

**From:** [John Crabtree](#)  
**To:** [REG - BSC Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Request for Reconsideration/Appeal of Approved Digest of 2026 ESER Bond  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026 12:51:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [ESER digests with recommended revisions as per JBCrabtree 030326.pdf](#)

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To: Ballot Simplification Committee  
From: John Crabtree, Principal Officer, Equal Fire Protection for All Committee  
Re: Request for consideration of additional edits, revisions and additions to the BSC-approved June 2026 ESER bond measure Digest text.

I am submitting this appeal and request for consideration of edits, revisions and additions to the BSC-approved June 2026 ESER bond measure Digest text. I am also attaching a "redline" revised version of the approved Digest text to provide clarity. There are no additional textual revisions or additions in the attachment that are not delineated here in this email message.

Specific text amendments (edits, revisions or additions):

- 1) In "The Proposal" section, particularly the bullet point subsection;
  - a) In the second bullet point, after the word "other" I recommend deletion of the words "related first responder" and in the same location (between the words "other" and "facilities") insert "disaster response"; and
  - b) delete the fourth bullet point entirely.
- 2) Also in "The Proposal" section, specifically within the second "Proposition" paragraph -- delete the second to the last word in the sentence, "are" and insert the phrase "have been"; and
- 3) In the "A "YES" Vote Means" section,
  - a) insert "Muni" before the phrase "Potrero Yard" and insert the phrase "bus facility" immediately after the phrase "Potrero Yard" -- suggested revision/addition to read as follows - - "... facilities, Muni Potrero Yard bus facility, and..."
  - b) alternatively, a similar revision and addition that reflects more closely how the BSC stated this point previously in the document -- insert the phrase "Muni bus facility at" immediately before the phrase "Potrero Yard"

Rationale:

- 1) Significant confusion arose at the hearing regarding the use and meaning of phrases in "The Proposal" section's bullet point subsections, particularly with the several phrases referring to "other emergency response facilities" and "other related first responder facilities" and the subject matter expert, Brian Strong made the suggestion that I am submitting in this appeal for additional consideration (revision labeled 1) above).

Brian Strong is the City's Chief Resilience Officer and Director of the Office of Resilience and Capital Planning. Mr. Strong is responsible for the City's ten-year Capital Plan, its Capital Budget and the implementation of the Resilient SF strategic vision. I believe that his recommendation in this matter, in particular, should be heeded because the BSC can rely upon his subject matter expertise. Furthermore, if committee members found the redundancy of "other... facilities" phrases confusing, especially since the many subject matter experts in the

room could not offer examples of what "other disaster response facilities" might be, voters will almost certainly be confused on this point. That is antithetical to the purpose of the bond measure Digest, the Voter Information Pamphlet and is also antithetical to the purposes of the Ballot Simplification Committee.

2) Also, under the "The Proposal" section, in the second "Proposition" subsection -- re: exchanging the phrase "have been" for the current word "are" -- there has been considerable debate about the adequacy of historical oversight of ESER GO bonds and the BOS legislation includes language meant to provide clarity on the role of the Citizen's General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee in the future. However, that oversight role should not be overstated nor misrepresented to the voters. Particularly because some voters may weigh their decision on the bond measure against whether or not they believe that the proceeds of the bonds will be administered and managed appropriately and will have sufficient *post hoc* monitoring and review. The Citizen's GOBOC has never been nor will this bond measure create for it a role in the administrative and allocation decisions regarding bond revenue use and disbursement. The Citizen's GOBOC has and will continue to have monitoring, review and *post hoc* oversight functions. The past participle verb form should be utilized to more clearly communicate to the voters when the "oversight" role of the Citizen's GOBOC will occur.

3) Considering the confusion that has already arisen regarding multiple uses of "other... facilities" phrases, the assumption that the voters will clearly recognize what is meant in the "A YES Vote Means" section when "Potrero Yard" is listed is unfounded. A better mechanism would be to use a shortened version of previous times the "Muni bus facility at Potrero Yard" phrase was also listed. I have suggested two alternatives for this addition and while either is acceptable, a slight preference for the second iteration, which I referred to in the previous sentence, is acknowledged -- "Muni bus facility at Potrero Yard,".

Thank you for your consideration of these recommended revisions, edits and additions.  
Sincerely,

John Crabtree  
Principal Officer  
Equal Fire Protection for All  
1375 35th Ave  
The Sunset  
San Francisco CA 94122  
563-581-2867

## **Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response Bond\***

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

**Status:** Approved Digest  
**On:** Monday, March 2, 2026  
**Members:** Packard, Anderson, Troy, Wong

**Deadline to Request Reconsideration:** 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2026

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**The Way It Is Now:** The City owns and operates infrastructure for public safety and emergency response, including:

- The Emergency Firefighting Water System consisting of about 135 miles of high-pressure pipeline, hydrants, cisterns and pump stations that draw water for emergencies;
- Fire and police stations and other related first responder facilities; and
- The Muni bus storage and maintenance facility at Potrero Yard, which provides buses to transport disaster service workers, and emergency responders and supplies.

The Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee monitors the spending of general obligation bond funds.

**The Proposal:** Proposition \_\_\_ is a bond measure that would authorize the City to borrow up to \$535 million by issuing general obligation bonds. The City would spend this money on improvements and seismic upgrades to infrastructure used for emergency response and recovery.

Earthquake safety projects funded by the bonds could include construction, acquisition, improvement and completion of:

- The Emergency Firefighting Water System;
- Fire and police stations and other [redacted] facilities; insert: (disaster response)
- The Muni bus storage and maintenance facility at Potrero Yard; and
- [redacted] delete this bullet

Proposition \_\_\_ would allow an increase in the property tax to pay for the bonds, if needed. City policy is to limit the amount of money it borrows by issuing new bonds only as prior bonds are paid off. In rent-controlled residential units, landlords would be permitted to pass through to tenants up to 50 percent of any resulting property tax increase.

Proposition \_\_\_ would require the Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee to review how these bond funds [redacted] spent. delete "are" and insert "have been"

**A "YES" Vote Means:** If you vote "yes," you want the City to issue up to \$535 million in general obligation bonds for earthquake safety projects, including the construction, acquisition, improvement and completion of the Emergency Firefighting Water System, fire and police stations and disaster support facilities, Potrero Yard, and other disaster response facilities. ^Muni ^bus facility

**A "NO" Vote Means:** If you vote "no," you do not want the City to issue these bonds.

*\*Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.*