

in the works

April 2020





Pharm

Community

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Protect Our Community

Wear a mask over your mouth and nose
at all times while in essential businesses.



City & County of San Francisco
Department of Public Health
sf.gov/coronavirus

COVID-19 PUBLIC H

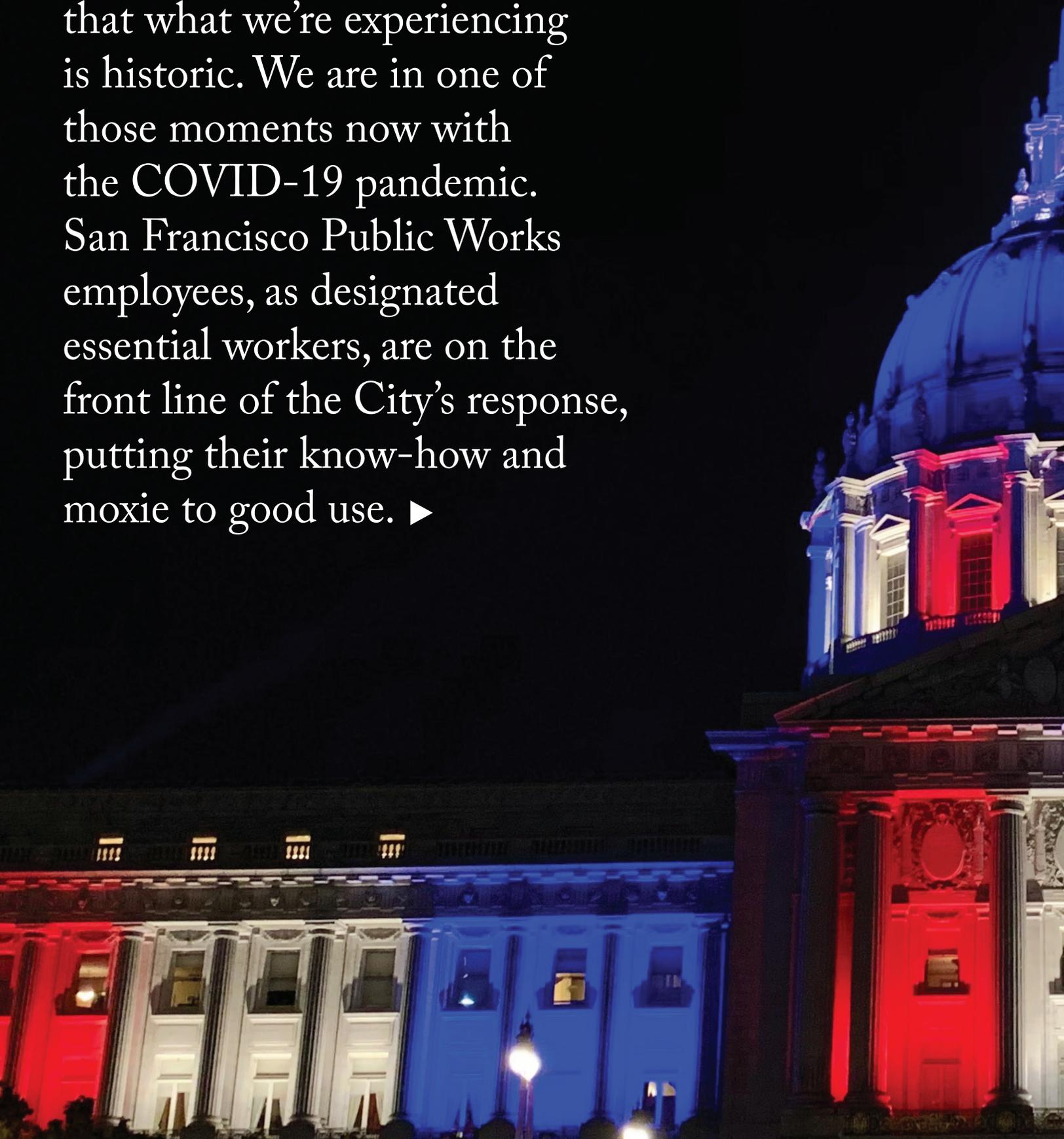
Status of key Public Works services and

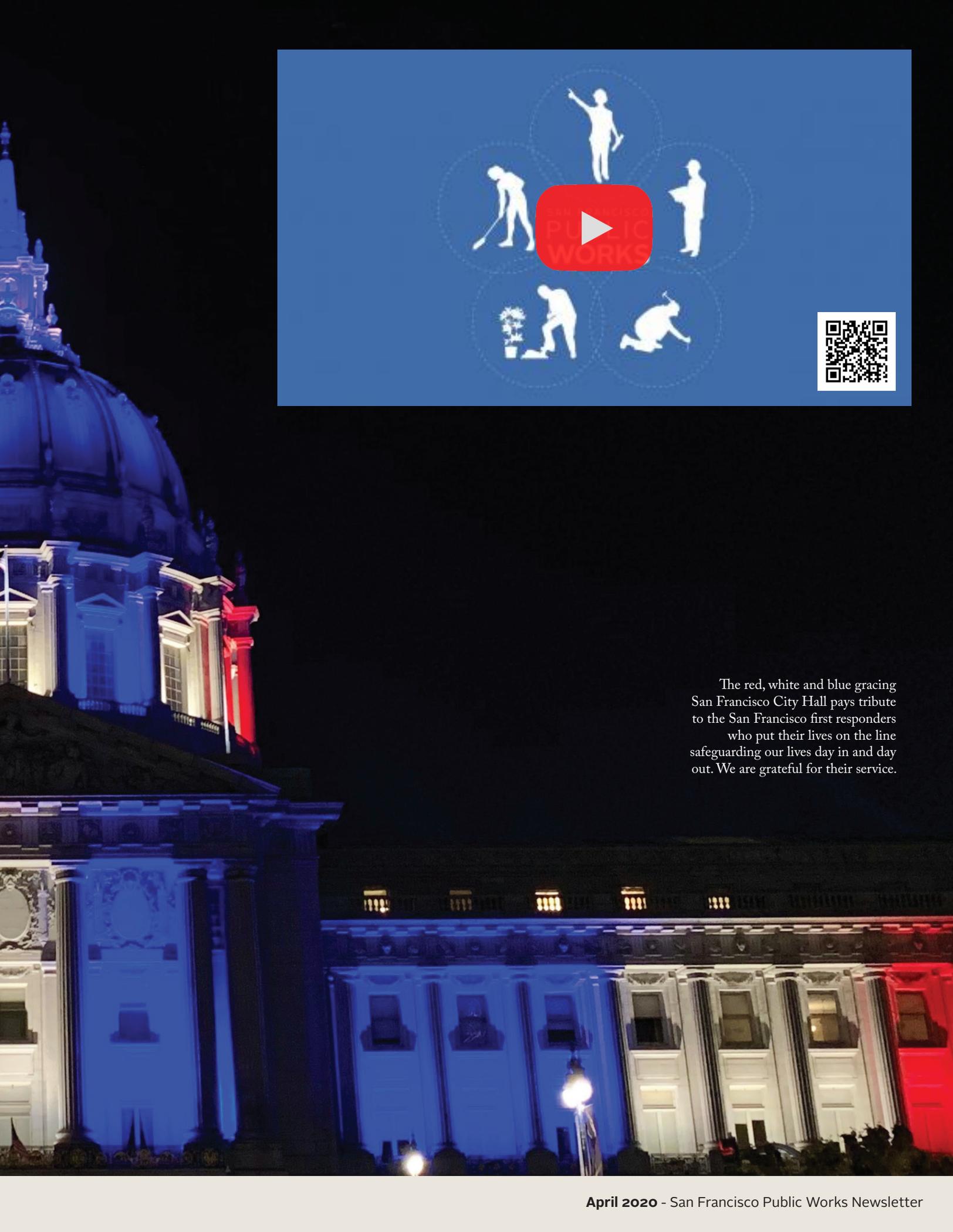


HEALTH EMERGENCY

programs during shelter in place order

There are few times in our lives when we know immediately that what we're experiencing is historic. We are in one of those moments now with the COVID-19 pandemic. San Francisco Public Works employees, as designated essential workers, are on the front line of the City's response, putting their know-how and moxie to good use. ►





A graphic on a blue background. In the center is a red YouTube play button icon with the text "PUBLIC WORKS" in white. Surrounding it are six white silhouettes of people in various work-related poses: one pointing, one sweeping, one standing with a clipboard, one kneeling, one working with a plant, and one kneeling with a tool. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the graphic area.

