



August 3, 2026

The Honorable Rochelle C. East
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco
400 McAllister Street, Room 206
San Francisco, CA 94102-4514

Dear Judge East,

In accordance with Penal Code 933 and 933.05, the following is in response to the 2025-2026 Civil Grand Jury Report, *Red Flag Warning – Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon*. We would like to thank the members of the 2025-2026 Civil Grand Jury for their interest in our City's wildland parks and ensuring their long-term protection from fire risk.

We agree with the core intent of the Jury's findings, to bring attention to the risk posed by fire in wildland areas of the City including Glen Canyon. The City also recognizes that Glen Canyon poses a unique challenge because multiple departments with differing scopes of responsibility and missions have adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions. The City strives for operational efficiency to maximize the impact of limited resources and is open to considering improvements that have the potential to further reduce the risk of fire, within existing funding levels.

The City does, however, disagree with some of the Jury's findings and recommendations about City departments' general preparedness for fires in wildland areas. The three City departments with jurisdiction in Glen Canyon perform responsible vegetation management within the scope of their operational duties that reduce fire fuel. In addition, the San Francisco Fire Department mitigates risks through drills, wildland firefighting apparatus, and pre-planning for fires in wildland urban interface. Considering changes in allocating responsibility requires analysis by departments. In addition, at a general citywide level and specific to Glen Canyon, CAL Fire rates San Francisco as a "low" risk fire rating.

We commend the Jury's desire to increase sharing of technology and best practices to improve lines of communication between departments with adjacent and overlapping wildland jurisdictions. Further, we thank the Jury for raising the importance of these departments coordinating with the Fire Department to ensure preparation for any wildland fire.

The City takes these findings and recommendations seriously and we will continue to ensure wildlands are appropriately assessed for fire hazard and risks are mitigated.

We are including our detailed responses from the Mayor's Office, the Recreation and Parks Department, the Fire Department, San Francisco Public Works, and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. Please note, the Urban Forestry Council ceased to exist on June 30, 2026, so we have not included a response from that body.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Lurie'.

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Madland'.

Sarah Madland
General Manager, San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean Crispin'.

Dean Crispin
Chief of Department, San Francisco Fire Department

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carla Short'.

Carla Short
Director, San Francisco Public Works

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ron Flynn'.

Ron Flynn for Dennis Herrera

Dennis Herrera
General Manager, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Report Title [Publication Date]	F#	Finding	Respondent Assigned by CGJ [Response Due Date]	Finding Response (Agree/ Disagree)	Finding Response Text
Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	F1	The highly flammable, aging eucalyptus canopy in San Francisco poses a material wildfire danger and a risk of collapse during storms.	Mayor [August 3, 2026]	Disagree partially	The City recognizes the importance of bringing attention to the hazard wildfire poses and that the risk of fire in any wildland area is never zero. However, examination of fire risk in the City's wildland areas must consider that CAL Fire assigns San Francisco a "low" fire rating. San Francisco's typical coastal environment conditions influence relatively slower wildland fuel ignition and subsequent fire spread, inclusive of thick or dense potential fuels like trees. The City does agree aging eucalyptus canopies, like all aging trees, poses a risk of collapse during storms.
Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	F2	Four local governmental agencies manage vegetation in Glen Canyon without sufficient coordination to deploy arborist resources efficiently and to provide accountability for fire abatement activities.	Mayor [August 3, 2026]	Disagree partially	The City recognizes the importance of coordination between departments with adjacent jurisdictions. However, the potential for efficiencies can only be determined with analysis of proposed changes to interdepartmental operations and responsibilities. Additionally, the City disagrees current levels of coordination are insufficient for accountability, as each departments' jurisdiction delineates areas of accountability.
Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	F3	The absence of a plan to address aging eucalyptus groves and other tree litter in the DPW management zone of Glen Canyon increases the risk of fire and destabilization of the hillside supporting O'Shaughnessy Blvd.	Mayor [August 3, 2026]	Disagree partially	The City agrees aging eucalyptus groves and accumulated vegetation in the Glen Canyon management zone warrant ongoing attention, and that slope stability along O'Shaughnessy Boulevard is a priority given the road's role as a key transportation and evacuation corridor. However, the City addresses hazardous conditions as part of operational maintenance responsibilities where jurisdictionally applicable which includes risk mitigation through abatement in coordination between departments and with CAL Fire.
Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	F4	City agencies with wildland properties generally lack current Wildfire Mitigation Plans.	Mayor [August 3, 2026]	Disagree partially	The City disagrees with the finding as some departments maintain mitigation programs following professional standards. Further, the necessity of maintaining plans may vary based on departments' jurisdictional responsibilities, staffing and funding resource constraints, and applicability. The City does acknowledge general risk mitigation is important and departments should consider it as part of operational planning with regard to vegetation and hazard management.

