



SAN FRANCISCO DEPUTY SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

"Serving the Deputy Sheriffs' of San Francisco since 1952"

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
Jim Irving

December 29, 2020

Via Electronic Email

Carol Isen, Human Resources Director
San Francisco Dept. of Human Resources
One South Van Ness Avenue, 4th Floor
San Francisco, California 94103

email: carol.isen@sfgov.org, DHR.ClassificationActionPostings@sfgov.org

Re: Formal Protest to changes made to 7470 Watershed Keeper, Posting No: 09 Item: 1

I am formally protesting changes to the classification of Watershed Keeper

SFPUC owns the Peninsula Watershed which is home to three drinking water reservoirs: Crystal Springs, San Andrea and Pilarcitos. It has been protected as watershed land since the mid to late 1800's, these lands also boast the highest concentration of rare and endangered species in the nine-county Bay Area.

Watershed Keeper is a law enforcement position. They are deputized as deputy sheriff's to patrol and police 23,000 acres of San Francisco Watershed territory.

Watershed Keepers encounter trespassers, illegal hunting, marijuana grows, fire watch in summer months and for nefarious criminal activity up to and including water supply terrorism.

SFPUC's water system includes 18 dams that are regulated by the State Division of Safety of Dams. San Francisco's dams and water supply are a critical infrastructure.

"[Patriot Act](#) of 2001 defined critical infrastructure as those "systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters."



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Water supplies and water distribution systems represent potential targets for terrorist activity in the United States because of the critical need for water in every sector of our industrialized society. Even short-term disruption of water service can significantly impact a community, and intentional contamination of a municipal water system as part of a terrorist attack could lead to serious medical, public health, and economic consequences. Most practicing physicians and public health professionals in the United States have received limited training in the recognition and evaluation of waterborne disease from either natural or intentional contamination of water. Therefore, they are poorly prepared to detect water-related disease resulting from intentional contamination and may not be adequately trained to respond appropriately to a terrorist assault on water. The purpose of this review is to address this critical information gap and present relevant epidemiologic and clinical information for public health and medical practitioners who may be faced with addressing the recognition, management, and prevention of water terrorism in their communities.

Source: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15760287/>

Water supply terrorism involves intentional sabotage to a water supply system, through chemical or biological warfare or infrastructural sabotage. Throughout military history and the history of terrorism, water supply attacks have been perpetrated by political groups, intending to scare, cause death, or drought.

Security experts have warned that terrorist organizations may be considering water systems as possible targets for weapons of mass destruction, known as WMD. WMD includes some chemical, biological and radiological contaminants whose purpose is to cause harm. It has always been possible to intentionally contaminate a water system, but 9/11 and other recent events have suggested that the likelihood that an intentional contamination incident will happen has increased. This is why we all should plan and prepare to protect our drinking water.

Source: EPA Water Security Handbook

The Watershed Keeper sworn powers should not be removed. This proposed change places all of San Francisco in danger and vulnerable to attack on a critical infrastructure San Francisco's Water Supply. The existing classification being deputized is a sworn peace officer position. We object to the removal of any police powers and/or deputization of this classification.

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Under License and Certification, I am in protest of this section as well. The following must be added: *Must have completed a P.O.S.T. approved academy at time of appointment.*

Knowledge should be added to Experience. A qualified candidate must have knowledge of - Basic law enforcement theory, principles, and practices and their application to a wide variety of services and programs.

If you wanted to make a change to better this classification, then it should be moved under the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office is equipped to handle this as well as has a training unit to keep peace officers in compliance with yearly mandated training.

Every person in San Francisco, including all CCSF employees will be affected by this proposed change. The proposed change makes the 7470 Watershed Keeper a non peace officer and the Watershed Keepers will be powerless to protect San Francisco's Water Supply which is a critical infrastructure.

Posting Number: 09

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Affected Parties: 7470 Watershed Keepers, All CCSF Employees, All San Franciscans, All SF Visitors

Best regards,

Ken Lomba
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