The red, white and blue gracing San Francisco City Hall pays tribute to the San Francisco first responders who put their lives on the line safeguarding our lives day in and day out. We are grateful for their service.

The Public Works
#LoveOurCity motto
means more now than
ever before. As a diverse
organization with
1,600-plus employees,
Public Works has
responded to the
crisis with creativity
and flexibility by
reprioritizing resources
and deploying staff
where needed most
to keep San Francisco
clean, safe and resilient.

1. Pothole crew smooths Beach Street in Fisherman's Wharf.
2. Geyona Dean, a street inspector trainee with our Bureau of Street-use and Mapping, checks for permit compliance in the public right of way.
3. Stationary engineer John Lamonte works on the historic Lotta's Fountain to prep for the annual 1906 Earthquake commemoration.
4. Sean O'Brien works remotely – with a view – on Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response Bond projects.
5. Erica Ruiz works from home remotely on rec and park design projects.
6. Gardener Bruce Pennington spreads wood chips at the Southeast Community Health Center.
7. Urban forester Sherri Pelayo-McEllistrim collects extra branches and foliage cut from our street trees and brings them to a wood chipper to create soil-enriching mulch.
8. Sheldon McRay, a 22-year veteran with our Cement Shop takes a short break after repairing a buckled sidewalk in front a neighborhood health center.







For example, the construction management and architecture teams at Building Design and Construction have been scouting potential locations and drawing up plans for safe spaces where the City's unhoused population can live temporarily.



Dennis Oates, construction manager for the City's Navigation Centers, leads a multi-agency tour in the Lower Polk neighborhood to look for new safe-sleeping sites.

Our carpenters built a popup shelter that provides clients with separated sleeping pods for safe social distancing. They also repurposed a portion of the City's [Southeast Health Clinic](#) so it could safely isolate and care for patients who may be infected with the virus. Our electricians and landscape crews supported the completion of this project.







With Muni subway service shut down for the COVID-19 public health emergency, our carpenters, Ken Calkins and Pat Smith, are on the job constructing sturdy safety barricades to close off the Muni station entrances on Market Street.

When Muni needed to secure its Metro subway stations, which are closed during shelter in place, Public Works carpenters got to work with their wood, tape measures, electric saws and nail guns to barricade the entrances.





Alan Payne worked the backhoe to grade a lot, as he and other members from our street repair crew prepared a new COVID-19 testing site in the SoMa neighborhood.



To prepare for the City's new COVID-19 drive-through testing center at Seventh and Brannan streets, our paving crew from the Bureau of Street and Sewer Repair graded the lot to make sure it is safe and ready to use. Our carpenters and sheet metal workers were on site there, as well, to work on this critical project.

Our Pit Stop team, with support from Operations Yard administration, deployed 37 COVID-response public toilets in the Tenderloin, South of Market, Mission, Castro, Bayview, Richmond, Haight and Cathedral Hill neighborhoods. The toilets are open around the clock and are staffed by our nonprofit partners, Urban Alchemy and Hunters Point Family, to ensure they are kept safe and clean. The bathrooms augment our existing Pit Stop public toilets. A complete listing of locations can be found [here](#).

Victor Rangel with our nonprofit partner, Urban Alchemy, staffs one of our COVID-19-response public toilets, at 23rd and Treat streets in the Mission District.







Crews from our Operations Yard helped deploy the City’s [slow streets initiative](#) by closing off traffic lanes to give people more room to walk at a safe distance from one another...



Joe Luauulu from our glass shop installs a sneeze guard at our permits center.

...and our glass shop added sneeze guards to the public counters at our permits center.

Many of us have been called to work at the **City's Emergency Operations Center** to help coordinate the crisis response and work collaboratively with other City departments. We also set up a virtual Department Operations Center to facilitate all the incoming requests for Public Works staffing and resources.



Top left: Carlo Alfonso, who took a leave as an administrative assistant to our City Architect to help the Department of Public Health's pandemic-response team, and Eleanor Morse, who normally works on our performance management team but now is serving as a public health analyst, get some fresh air during a quick rooftop break at the Emergency Operations Center.

Below left, Vito Vanoni, senior architect and technical manager at our Building Design and Construction division, on assignment in the planning section at the Emergency Operations Center.