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Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	F5	The UFC has not provided guidance and practice standards to its members about wildfire risk mitigation and management of invasive species, such as eucalyptus.	Mayor [August 3, 2026]	Disagree partially	As of June 2026, the Urban Forestry Council is no longer in existence, following a recommendation for dissolution from the San Francisco Commission Streamlining Taskforce.
Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	F7	The SFFD has taken steps to prepare for potentially catastrophic wildfire events in San Francisco through their planning, training, and specialized equipment purchases.	Mayor [August 3, 2026]	Agree	

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Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R2.1	By June 30, 2027, RPD, which has principal management responsibilities in Glen Canyon, should develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the other three agencies (DPW, PUC, SFUSD) to assume vegetation management responsibilities within the Glen Canyon Natural Area.	Mayor [August 3, 2026]	Will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable	The City will not implement this recommendation. The scale of an MOU to change jurisdictional responsibilities and shift departmental subject matter expertise specific to present circumstances would demand a significant increase in need for staffing and funding resources from current levels. Departments will maintain a posture striving for responsible coordination.
Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R3.1	By June 30, 2027, the DPW, PUC, and RPD should execute a Memorandum of Understanding with CAL Fire for fire crew training to reduce fuel loads on their properties in Glen Canyon .	Mayor [August 3, 2026]	Requires further analysis	The City must further analyze this recommendation as the potential for one MOU between CAL Fire and multiple City departments would require significant development to account for differences in missions & responsibilities, conservation & vegetation management policies, and resource constraints. Additionally, it would require accounting for the MOU already existing between DPW and CAL Fire and the effective communications already conducted between departments in order to manage their respective properties.
Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R4.1	By January 30, 2027, RPD should update its Fire Abatement Best Practices page on their website.	Mayor [August 3, 2026]	Has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future	RPD will update its fire abatement page on its website within the suggested timeframe.
Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R4.2	By June 30, 2027, the DPW, PUC, and RPD should develop Wildfire Mitigation Plans for wildland properties under their jurisdiction and update them annually thereafter.	Mayor [August 3, 2026]	Requires further analysis	The City must further analyze this recommendation as it sets out a procedure for multiple departments that are at varied stages of applicability. Depending on the level of fire risk and departments' individual proactive work with regard to their entire wildland jurisdiction, a mitigation plan may be in place already or unwarranted.

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Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R5.2	By June 30, 2027, the UFC should develop an agenda and schedule kick off meetings between key agencies to begin work on Phase 2, "Trees in Parks and Open Spaces" of the Urban Forest Plan, with specific focus on invasive species management and wildfire abatement .	Mayor [August 3, 2026]	Will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable	As of June 2026, the Urban Forestry Council is no longer in existence, following a recommendation for dissolution from the San Francisco Commission Streamlining Taskforce. Since the UFC no longer exists, the recommendation will not be implemented.
Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R7.1	By June 2027, SFFD should expand its wildland urban interface fire drills to other areas with difficult topography, such as Twin Peaks, Mt. Davidson, Laguna Honda, and McLaren Park by June 2027.	Mayor [August 3, 2026]	Requires further analysis	SFFD has taken measures to prepare for wildfire events in the City through pre-planning of WUI areas. However, further analysis is required as the areas described are under other departments' jurisdiction, so any proposed drills require coordination with those departments to determine feasibility in balance of training and habitat preservation.

