

FIRE COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco
London N. Breed, Mayor

Stephen A. Nakajo, *President*
Francee Covington, *Vice President*
Michael Hardeman, *Commissioner*
Ken Cleaveland, *Commissioner*
Joe Alioto Veronese, *Commissioner*



698 Second Street
San Francisco, CA 94107
Telephone 415.558.3451
Fax 415.558.3413
Maureen Conefrey, *Secretary*

RESOLUTION 2019-01

SAFE COAST TASK FORCE

Author: Commissioner Joe Alioto Veronese

WHEREAS, the mission of the Fire Department is to protect the lives and property of the people of San Francisco from fires, natural disasters, and hazardous materials incidents; to save lives by providing emergency medical services; to prevent fires through education and prevention programs; and to provide a work environment that values health, wellness and cultural diversity and is free of harassment and discrimination, and

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco is surrounded by water on three sides, with coastal topography that includes beaches, rocky shorelines, steep cliffs and environmental elements that include powerful tides, steep cliffs, fog and cold water, and

WHEREAS, over the past two years, the San Francisco Fire Department has been responding to a steep increase in coastal and marine calls, including the tragic loss of 17-year-old Victoria La Rocca on June 22, 2017 at Land's End and the tragic loss more recently on February 22, 2019 at Fort Funston.

WHEREAS, there are at least nine separate local, state, and Federal agencies that have some level of jurisdiction over the San Francisco coastline and each time any member of these agencies responds to a cliff or marine rescue, their members are exposed to significant risk of injury,

BE IT RESOLVED, the San Francisco Fire Commission recommends that the residents and visitors of the City and County of San Francisco and each of these agencies having jurisdiction along the San Francisco coastline would benefit from the formation of an ad hoc multi-agency task force to (1) identify areas along the coast of San Francisco that pose an elevated risk of danger to life and safety of civilians, (2) identify any possible gaps in service for basic and advance lifesaving response along the coastline, and (3) identify baseline needs in resources (technology, personnel, vegetation, signage and otherwise) to enhance coastline safety, hereinafter collectively to be referred to as "Coastal Baseline Assessment"), and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fire Commission respectfully recommends that the Mayor of San Francisco establish such an ad hoc task force in partnership with the United States Park Police, the San Francisco Fire Department, the San Francisco Police Department, the San Francisco Department of Parks and Recreation, the San Francisco Youth Commission, the San Francisco Port Commission, the California Highway Patrol, and the United States Coast Guard, and any other government organization as deemed necessary by the Mayor, for the purpose of identifying solutions to the “Coastal Baseline Assessment”, and (4) reporting those findings back to the leadership of each agency involved on the Taskforce, with recommendations on how each Agency may be able to address the challenges through this joint partnership, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fire Commission recommends that the ad hoc task force meet bi-monthly and as necessary for six (6) months following its establishment and shall report back to the Mayor on a Plan of Action (“Plan”) for the creation of a safer San Francisco coastline for the enjoyment of its residents, visitors, and first responders, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Fire Commission recommends that the San Francisco Fire Department retains jurisdiction over the Plan following the recommendations of the task force for purposes of reporting back to the Mayor on implementation and progress.

Adopted at the Regular Meeting of the San Francisco Fire Commission on March 13, 2109

Ayes: 4 (Covington, Hardeman, Cleaveland, Alioto-Veronese)

Nays: (Nakajo)


Maureen Conefrey, Fire Commission Secretary