

File No. 210510

Committee Item No. _____

Board Item No. 20

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: _____

Date: _____

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: May 11, 2021

Cmte Board

- Motion
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OTHER

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Prepared by: Lisa Lew

Date: May 7, 2021

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____

1 [Urging Continued Access to Angel Island]

2

3 **Resolution reaffirming the importance of Angel Island State Park and the Angel Island**
4 **Immigration Station as sites of immense public and historic interest, and urging the**
5 **California Public Utilities Commission, California Department of Parks and Recreation,**
6 **and Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District Board of Directors to take**
7 **all necessary measures to ensure continued access to Angel Island.**

8

9 WHEREAS, Angel Island, located in both the City and County of San Francisco and
10 Marin county, sits on the ancestral lands of Coast Miwok Indians and contains many historic
11 sites important to California and United States history; and

12 WHEREAS, Angel Island is the largest natural island in the San Francisco Bay and
13 offers some of the best views of the surrounding Bay Area, wonderful hiking and biking trails,
14 and many other recreational opportunities readily available to its visitors; and

15 WHEREAS, From 1910 to 1940, part of Angel Island was converted into a U.S.
16 Immigration Station to detain, interrogate, and process an estimated 1,000,000 immigrants
17 from 80 different countries, including 250,000 Chinese immigrants detained under the
18 discriminatory Chinese Exclusion Act; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1970, Angel Island Immigration Station was slated for demolition
20 because of its deteriorated condition when over 200 Chinese poems that had been carved by
21 detainees into the walls of the detention barracks were discovered, renewing interest in the
22 Immigration Station and saving it from destruction; and

23 WHEREAS, Angel Island Immigration Station serves as an important reminder of
24 discriminatory immigration policies that excluded Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants; and

25

1 WHEREAS, Angel Island Immigration Station was designated by the National Trust for
2 Historic Preservation as one of the United States' 11 "Most Endangered" historic sites; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1997, Angel Island Immigration Station was named a National Historic
4 Landmark, and its preservation was cited in 2017 as a success story by the National Trust for
5 Historic Preservation; and

6 WHEREAS, Angel Island Immigration Station played such a significant role in the
7 immigration history that the California Legislature approved \$400,000 for historic and
8 preservation studies for the site in 1999, and California voters showed their support for the
9 project by approving a ballot initiative and \$15 million for its preservation; and

10 WHEREAS, Angel Island Immigration Station is very important to the history of the
11 nation's Asian American and immigrant communities, deeply meaningful to former detainees,
12 their descendants, and those of immigrant heritage, especially Asian American communities
13 and serves as a reminder of government exclusion and unequal treatment as well as courage,
14 determination, personal sacrifice, resilience and perseverance of immigrants who overcame
15 many obstacles to contribute to the building of the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, Thousands of researchers, former detainees and their descendants,
17 school children and people of all ages journey to Angel Island every year; and

18 WHEREAS, Angel Island Immigration Station provides educational materials to the
19 public about Pacific immigration history in order to better understand the global impact of
20 immigration; and

21 WHEREAS, On October 19, 2004, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted a
22 Resolution urging the San Francisco Congressional delegation to support the Angel Island
23 Immigration Station Restoration and Preservation Act, on file with the Clerk of the Board of
24 Supervisors in File No. 041416, which is hereby declared to be a part of this Resolution as if
25 set forth fully herein; and

1 WHEREAS, On January 26, 2010, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted a
2 Resolution declaring January 21, 2010, as Angel Island Immigration Station Day, and
3 commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Angel Island Immigration Station, on file with the
4 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 100063, which is hereby declared to be a part of
5 this resolution as if set forth fully herein; and

6 WHEREAS, For over 40 years, Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, the
7 primary nonprofit organization working in collaboration with Angel Island to preserve the
8 buildings at the former U.S. Immigration Station at Angel Island to uplift its stories and
9 histories, and other organizations, have raised over \$40 million to preserve the Angel Island
10 Immigration Station, including \$12 million to save and renovate the former hospital building
11 and reimagine it as the Angel Island Immigration Museum slated to open in 2021; and

12 WHEREAS, The Angel Island Immigration Museum will educate visitors about the
13 history of immigration policies, the xenophobic and discriminatory policies and practices
14 carried out at Angel Island, and the contributions that immigrants across all racial and ethnic
15 communities have made to this nation; and

16 WHEREAS, Each year, half of Angel Island’s visitors take the ferry from San Francisco
17 to Angel Island, and the Blue & Gold Fleet is the primary fleet responsible for transporting the
18 public to Angel Island from San Francisco; and

19 WHEREAS, The Blue & Gold Fleet filed Application No. 20-09-004 with the California
20 Public Utilities Commission requesting authorization to discontinue scheduled passenger
21 service between San Francisco and Angel Island State Park; and

22 WHEREAS; The discontinuance of the Blue & Gold Fleet ferry route between San
23 Francisco and Angel Island will result in the public no longer having direct, convenient ferry
24 access from San Francisco to Angel Island; and

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1 WHEREAS, The discontinuance of Blue & Gold Fleet’s ferry service between San
2 Francisco and Angel Island will discourage public visitation of Angel Island given that the
3 other currently available options to get to Angel Island from San Francisco are extremely
4 limited and cost prohibitive; and

5 WHEREAS, The decrease in visits to Angel Island Immigration Station, a pivotal
6 landmark for learning about the Asian American immigrant experience, will allow far fewer
7 people to experience in-person the palpable sense of deep history and emotion connected to
8 the Angel Island Immigration Station, its buildings and its histories; and

9 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco, the California Public Utilities
10 Commission, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Golden Gate Bridge
11 Highway and Transportation District Board of Directors all have a responsibility to help ensure
12 continued public access to Angel Island; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors reaffirms the importance of
14 Angel Island State Park and the Angel Island Immigration Station as sites of immense public
15 and historic interest; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the
17 California Public Utilities Commission, the California Department of Parks and Recreation,
18 and the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District Board of Directors to work
19 together and with the City and County of San Francisco and take all measures necessary to
20 ensure continued access to Angel Island from San Francisco; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the California Public
22 Utilities Commission and Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District Board of
23 Directors to consider the impact of the discontinuation of Blue & Gold Fleet’s service from San
24 Francisco to Angel Island on Angel Island Immigration Station; and

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the
2 California Public Utilities Commission, the California Department of Parks and Recreation,
3 and the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District Board of Directors to identify
4 alternative solutions for the essential transportation service to Angel Island such as reduced,
5 instead of eliminated, ferry service, alternative vendors, and subsidies or incentives for the
6 continuity of ferry service to ensure convenient, affordable and equitable access to Angel
7 Island; and

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco shall transmit a
9 copy of this Resolution to the California Public Utilities Commission, California Department of
10 Parks and Recreation, and Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District Board of
11 Directors.

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Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No. from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.

Sponsor(s):

Mar; Melgar

Subject:

Urging Continued Access to Angel Island

The text is listed:

Resolution reaffirming the importance of Angel Island State Park and the Angel Island Immigration Station as sites of immense public and historic interest, and urging the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District Board of Directors to take all necessary measures to ensure continued access to Angel Island.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: /s/ Gordon Mar

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