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Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	F3	The absence of a plan to address aging eucalyptus groves and other tree litter in the DPW management zone of Glen Canyon increases the risk of fire and destabilization of the hillside supporting O'Shaughnessy Blvd.	Recreation and Parks Department [August 3, 2026]	Disagree partially	The City agrees aging eucalyptus groves and accumulated vegetation in the Glen Canyon management zone warrant ongoing attention, and that slope stability along O'Shaughnessy Boulevard is a priority given the road's role as a key transportation and evacuation corridor. However, the City addresses hazardous conditions as part of operational maintenance responsibilities where jurisdictionally applicable which includes risk mitigation through abatement in coordination between departments and with CAL Fire.
Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	F4	City agencies with wildland properties generally lack current Wildfire Mitigation Plans.	Recreation and Parks Department [August 3, 2026]	Disagree partially	The City disagrees with the finding as some departments maintain mitigation programs following professional standards. Further, the necessity of maintaining plans may vary based on departments' jurisdictional responsibilities, staffing and funding resource constraints, and applicability. The City does acknowledge general risk mitigation is important and departments should consider it as part of operational planning with regard to vegetation and hazard management.

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Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	F6	City agencies currently do not share licensing, data, and best practices about technology that can be used to inventory and manage their urban forest areas.	Recreation and Parks Department [August 3, 2026]	Disagree partially	City departments currently use common technology platforms and best practices for inventory and management as applicable, while still enabling functions specific to each mission. However, agencies can engage in more information sharing to identify further shared best practices and promote efficiencies.

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Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R2.1	By June 30, 2027, RPD, which has principal management responsibilities in Glen Canyon, should develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the other three agencies (DPW, PUC, SFUSD) to assume vegetation management responsibilities within the Glen Canyon Natural Area.	Recreation and Parks Department [August 3, 2026]	Will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable	The City will not implement this recommendation. The scale of an MOU to change jurisdictional responsibilities and shift departmental subject matter expertise specific to present circumstances would demand a significant increase in need for staffing and funding resources from current levels. Departments will maintain a posture striving for responsible coordination.
Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R2.2	By June 30, 2027, RPD should prepare an analysis for the Board of Supervisors for any additional resources required to perform tree maintenance work in Glen Canyon as specified in the SNRAMP guidelines.	Recreation and Parks Department [August 3, 2026]	Requires further analysis	This recommendation requires further analysis to evaluate the NRMP recommendations about tree maintenance in Glen Canyon with regard to consideration of time passed since the last NRMP update and the adjacent jurisdictions of multiple departments.
Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R3.1	By June 30, 2027, the DPW, PUC, and RPD should execute a Memorandum of Understanding with CAL Fire for fire crew training to reduce fuel loads on their properties in Glen Canyon.	Recreation and Parks Department [August 3, 2026]	Requires further analysis	The City must further analyze this recommendation as the potential for one MOU between CAL Fire and multiple City departments would require significant development to account for differences in missions & responsibilities, conservation & vegetation management policies, and resource constraints. Additionally, it would require accounting for the MOU already existing between DPW and CAL Fire and the effective communications already conducted between departments in order to manage their respective properties.
Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R3.2	By September 30, 2027, and after the eucalyptus canopy is trimmed, RPD should plant native understory species to increase biodiversity and stabilize the steep western hillside.	Recreation and Parks Department [August 3, 2026]	Requires further analysis	The City must further analyze this recommendation as there are implications of proposed work by one department on land under a different department's jurisdiction. In addition, the work described may be outside the constraints of current resource levels, and must be evaluated for viability based on the specific existing terrain and canopy.

