

1 [Follow-Up Board Response - Civil Grand Jury Report - Act Now Before it is Too Late:  
2 Aggressively Expand and Enhance Our High-Pressure Emergency Firefighting Water System]

3 **Motion responding to the Civil Grand Jury’s request to provide a status update on the**  
4 **Board of Supervisor’s response to Recommendation Nos. R1, R2, R3, R6, R7, and R8**  
5 **contained in the 2018-2019 Civil Grand Jury Report, entitled “Act Now Before it is Too**  
6 **Late: Aggressively Expand and Enhance Our High-Pressure Emergency Firefighting**  
7 **Water System.”**

8  
9 WHEREAS, The 2018-2019 San Francisco Civil Grand Jury published a report, entitled  
10 “Act Now Before it is Too Late: Aggressively Expand and Enhance Our High-Pressure  
11 Emergency Firefighting Water System” (“Report”) on July 17, 2019; and

12 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors’ Government Audit and Oversight Committee  
13 (“GAO”) conducted a public hearing to hear and respond to the Report on  
14 September 19, 2019; and, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 422-19 on  
15 October 1, 2019, reflecting the GAO responses to the Report; a copy of which is on file with  
16 the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 190786; and

17 WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R1 states “By no later than December 31, 2020, the  
18 Mayor, the SFPUC, the SFFD, and Office of Resilience and Capital Planning should jointly  
19 present to the Board of Supervisors a detailed plan to ensure the City is well prepared to fight  
20 fires in all parts of San Francisco in the event of a 1906-magnitude (7.8) earthquake;” and

21 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors on October 1, 2019, responded in Resolution  
22 No. 422-19 that Recommendation No. R1 “has not been implemented but will be implemented  
23 no later than December 31, 2021, and urges the Mayor, the SFPUC, the SFFD, and Office of  
24 Resilience and Capital Planning to jointly present a detailed plan to the Board of Supervisors  
25 by no later than December 31, 2021;” and

1           WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R2 states “The plan discussed in Recommendation  
2 R1 should include a detailed proposal, including financing sources, for the installation  
3 within 15 years of a high-pressure, multi-sourced, seismically safe emergency water system  
4 for those parts of the City that don’t currently have one, i.e., by no later than June 30, 2034;”  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors on October 1, 2019, responded in Resolution  
7 No. 422-19 that Recommendation No. R2 “has not been implemented but will be implemented  
8 by December 31, 2021, and urges the Departments to include in its detailed plan a detailed  
9 proposal, including financing sources, for the installation within 15 years of a high-pressure,  
10 multi-sourced, seismically safe emergency water system for those parts of the City that don't  
11 currently have one by no later than June 30, 2034;” and

12           WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R3 states “The Board of Supervisors should direct  
13 the Budget and Legislative Analyst to study through an equity lens and issue a report to the  
14 Board regarding (a) which areas of the City do not have sufficient water supplies for the  
15 anticipated demand for water to fight fires following a major earthquake similar in magnitude  
16 to the 1906 earthquake, and (b) options to address the issue in both the short term and the  
17 long term. The Board should issue its request by no later than December 31, 2019, and the  
18 Budget and Legislative Analyst should complete its report by no later than  
19 December 31, 2020;” and

20           WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors on October 1, 2019, responded in Resolution  
21 No. 422-19 that Recommendation No. R3 “has not been implemented but will be implemented  
22 in the future, and Supervisor Gordon Mar will issue a request for a Budget and Legislative  
23 Analyst report no later than December 31, 2019, and will direct the Budget and Legislative  
24 Analyst to issue the completed report no later than December 31, 2020;” and  
25

1 WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R6 states “The SFPUC, the SFFD, and the SF  
2 Department of the Environment should study adding salt-water pump stations to improve the  
3 redundancy of water sources, especially on the west side. Findings and recommendations  
4 from this study should be presented to the Board of Supervisors by no later than  
5 June 30, 2021;” and

6 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors on October 1, 2019, responded in Resolution  
7 No. 422-19 that Recommendation No. R6 “has not been implemented but will be implemented  
8 in the future, and urges the completion of a study for adding a salt-water pump stations to be  
9 presented to the Board of Supervisors by no later than June 30, 2021;” and

10 WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R7 states “The SFPUC should (a) continue its  
11 efforts to complete a more detailed analysis of emergency firefighting water needs (including  
12 above-the-median needs) by neighborhood, and not just by FRA, and (b) present a completed  
13 analysis to the Board of Supervisors by no later than June 30, 2021;” and

14 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors on October 1, 2019, responded in Resolution  
15 No. 422-19 that Recommendation No. R7 “has not been implemented but will be implemented  
16 in the future, and urges that a completed analysis be presented to the Board of Supervisors  
17 by no later than June 30, 2021;” and

18 WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R8 states “By no later than June 30, 2022, the  
19 Mayor and Board of Supervisors should analyze whether to propose a separate bond for the  
20 development of a high-pressure, multi-sourced, seismically safe emergency water system for  
21 those parts of the City that don’t currently have one, with a target date of completing  
22 construction by no later than June 30, 2034;” and

23 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors on October 1, 2019, responded in Resolution  
24 No. 422-19 that Recommendation No. R8 “has not been implemented but will be implemented  
25 in the future, and will analyze by June 30, 2022, in coordination with the Mayor, whether to

1 propose a separate bond for the development of a high-pressure, multi-sourced, seismically  
2 safe emergency water system for those parts of the City that don't currently have one, with a  
3 target date of completing construction by no later than June 30, 2034;" and

4 WHEREAS, The GAO Committee conducted an additional hearing on July 16, 2020, to  
5 receive an update from City departments on Recommendation Nos. R1, R2, R3, R6, R7 and  
6 R8; now, therefore, be it

7 MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports that Recommendation R1 has been  
8 implemented, as the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), San Francisco Fire  
9 Department (SFFD), and Office of Resilience and Capital Planning (ORCP) jointly presented  
10 such report to the Government Audit and Oversight (GAO) Committee on July 16, 2020; and  
11 be it

12 FURTHER MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports that Recommendation R2  
13 has been implemented, as the Budget and Legislative Analyst submitted a policy analysis  
14 report analyzing potential financing sources to the file on November 17, 2021, and on  
15 December 19, 2021, the SFPUC submitted its Emergency Firefighting Water System (EFWS)  
16 2050 Planning Study, which included analysis of potential costs, uses of saltwater or  
17 freshwater, and various timing options for implementation of EFWS improvements; and be it

18 FURTHER MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports that Recommendation R3  
19 has been implemented, as the Board requested that the BLA report on this issue through  
20 Resolution No. 484-19, approved on November 27, 2019, and the BLA issued its report for the  
21 file on November 17, 2021; and be it

22 FURTHER MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports that Recommendation R6  
23 has been implemented, as the SFPUC submitted its EFWS Seawater Supply study to address  
24 this recommendation on June 4, 2021, and later submitted its EFWS 2050 Planning Study,  
25 which included further analysis of possible EFWS improvements; and be it

1 FURTHER MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports that Recommendation R7  
2 has been implemented, as the SFPUC submitted its Earthquake Water Requirements report  
3 to address this recommendation on June 7, 2021, and later submitted its EFWS 2050  
4 Planning Study, which included further analysis of possible EFWS improvements; and be it

5 FURTHER MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports that Recommendation R8  
6 has been implemented, as ORCP published its EFWS Financing Study, which analyzed  
7 potential uses of bonds to finance EFWS improvements, on April 3, 2022, and performed  
8 further analysis of such bonds in its 10-Year Capital Plan, which was approved by the Board  
9 of Supervisors on May 9, 2023.