Emergency Memorandum

Shared Micromobility Emergency Geofencing

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Through: Danny Yeung, Taxis, Access & Mobility Services Permits Manager
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Date: November 20, 2026

Subject: Geofencing for Shared Micromobility in Response to El Nino Emergency

On October 23rd, 2026, Mayor Daniel Lurie declared a local emergency to strengthen San Francisco's El Niño preparedness.[1] On November 18th, 2026, hazardous weather conditions causing localized flooding emerged in San Francisco, and City officials also issued warnings about the unique risks associated with electric devices, such as e-bikes and e-scooters, coming into contact with saltwater.[2] [3] The City and County of San Francisco anticipates elevated risks of flooding and other extreme weather conditions in key areas through April 2027.

Therefore, following the emergency directive and in response to severe weather conditions, the SFMTA directs all shared micromobility providers (i.e., Lime and Spin for scooter share, Lyft for bike share) to immediately establish new geofencing specifications for both parking and riding restrictions in key locations, as well as prepare to activate both planned and unplanned additional geofencing through April 2027.

The SFMTA also requests that shared micromobility providers prepare proactive communications for their riders regarding weather and flood risks and the importance of complying with new geofencing restrictions during this time. Shared micromobility providers are also encouraged to work collaboratively with City agencies—including, but not limited to, the SFMTA, the Fire Department, and the Port—who are responsible for addressing these hazardous conditions.

This geofencing update for shared micromobility will remain in effect until the end of the declared emergency period and may be amended as needed.

[1] https://www.sf.gov/news-mayor-lurie-declares-local-emergency-to-strengthen-san-franciscos-el-nino-preparedness
[2] https://www.sfchronicle.com/weather/article/electric-car-saltwater-water-fire-22527768.php
[3] https://x.com/SFFDPIO/status/2122755163748532501

Immediate Longer-Term Geofencing

At locations where City agencies have installed flood protection barriers,[4] shared micromobility providers must immediately remove any devices from between the barrier and the water and prevent any parking or deployment at these locations. The map below shows planned locations of flood barriers on the waterfront, but these locations may change as necessary. The SFMTA will separately share these geofencing specifications with the shared micromobility providers.

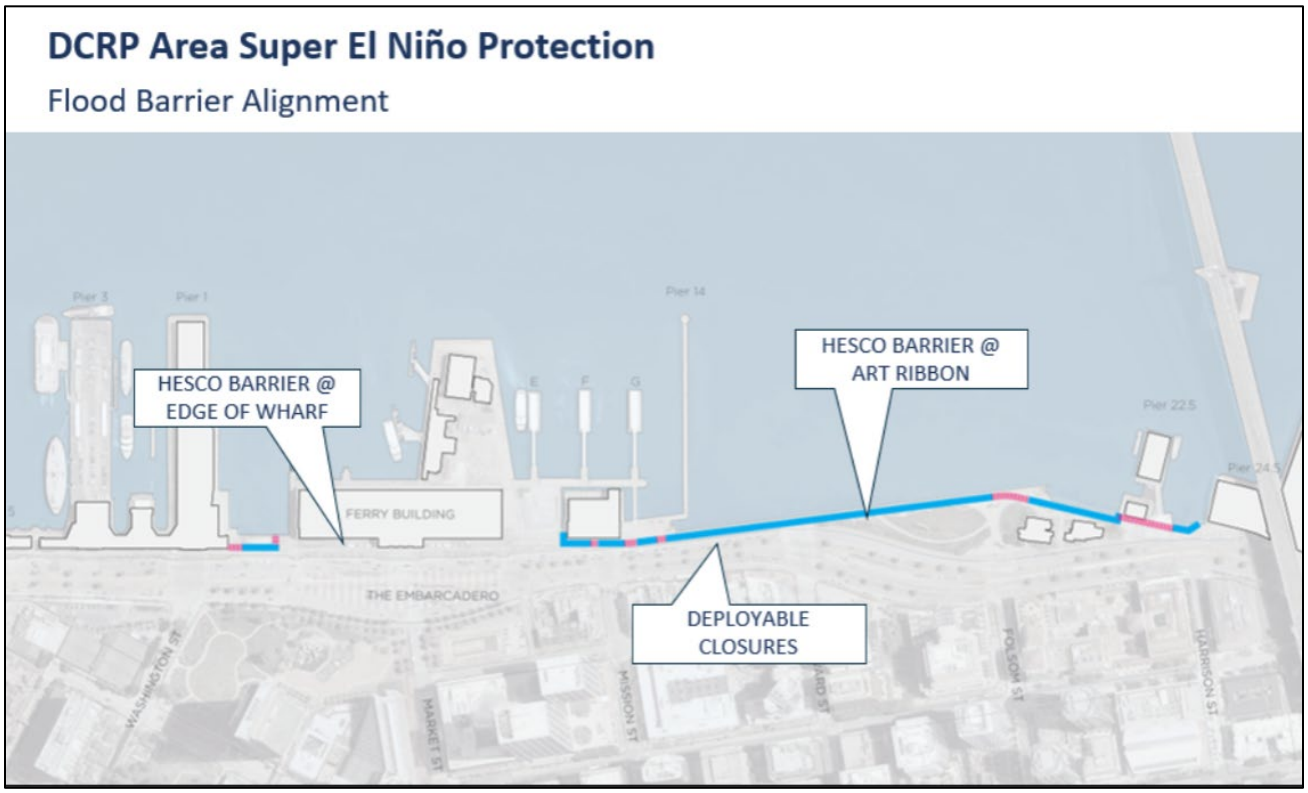


Figure 1 Planned alignment of flood protection barriers along the waterfront, from Pier 1/2 in north to Pier 24 in south

