




INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: August 26, 2021

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

From: Michael P. Carlin 
 Acting General Manager

Subject: **Declaration of Emergency: Tree Removal, Slope Repair, and Debris Removal at Stern Grove**

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).

On August 23, 2021 San Francisco Public Utilities Commission crews were working on a leaking air valve on a large 54-inch diameter water transmission pipeline – the San Andreas Pipeline #2. The location was at 22nd Avenue and Sloat Boulevard. While they were tightening down a bolt, the air valve failed, sending water into the air and flooding adjacent areas, particularly Stern Grove. The steep slope on the south side of Stern Grove was heavily eroded and gullied by the flow undermining up to 50 tall eucalyptus trees that exist on the slope and making the slope unstable. The water and debris from the slope flowed down into and around the Concert Meadow covering the meadow, surrounding three backstage buildings and filling in the creeks and culverts that usually transport stormwater runoff away from the site.

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. Major gullying and erosion on forested slopes of Stern Grove and deposition of eroded sediment throughout Stern Grove have created a clear and imminent danger to users of the Grove and the integrity of Grove infrastructure.

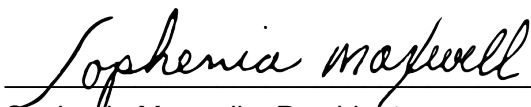
- London N. Breed**
Mayor
- Sophie Maxwell**
President
- Anson Moran**
Vice President
- Tim Paulson**
Commissioner
- Ed Harrington**
Commissioner
- Newsha Ajami**
Commissioner
- Michael Carlin**
Acting
General Manager



This request for emergency declaration is for contract resources for tree removal, slope repair and debris removal in Stern Grove. 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 approval of the Board of Supervisors. SFPUC estimates the cost of work will be up to but will not exceed \$4 million.

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

CONCUR AND APPROVE:



Sophemia Maxwell – President,
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

August 26, 2021
Date

cc: A. Moran
T. Paulson
E. Harrington
N. Ajami
M. Carlin
A. Johanson
S. Ritchie
E. Sandler