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Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R4.1	By January 30, 2027, RPD should update its Fire Abatement Best Practices page on their website.	Recreation and Parks Department [August 3, 2026]	Has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future	RPD will update its fire abatement page on its website within the suggested timeframe.
Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R4.2	By June 30, 2027, the DPW, PUC, and RPD should develop Wildfire Mitigation Plans for wildland properties under their jurisdiction and update them annually thereafter.	Recreation and Parks Department [August 3, 2026]	Requires further analysis	The City must further analyze this recommendation as it sets out a procedure for multiple departments that are at varied stages of applicability. Depending on the level of fire risk and departments' individual proactive work with regard to their entire wildland jurisdiction, a mitigation plan may be in place already or unwarranted.
Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R6.1	By June 30, 2027, the UFC should sponsor seminars with the PUC, DPW, and RPD to share knowledge about GIS systems, LIDAR, and other technology that can help improve operational efficiency and reduce fire risk in urban wildland areas.	Recreation and Parks Department [August 3, 2026]	Will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable	As of June 2026, the Urban Forestry Council is no longer in existence, following a recommendation for dissolution from the San Francisco Commission Streamlining Taskforce. Beyond any coordination already in place between City departments that ties to the framework of the recommendation, City departments may engage in the knowledge sharing also in the framework of the recommendation as enabled by available time and resources.
Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R6.2	By June 30, 2027, RPD and DPW should prepare a best practices document describing remote canopy mapping technologies, potential licensing efficiencies, and deployment resources for their respective forest inventory applications: StreetTreeSF (ESRI) and TreePlotter (PlanITGeo).	Recreation and Parks Department [August 3, 2026]	Requires further analysis	The City must analyze this recommendation further to determine how current similar systems' use by different departments may support operational improvements by others, and if a best practices document will achieve positive outcomes.

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Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R6.3	By June 30, 2027, Data from the RPD TreePlotter application should be a publicly accessible on-line application to help manage the urban forest as specified in the 2026 San Francisco Climate Action Plan.	Recreation and Parks Department [August 3, 2026]	Requires further analysis	This recommendation requires further analysis as the specific aspects of a tree inventory's utility to the public must be determined. Additionally, it is infeasible to complete a total tree inventory within the timeframe described, so the City must determine the appropriate timeline to complete one that the framework of this recommendation encompasses.

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Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R7.2	SFFD should provide After Action Summaries of lessons learned within 60 days of drill completion to the DPW, PUC, and RPD staff responsible for wildland properties in order to improve Wildfire Mitigation Plans.	San Francisco Fire Department [August 3, 2026]	Has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future	SFFD will develop After Action Summaries of WUI Drills to aid DPW, PUC, and RPD in order to improve Wildfire Mitigation Plans.
Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R7.3	By June 30, 2027, SFFD should prepare on-line educational materials about wildland urban interface fire risk in San Francisco and how to maintain defensible spaces around buildings.	San Francisco Fire Department [August 3, 2026]	Has been implemented	SFFD website includes multiple links to on-line educational materials about wildland urban interface fire risk in San Francisco including how to maintain defensible spaces around buildings. The website is www.sf-fire.org/wildfires

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Red Flag Warning - Wildfire Risk in San Francisco's Glen Canyon [June 4, 2026]	R6.1	By June 30, 2027, the UFC should sponsor seminars with the PUC, DPW, and RPD to share knowledge about GIS systems, LIDAR, and other technology that can help improve operational efficiency and reduce fire risk in urban wildland areas.	Department of Public Works [August 3, 2026]	Will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable	As of June 2026, the Urban Forestry Council is no longer in existence, following a recommendation for dissolution from the San Francisco Commission Streamlining Taskforce. Beyond any coordination already in place between City departments that ties to the framework of the recommendation, City departments may engage in the knowledge sharing also in the framework of the recommendation as enabled by available time and resources.
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