



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

2020-2021 CIVIL GRAND JURY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Allen Cohn, Foreperson Pro Tem, (415) 551-3635
Nicholas Weininger, Committee Chairperson, (415) 551-3635

A FLUID CONCERN: SAN FRANCISCO MUST IMPROVE FUEL RESILIENCE

San Francisco, CA, June 29, 2021 – In the aftermath of a major earthquake or other disaster, fuel shortages could cause life-critical water, sewer, and communications services to fail and transportation and infrastructure repairs to be delayed, according to a new report from the 2020–2021 Civil Grand Jury. Today’s report, “A Fluid Concern: San Francisco Must Improve Fuel Resilience,” found that fuel shortages after a disaster could last up to 14 days and that the City has not prepared adequately to deal with these shortages.

The Jury found that problems with the City’s fuel preparedness include:

- Unclear ownership of fuel preparedness planning within City government
- Inadequate assessment of likely fuel demand and supply in an emergency
- Inadequate equipment for managing local fuel reserves in an emergency
- Fuel supply chain vulnerabilities imperiling the ability to resupply the City
- Lack of published plans and dedicated funds for fuel preparedness improvements
- Lack of long-term plans for reliable infrastructure in a fossil-fuel-free future

The report recommends a series of specific changes to address all these problems.

The Superior Court selects 19 San Franciscans to serve year-long terms as Civil Grand Jurors. The Jury has the authority to investigate City and County government by reviewing documents and interviewing public officials and private individuals. At the end of its inquiries, the Jury issues reports of its findings and recommendations. Agencies identified in the report must respond to these findings and recommendations within either 60 or 90 days, and the Board of Supervisors conducts a public hearing on each Civil Grand Jury report after those responses are submitted.

Civil Grand Jury reports may be viewed online at <http://civilgrandjury.sfgov.org/report.html>.

###