Planned Short-Term Geofencing

Shared micromobility providers are also directed to activate short-term parking and riding restrictions in key areas during specified periods of high-tide forecasts. A map of these planned "exclusion zones" is referenced below, but this may change in response to emerging concerns. The SFMTA will share these geofencing specifications separately and also post them on the SFMTA website as updates occur during the declared local emergency period.

[4] https://www.sfport.com/elnino

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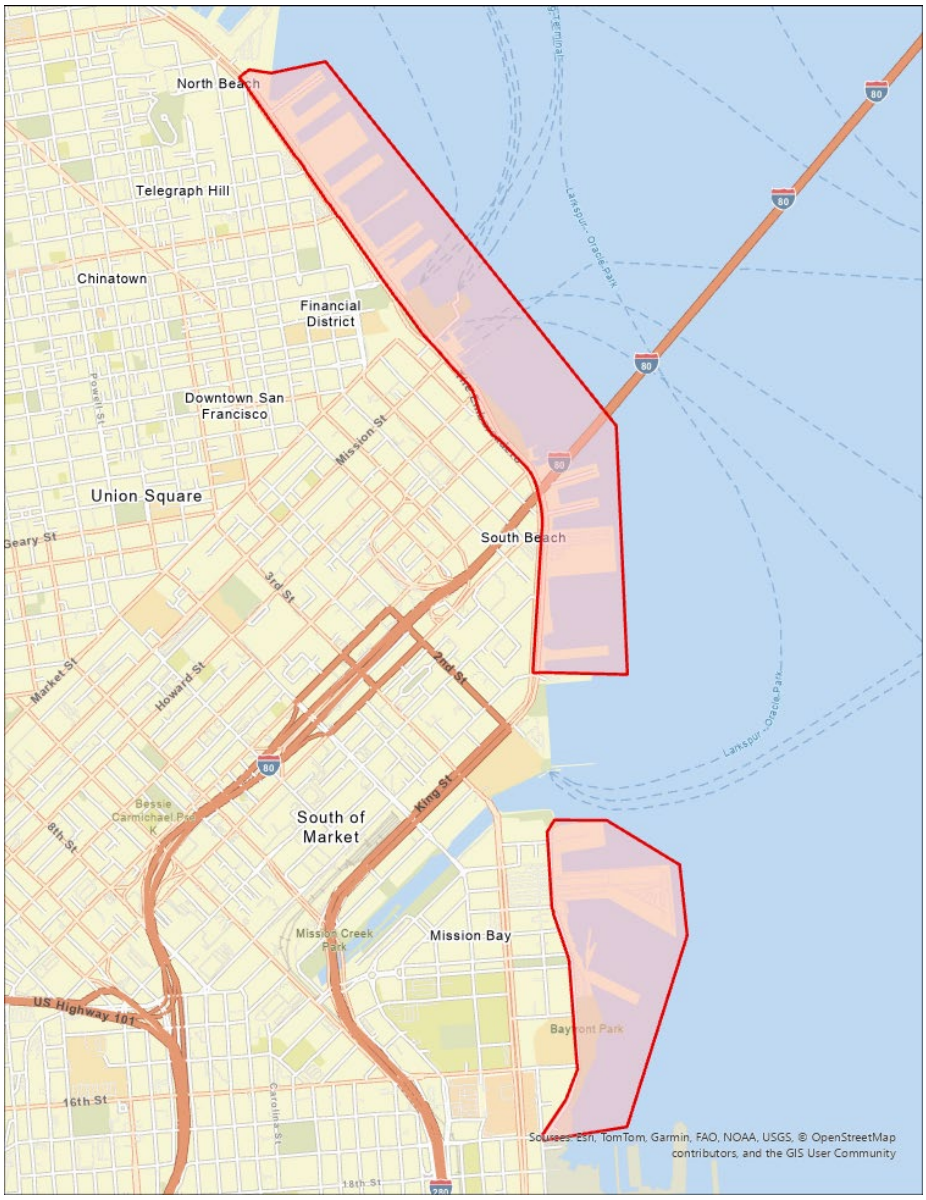


Figure 2 Map of Planned Exclusion Zones for Shared micromobility

The date ranges to activate these planned shorter-term geofencing restrictions are as follows:

- November 22 to 28, 2026
- December 20 to 26, 2026
- January 18 to 24, 2027
- February 17 to 21, 2027

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Unplanned Temporary Geofencing

The City may also at times notify shared micromobility providers to activate temporary geofencing, such as those already specified for planned exclusion zones. The City will endeavor to provide the shared micromobility providers notice of at least three days to activate the temporary geofence, though this occasionally may not be possible.

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