

1 [Protect California State Park Lands]

2
3 **Resolution requesting the Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency**
4 **immediately and permanently withdraw its plans to construct a toll road through the**
5 **San Onofre State Beach and urging the Director of Public Finance to refrain from**
6 **acquiring any bonds for, or making other financial investments in, the Toll Road**
7 **project.**

8
9 WHEREAS, California’s first park was established in 1864 with land granted by
10 President Abraham Lincoln, and the California state parks system was created in 1927 “to
11 preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, indigenous aquatic and terrestrial
12 fauna and flora, and the most significant examples of ecological regions of California”; and,

13
14 WHEREAS, From ancient redwoods to desert buttes, from Southern California’s iconic
15 beaches to the opulence of the Hearst Castle, the California State Parks system contains a
16 diverse collection of historical, environmental and recreational resources second to none in
17 the nation; and,

18
19 WHEREAS, California State parks are the crown jewels of the state, designated for the
20 benefit of all California residents in order to improve our lives by providing healthy outdoor and
21 educational experiences; and,

22
23 WHEREAS, California state parks provide a significant economic benefit to the people
24 of California, generating about 80 million visitors from around the world who spend
25

1 approximately \$2.6 billion directly with an additional \$4 billion in indirect contributions,
2 according to estimates from the Department of Parks and Recreation; and,

3 WHEREAS, California state park lands are designated for their protection and
4 preservation on behalf of future generations and should not be warehoused for later
5 development in a manner inconsistent with state park purposes; and,

6 WHEREAS, Protection of state park lands is a matter of paramount statewide concern
7 which requires that these lands not become the least costly alternative for major infrastructure
8 projects deemed to be necessary for uses inconsistent with state park purposes; and,

9
10 WHEREAS, On November 18, 2005, the California State Park and Recreation
11 Commission (Commission), in a resolution entitled “Opposing a Proposed Tollroad Alignment
12 and Request for Action to Protect San Onofre State Beach” reaffirmed the principle that state
13 parks are “designated” for their protection and preservation on behalf of this and future
14 generations should not be used in a manner inconsistent with state park purposes; and,

15
16 WHEREAS, In said resolution, the Commission (i) urged abandonment of the proposed
17 toll road, called the Foothill-South Toll-Road, that would run “over four miles in length through
18 the heart of the nearly 1,200 acre [inland portion] of San Onofre State Beach” and (ii)
19 requested that the “Governor, in concert with the Attorney General’s office, oppose any major
20 transportation arterial thought of San Onofre State Beach using all appropriate methods,
21 including litigation if necessary, to defend this valuable and irreplaceable public resources”;
22 and,

23
24 WHEREAS, The state park at San Onofre State Beach was set aside for the people of
25 California in 1971 by Governor Ronald Reagan who proclaimed that “one of the greatest

1 legacies we can leave future generations is the heritage of our land, but unless we can
2 preserve and protect the unspoiled areas which God has given us, we will have nothing to
3 leave them” and gas since become one of the top five most visited state parks in California;
4 and,

5 WHEREAS, The taking of such park land by a toll road would destroy this unique
6 Southern California coastal unit of the state parks system, and set a dangerous state-wide
7 precedent that might in the future be cited in justifying the destruction or degradation of other
8 state parks; and,
9

10 WHEREAS, In said Resolution, the Commission recognized that the “viable alternative
11 routes and traffic improvements exist which do not depend upon San Onofre State Beach”;
12 now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco endorses the Commission’s
14 November 18, 2005 resolution and urges the Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency
15 to immediately and permanently withdraw its plans to construct a toll road with an alignment
16 through the state park at San Onofre; and, be it
17

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board directs the City’s director of public finance to
19 refrain from acquiring any bonds for, or making other financial investments in, the Foothill-
20 South Toll Road on the ground that the proposed road is not a sound environmental
21 investment and is inconsistent with California’s compelling interest in protecting its state
22 parks; and, be it
23

24 FINALLY RESOLVED, That upon final adoption of this resolution, the Clerk of the
25 Board shall communicate its contents to the Commission, Foothill/Eastern Transportation

1 Corridor Agency, and the offices of the Governor, California Resources Agency, CA
2 Department of Parks and Recreation, CA Attorney General, State Treasurer and Department
3 of Transportation.
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25