency declaration is for contract resources to repair and/or replace approximately 50 miles of security and grazing operation fencing. The work needs to occur as soon as possible and is beyond the capabilities of City forces. The estimated cost of this emergency work exceeds the threshold amount of \$250,000 which requires Board of Supervisors' review and approval. The actual estimate for the work is not anticipated to exceed \$4.5 million.

I am therefore declaring the existence of an emergency. I trust that this meets with your concurrence and approval.

CONCUR AND APPROVE:



Sophie Maxwell – President,
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

cc: A. Moran
T. Paulson
E. Harrington
M. Carlin
K. How
S. Ritchie
E. Sandler