

1 [Need for Statewide Chemicals Policy]

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3 **Resolution urging San Francisco’s State delegation to support statewide efforts to**
4 **act on the recommendations of the report from the University of California: “Green**
5 **Chemistry in California: A Framework for Leadership in Chemicals Policy and**
6 **Innovation” and to develop regulations and policies that promote the production and**
7 **use of less toxic chemicals.**

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9 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s Precautionary Principle Ordinance (2003) states that
10 every San Franciscan has an equal right to a healthy and safe environment, and that the duty
11 to enhance, protect, and preserve San Francisco’s environment rests on the shoulders of
12 government, residents, citizen groups, and businesses alike; and

13 WHEREAS, The U.S. EPA, in a 1987 nationwide study, identified nearly 700
14 chemicals that have been released into the environment that are accumulating in human
15 tissues; and

16 WHEREAS, Many of these chemicals enter the developing organ systems of fetuses
17 and infants through the maternal bloodstream and through breast milk; and each month, an
18 estimated 1,900 Californians are diagnosed with a preventable, deadly chronic disease that is
19 attributable to chemical exposures in the workplace; and

20 WHEREAS, Current regulatory systems have proven ineffective in addressing these
21 situations; and

22 WHEREAS, Local governments are responsible for protecting and preserving the
23 environment by keeping hazardous materials and products out of landfills, waterways, and
24 air; and

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1 WHEREAS, San Francisco spends millions of dollars on programs and equipment
2 aimed at managing wastes and preventing the release of toxins into the environment, and
3 needs to support a comprehensive chemicals policy that prevents the toxins from entering the
4 products and food supply in the first place; and

5 WHEREAS, The most effective way to prevent toxins from entering the environment is
6 to replace toxic chemicals in products and foods with safer alternative chemicals; and

7 WHEREAS, The use of chemicals that are safer for biological and ecological systems
8 will link economic development in California with improved health and environmental quality;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Countries around the world have recognized the need for a
11 comprehensive chemicals policy approach in order to protect human health and the
12 environment; and

13 WHEREAS, The University of California has released a detailed report on the
14 regulation of chemicals and guidelines on the provision of new restrictions on toxic chemicals
15 and incentives for less toxic alternatives; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges our representatives in Sacramento
17 to support statewide efforts to act on the recommendations of the University of California
18 report, including the development of regulations and policies that promote the production and
19 use of less toxic chemicals.

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