

1 [Accept and Expend Grant - Retroactive - Federal Emergency Management Agency - Hazard
2 Mitigation Grant Program - Amended Downtown San Francisco Resilience Plan - \$189,558]

3 **Resolution retroactively authorizing the Office of the City Administrator to accept and**
4 **expend Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds in the amount of \$189,558 from the**
5 **Federal Emergency Management Agency through the California Office of Emergency**
6 **Services to develop a guidance document that will address financing strategies for**
7 **earthquake risk reduction through the Concrete Building Safety Program for the project**
8 **period of July 14, 2022, through November 14, 2024.**

9
10 WHEREAS, A damaging earthquake of a magnitude 6.7 or greater has a 72% chance
11 of occurring in the Bay Area before 2043, according to the United States Geological Survey
12 (USGS); and

13 WHEREAS, The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (“FEMA”) National Risk
14 Index rates the census tracts in Downtown San Francisco as having “very high” earthquake
15 risk based on expected annual losses and social vulnerability; and

16 WHEREAS, The 2020 Tall Building Safety Study found that the performance and
17 impacts of tall buildings in a major earthquake pose a challenge to post-earthquake recovery,
18 such as the impact of cordoning damaged buildings; and

19 WHEREAS, Older concrete buildings can experience damage and collapse during
20 large earthquakes, according to San Francisco’s Community Action Plan for Seismic Safety;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, An inventory of 3,400 possible concrete buildings in San Francisco
23 indicates that there is a concentration of this building type in the downtown neighborhoods;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, Identifying and retrofitting concrete buildings is a high priority
2 recommendation in the Earthquake Safety Implementation Program, San Francisco’s 30-year
3 plan for improving seismic safety; and

4 WHEREAS, In an April 2024 report entitled, ‘Stakeholder Engagement for the Concrete
5 Building Safety Program’, a working group of internal and external stakeholders
6 recommended that the City develop a financing plan to help building owners understand their
7 options and to identify potential policy interventions to increase the feasibility of seismic
8 retrofits; and

9 WHEREAS, The stakeholder working group advising on the Concrete Building Safety
10 Program identified cost as the largest barrier to the implementation of concrete building
11 retrofits; and

12 WHEREAS, On April 16, 2024, Mayor Breed issued Executive Directive 24-01 directing
13 the Office of Resilience and Capital Planning and Department of Building Inspection to draft
14 an Ordinance mandating screening for concrete buildings and publish retrofit standards in the
15 San Francisco Existing Building Code; and

16 WHEREAS, The Office of Resilience and Capital Planning submitted a grant
17 application to the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) on August 26, 2021, to
18 engage downtown stakeholders to create a Downtown San Francisco Resilience Plan with
19 mitigation actions to augment the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

20 WHEREAS, The Office of Resilience and Capital Planning received notification from
21 Cal OES on July 14, 2022, that FEMA approved the grant application for a 28-month project
22 period; and

23 WHEREAS, Downtown San Francisco stakeholders continue to be focused on
24 economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, remote work, and resulting economic
25

1 conditions; and it is therefore a difficult time to engage stakeholders on creating a long-term
2 mitigation plan for earthquakes and flooding; and

3 WHEREAS, The Office of Resilience and Capital Planning submitted a scope
4 modification request to Cal OES in December 2023, to develop a planning guidance
5 document for local policy makers and building owners that addresses end-to-end financing
6 strategies for earthquake risk reduction through the City and County's Concrete Building
7 Safety Program as a more useful and timely activity than creating a Downtown Resilience
8 Plan; and

9 WHEREAS, The Office of Resilience and Capital Planning received notification from
10 Cal OES on May 10, 2024, that FEMA approved the scope modification; and

11 WHEREAS, The total eligible grant fund is \$252,744; and

12 WHEREAS, The 75% federal share is \$189,558; and

13 WHEREAS, The grant terms require a minimum of 25% local cost share; and

14 WHEREAS, The grant terms prohibit including indirect costs in the grant budget; and

15 WHEREAS, The grant does not require an annual salary ordinance amendment; and

16 WHEREAS, Administrative Code Section 10.170-1 requires the Board to approve the
17 acceptance and expenditure of federal, State, or other grant funds in the amount of \$100,000
18 or more; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors authorizes the Office of the City
20 Administrator to accept and expend \$189,558 in funds allocated by Cal OES funding through
21 the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (FEMA-4558-DR-CA, Project #PL-0017, FIPS #075-
22 00000) funded by FEMA for the purpose of developing a risk and economic benefits analysis,
23 a financing strategy guidance document for concrete building retrofits, provide financing
24 guidance to building owners considering seismic retrofits, and point to potential policy
25 interventions that could make these retrofits more financially feasible; and be it

