



San Francisco Department of Public Health

Grant Colfax, MD
Director of Health

Covner

City and County of San Francisco
London N. Breed
Mayor

September 7, 2023

Dear Director Short:

The Department of Public Health (DPH) respectfully requests that the Director of Public Works declare an emergency under San Francisco Administrative Code Section 6.60 to enable the City to perform construction-related repairs and other emergency work at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (ZSFG).

Background:

In 2016, DPH opened a new Inpatient Acute Care Hospital and Trauma Center (Building 25) on the ZSFG Campus. The former Acute Care building (Building 5) currently houses Inpatient Psychiatric Units in 7B, 7C and 1B, a Skilled Nursing Unit (SNF) in 4A and many Outpatient Clinics and services. Additionally, building 5 houses the Materials Management and Central Supply for the campus (all Patient Care Services). Building 5 also houses critical Inpatient services including the Clinical Laboratory, Linen and the Kitchen that serves the Inpatient units in Building 25 and 5. Building 3 houses the Pathology Lab which services all patient care services on campus.

Cooling is provided to Building 5 and Building 3 by a series of Cooling towers located adjacent to the powerplant and Chillers (Building 2).

On September 6, 2023, the Cooling Towers unexpectedly and catastrophically failed sending six foot long (75lb) fan blades into the air. These blades damaged safety fencing and some debris landed in parking areas. Thankfully, no injuries occurred. The Cooling Towers are unrepairable and will remain inoperable until a replacement project is completed.

An absence of adequate cooling during high heat days could result in the suspension of outpatient care, serious affects to Inpatient/Acute Care services and the possible required relocation of Inpatient beds from Building 5. DPH is procuring mobile temporary cooling equipment as a stop-gap measure, but this is a temporary solution that may be unable to meet cooling demand on high-heat days. As you know, DPH has secured funding and has been actively working in partnership with DPW on a project to replace the cooling towers and chillers on campus. The unexpected catastrophic infrastructure failure requires a dramatic acceleration of this project to protect the health and safety of patients, staff and visitors on campus.



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DPH respectfully requests that DPW partner to declare an emergency replacement of the Chillers and Cooling Towers located at the powerplant, ZSFG, 1001 Potrero Avenue. There is a nearly permitted (OSHPD) design prepared by DPW. We ask to fast-track the remaining processes necessary to complete this work including the on-boarding of General Contractor (GC) to complete:

Chiller and Cooling Towers Replacement projects (OSHPD # S211545-38-00 & H220692-38-00)

Emergency Contract Authorization:

Pursuant to Section 6.60(c)(3) of the Administrative Code, which states an "actual emergency" includes, "***Unforeseen occurrences of unusual character resulting in an insufficient number of hospital beds or the lack of hospital beds or the lack of hospital, surgical, mental health or hospital ancillary services so as to leave patients of the City without required hospital or medical services,***" DPH respectfully requests that the Director of Public Works declare an emergency and authorize the projects listed above to proceed under a Public Works emergency declaration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Colfax".

Dr. Grant Colfax
Director
San Francisco Department of Public Health