FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, June 25th 2019

Statement Re: Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response Bond

“Today, the Board of Supervisors passed on first reading the Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response Bond for the March 2020 ballot. This bond will deliver $140 million in crucial investments for protecting the westside of the City in the event of future disasters, including earthquakes and fires, and will allow us to expand the Emergency Firefighting Water System in the Sunset District and Richmond. It isn't a question of if the next big earthquake is coming, but when, and I’m proud to sponsor this important step for ensuring the Sunset is prepared to respond to emergencies.

In addition to this $140 million investment, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission has committed an additional $55 million towards the westside Emergency Firefighting Water System, bringing the total in new investments to nearly $200 million. Our action today will protect the life and property of westside residents and secure our future generations from disaster. I am proud to be a sponsor of this bond.”

Background Info:
In 1906, the Great Earthquake hit San Francisco and simultaneously ignited fires across The City. When the fires ignited, the Fire Department discovered that the water mains and water supply had ceased to function as a result of the earthquake. The three day conflagration burned down 4.7 square miles of San Francisco and caused an estimated 3,000 casualties and the destruction of 28,000 buildings. It was estimated that 90% of the destruction was caused by the fire and the monetary loss in property damage was more than $400 million in 1906 dollars.

The destruction of the earthquake and resulting fire led to the 1908 issuance of a bond and construction of a water supply system solely focused on fire suppression. Currently, the majority of the western and southern parts of the City, such as Outer Sunset, Outer Richmond, and Excelsior Districts are not covered by a water supply system. Yet, within the next 30 years the San Francisco Bay Area has a 72% probability of an earthquake measuring magnitude 6.7 and 51% probability of an earthquake measuring magnitude 7.

CONTACT
Edward Wright, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Gordon Mar
edward.w.wright@sfgov.org | (415) 554-7464