Below: Ramses Alvarez from our Community Programs section was tasked with developing an operational plan for distributing cleaning supplies to people who live in Single Room Occupancy (SRO) buildings.





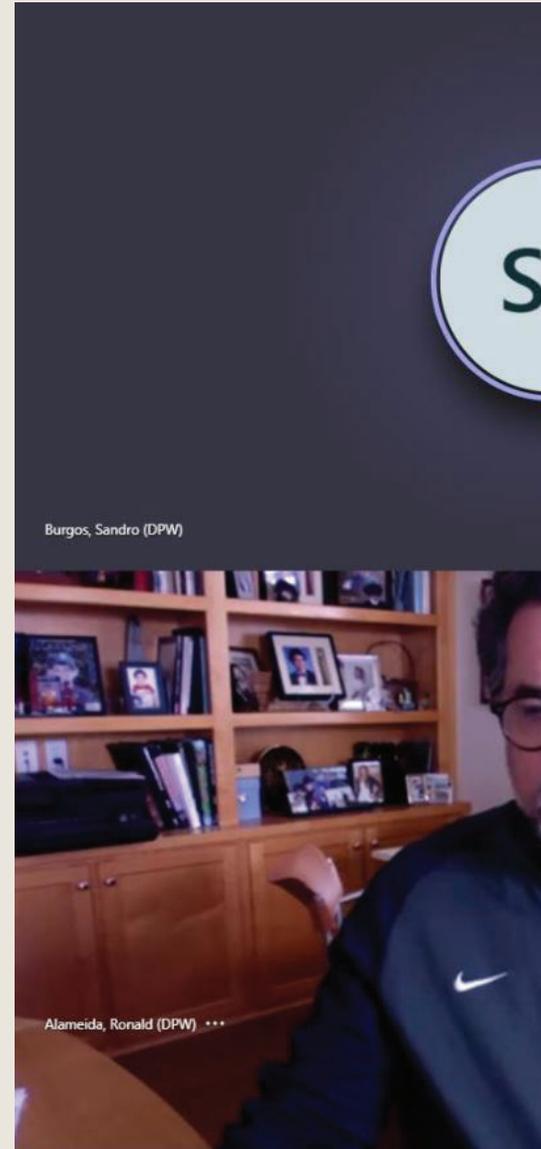


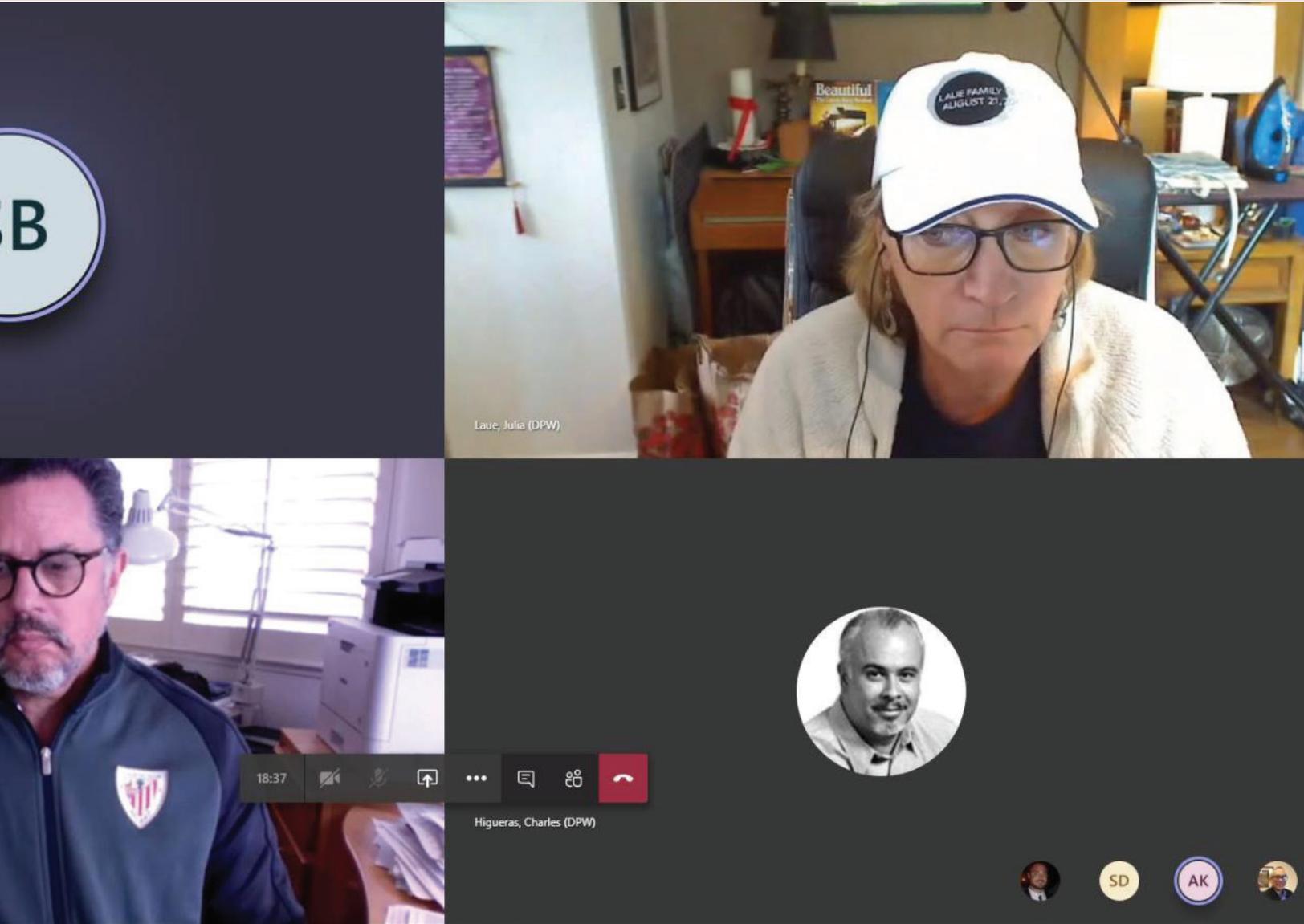


Deemed essential under the City's shelter-in-place order, work on public infrastructure improvements and civic building projects continues.

Our construction management teams for both our engineering and building divisions, and our street and construction inspectors have continued to work in the field.

Those who can are working remotely from home, among them architects, landscape architects, permit reviewers, engineers, analysts, finance and IT staff. They continue to keep our important projects going, such as the new Animal Care and Control shelter and headquarters, and the new Ambulance Deployment Facility. Our IT staff did a Herculean job facilitating the complex transition to telecommuting for hundreds of employees to make sure that important projects, such as the City's new Ambulance Deployment Facility and the new Crime Lab, are moving forward.





Senior managers from our Building Design and Construction division, (clockwise from top right), Julia Laue, Charles Higuera, Ron Alameida and Sandro Burgos, discuss their day's work via videoconference.



Street cleaners Jackie Wilson and Edward Redd clean up broken glass on Market Street.



Too bad not all graffiti vandals are sheltering in place! Our veteran painter, Jose Marquez, who normally works on San Francisco Public Library projects, is on the streets now as an essential worker, ridding San Francisco of tags.

Meanwhile, our day-to-day field work at Public Works continues. But not in the same way.

The Operations crews who are used to working in close proximity to one another now must maintain at least six feet of distance. That mandate changed how we fill potholes and clean streets. Our painters, who have less work on building projects during shelter in place, started using their skills to paint out graffiti tags blighting the City.

A different kind of wipeout at Ocean Beach: Danny Johnson, a painter with us for 28 years, wipes out graffiti on the seawall.





With rain-fed weeds as high as an elephant's eye on the Sloat Boulevard median, our Bureau of Urban Forestry gardener, Lashanta Jordan, works her mower magic. The trim now makes it easier for motorists to see pedestrians crossing the street.



