


**INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 21, 2024

**TO:** Commissioner Tim Paulson, President

**FROM:** Dennis Herrera, General Manager 

**SUBJECT:** **Declaration of Emergency: WD-2924(E), Pine Lake Emergency Slope Restoration**

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

On March 8, 2024, SFPUC crews responded to a water main break on the 60-inch diameter water transmission pipeline – the Sunset Supply Line. The location was in Pine Lake Park near Wawona Street at 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue in San Francisco’s Parkside District.

When crews arrived at the scene, water was spraying into the air at the top of a slope at Wawona Street, eroding the bank and washing the soil down the slope into the meadow near the dog park at Pine Lake Park. The crews determined that an 8-inch air valve on the 60-inch diameter Sunset Supply Line had failed. It took crews approximately two hours from the time of the break to isolate the flow of water out of the air valve and place the Sunset Supply Line back fully into service.

The incident eroded a portion of the slope between Wawona Street and Pine Lake Park adjacent to a nearby home (1715 Wawona Street) and undermined several tall eucalyptus trees on the slope. The slope failure left portions of the 60-inch Sunset Supply Line, a 2-foot by 3-foot concrete sewer, and a private concrete retaining wall exposed.

The magnitude of the damages to the impacted slope for this recent main break appears to be significantly less than the damages from a similar incident that occurred on August 23, 2021. During that event, crews were working on an air valve for the 54-inch San Andreas Pipeline No. 2, which unfortunately

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**Tim Paulson**  
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**Sophie Maxwell**  
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**Kate H. Stacy**  
Commissioner

**Dennis J. Herrera**  
General Manager

failed and resulted in flooding at Stern Grove Park. The cause of this more recent air valve failure is unknown at this time.

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. (Administrative Code Section 6.60.)

The slope failure and erosion on forested slopes of Pine Lake Park compromised several mature eucalyptus trees, sent soil into the meadow at Pine Lake Park, exposed a large diameter water transmission pipeline and sewer pipeline, and exposed a private retaining wall, creating an imminent hazard to the public and critical SFPUC infrastructure.


This request for an emergency declaration is to provide contract resources to address the emergency condition through professional design and construction services. Preliminary assessment of construction services required include: perform tree removal, protect the existing concrete sewer, support the 60-inch Sunset Supply Line, perform slope repair and restoration, restore appropriate landscaping, and remove debris in Pine Lake Park. Professional services include: perform geotechnical investigation and design, perform pipeline investigation, and provide design support. The work must occur as soon as possible and is beyond the capabilities of City forces and is estimated to exceed \$250,000. Subject to your approval, we will continue to proceed with the remediation. We will also seek approval by the Board of Supervisors as required under Administrative Code Section 6.60.

SFPUC estimates the cost of design and construction work will be \$5,000,000.

The proposed emergency declaration exempts the project from S.F. Administrative Code Chapters 6, 12A, 12B, 12C, and 14B. SFPUC issued a request for qualifications and experience statements to three construction firms. Conditioned on the approval of the declaration, SFPUC has selected Anvil Builders based on its experience and qualifications for similar projects, including the recent emergency contract at Stern Grove. Although the LBE participation requirements are not applicable for this emergency work, Anvil Builders has committed to using local LBE subcontractors for traffic control and trucking portions of the planned emergency work. Additionally, and also conditioned on approval of the declaration, SFPUC has selected AGS, Inc., a CMD-certified LBE professional services contractor, as the geotechnical design firm based on their experience and qualifications on similar projects, such as the recent Stern Grove Emergency Contract.

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

CONCUR AND APPROVE:



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Tim Paulson – President,  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

March 22, 2024

Date

cc: A. Rivera  
N. Ajami  
S. Maxwell  
K. Stacy  
R. Flynn  
S. Robinson  
S. Ritchie  
N. Hom