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Dear Ballot Simplification Committee Members Packard, Anderson, Troy and Wong –

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to present our proposed changes to the June 2026 ballot handbook language for the 2026 Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response Bond measure. We appreciate your attention to detail, goal of language neutrality and accessibility, institutional knowledge and judicious use of the serial comma.

Speaking on behalf of City departments involved in the ESER 2026 bond proposal, we also appreciate the chance to request some minor modifications to improve clarity and align with the language in the bond report.

One requested change is to add language highlighted in yellow, below:

“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 to ensure the tax rate remains at or below the 2006 property tax level. In rent-controlled residential units, landlords would be permitted to pass through to tenants up to 50 percent of any resulting property tax increase.”

We request this addition to explain in plain language why – under long-standing policy embedded in the 10-Year Capital Plan, approved by the mayor and the Board of Supervisors – the City only will issue new bonds once the old ones are retired. This added language provides context for voters as they consider the proposal.

The other requested changes are to delete redundant language and a comma, in red text below:

“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.”

We believe the use of “other disaster response facilities” at the end of the sentence is sufficient. If the recommended deletion is accepted, the comma after Potrero Yard would not be needed.

Thank you again for your consideration,

– Rachel Gordon

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Gordon".

Director of Policy and Communications
San Francisco Public Works