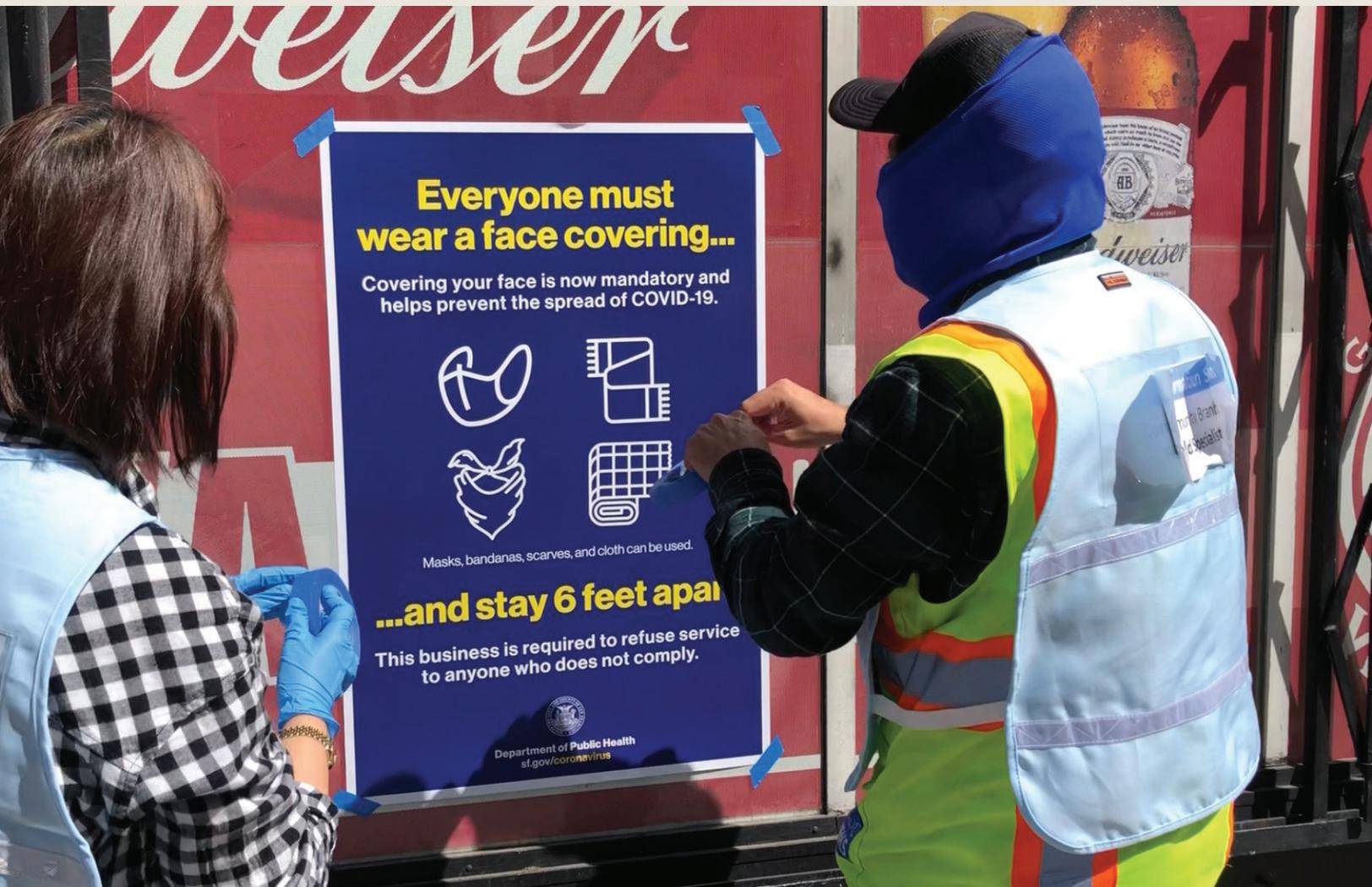
Our street and sidewalk crews, including the mechanical sweepers, continue to keep our public ways clean and safe. The Bureau of Urban Forestry staff has been responding to tree emergencies and mowing medians, such as those on Dolores Street and Sloat Boulevard, to [promote a safe and beautiful environment.](#)

Public Works is far from alone in responding to the public health emergency with a can-do attitude and dexterity. Nonprofits, government agencies, businesses and individuals have **joined forces to support our diverse communities.**



The Emergency Operations Center Community Outreach team hands out more than 20,000 flyers and posters each week to equip essential businesses with vital health information to reduce the spread of COVID-19.





With San Francisco's shelter-in-place order extended through at least the end of May, we still have a ways to go before we return to even a semblance of normalcy, or until we reset what normal means. **We will get through this, together.**





Police Officers

With dedication & gratitude,
San Francisco Public Works





This spring flower, bursting forth with life from cracked concrete, offers a welcome visual metaphor during this unprecedented health crisis. We will get through this.