



May 14, 2020

SFPUC Commission  
525 Golden Gate Avenue, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94102

cc: Harlan L. Kelly, Jr., General Manager, SFPUC  
Jeffrey Tumlin, Director, SFMTA  
Siew-Chin Yeong, Director of Capital Programs, SFMTA  
Phil Ginsburg, General Manager, Parks and Rec  
Alaric Degrafinried, Director, DPW

Re: Ocean Beach Climate Adaptation Project

Dear SFPUC Commissioners,

As we continue through our ninth week of shelter in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are thankful that the City and County of San Francisco has taken aggressive steps to mitigate exposure from this frightening virus, and for the leadership that has set the standard for others around the nation. We understand that this pandemic requires a large commitment from the City's budget to protect our residents, support local businesses, and bring relief to those who have lost their jobs. We are fully supportive of such efforts.

While the highest priority at present is the safety and wellbeing of our citizens, we want to ensure that after the dust settles, we have not forgotten other great threats to our City: sea level rise and climate change. We know that sea level rise is a very real and fast-approaching danger to California's economy and way of life, both of which have already felt the impacts from COVID-19. Current modeling used by the California Ocean Protection Council anticipates the seas will rise nearly 1 foot by 2050, and 2-8' by 2100. As City projects inevitably will be re-evaluated due to the economic impact of COVID-19, we want to remind the City that the Ocean Beach Climate Adaptation Project should remain a priority.

Erosion along the Great Highway south of Sloat Boulevard has worsened at an alarming pace, exacerbated by the placement of unsightly riprap and rubble along the beach. As the tide rises, the beach goes from narrow to non-existent, which endangers beachgoers and puts the Lake Merced Tunnel increasingly at risk of failure. The Lake Merced Tunnel, which transports roughly 20% of sewage flows in San Francisco, is at serious risk of being compromised due to heightened sea levels and powerful storm surges, which are predicted to increase in frequency. Surfrider San Francisco and our community members have seen the area deteriorate before our eyes. We know that this is not a project that can be put off for much longer, and we hope the City continues to prioritize this urgent need. Sea level rise is at our doorstep and we need to act now, not only to protect our valuable infrastructure, but to protect our community members who deserve a safe beach to recreate on.

We write with the hope that the City and County of San Francisco will continue to set the standard for sustainable living and affirm existing commitments to the reduction of greenhouse gases, sustainability, renewable energy, managed retreat, and capital projects that help achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Grizzle" followed by a stylized flourish.

Mike Grizzle and Kyle Stanner  
Restore Sloat Program Co-Leads