

File No. 110186

Committee Item No. 2

Board Item No. 22

**COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
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Committee: City Operations & Neighborhood Services

Date: February 28, 2011

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: 3/8/2011

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- Legislative Analyst Report
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**OTHER**

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Completed by: Andrea S. Ausberry

Date February 23, 2011

Completed by: *AS*

Date 3/3/11

An asterisked item represents the cover sheet to a document that exceeds 25 pages.  
The complete document is in the file.

1 [Establishing a Comprehensive Recycling Program]

2  
3 **Resolution requesting the Recreation and Parks Department and the Department**  
4 **of the Environment collaborate to establish a comprehensive Parks recycling**  
5 **program utilizing the expertise, volunteer base, and facilities of the HANC**  
6 **Recycling Center in Golden Gate Park, for the Department of the Environment, to**  
7 **establish an Independent Recycling Center Master Plan, and requesting the**  
8 **Recreation and Parks Department to rescind the eviction of the HANC Recycling**  
9 **Center from Golden Gate Park.**

10  
11 WHEREAS, AB 2020, The California Recycling and Litter Reduction Act of 1986  
12 (the "Bottle Bill") requires the City to provide residents with convenient means to redeem  
13 recyclables, a requirement not met by curbside-pick up alone; and

14 WHEREAS, The Department of Environment ("DOE") has confirmed the Bottle  
15 Bill is an effective incentive that has increased diversion rates since the program was  
16 initiated; and

17 WHEREAS, State law requires the location of redemption centers for bottles and  
18 cans every half mile, and such centers have proven effective in reducing landfill as well  
19 as providing the capacity to recycle materials ineligible for the curbside program; and

20 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco lacks a comprehensive,  
21 independent recycling plan which would complement the curb side recycling program  
22 and bring the City closer to its goal of zero waste by the year 2020, a component which,  
23 according to the Director of the Department of the Environment, is an "integral" part of  
24 reaching zero waste; and

1           WHEREAS, Of the nineteen existing independent recycling centers in San  
2 Francisco, ten reside on the east side of San Francisco in Supervisorial District Ten,  
3 disproportionately burdening the district while failing to provide equitable access for San  
4 Franciscans to independent recycling centers to properly dispose of recyclables  
5 ineligible for the curbside recycling program; and,

6           WHEREAS, According to the DOE's Waste Characterization study, a full 30% of  
7 the material the City sends to landfill should be recycled instead thereby demonstrating  
8 the need for independent recycling centers to augment the curbside recycling program;  
9 and

10           WHEREAS, The Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council ("HANC") recycling  
11 center located in Golden Gate Park ("GGP") serves that state-mandated purpose by  
12 providing redemption for bottles and cans in addition to collecting of a vast array of  
13 recyclable materials ineligible for curbside recycling, thereby offering San Francisco  
14 residents a means to achieve their ambitious landfill diversion goals; and

15           WHEREAS, The Recreation and Parks Department ("RPD") recently announced  
16 a pilot recycling program for the east end of GGP centered around popular attractions  
17 and open space including the Conservatory of Flowers, Doughboy Meadow, Stow Lake  
18 and the Big Rec ball field, and

19           WHEREAS, According to the San Francisco Department of the Environment  
20 ("DOE") Zero Waste Coordinator, public, unmonitored recycling bins have had a low  
21 success rate meaning that improperly sorted recyclables, compostables and waste are  
22 commingled and must therefore be disposed of in landfill; and

23           WHEREAS, RPD provided HANC with notice that its lease for its recycling center  
24 will terminate at precisely the time when RPD could benefit from the volunteers,  
25 expertise and facilities the HANC Center provides in GGP; and

1           WHEREAS, The Department of the Environment's current proposal for replacing  
2 the capacity of the HANC recycling center with reverse vending machines-- which  
3 inefficiently process only one bottle or can at a time—and would require 27 machines to  
4 accommodate the volume HANC currently handles potentially creating frustratingly long  
5 lines to redeem recyclables thus contradicting the state mandate that recycling be easy  
6 and convenient; and

7           WHEREAS, The policy decision of installing reverse vending machines has not  
8 been analyzed in terms either the impacts on current grocery stores or merchants that  
9 would be required to implement in-store redemption or an analysis of the siting,  
10 implementation, or the street-level efficacy of the policy; and

11           WHEREAS, As a consequence, neither RPD nor DOE have a viable, proven  
12 alternative plan for absorbing the volume of bottles and cans and other recyclable  
13 materials collected at the HANC GGP site; and

14           WHEREAS, Objective One, Policy I, of the Golden Gate Park Master Plan  
15 Objectives and Policies calls upon the HANC Recycling Center "to increase its benefits  
16 to the Park" by focusing "on the recycling needs of Golden Gate Park and the  
17 immediate neighborhoods" , and

18           WHEREAS, Golden Gate Park Master Plan Objective VI, Policy H states:  
19 "Recyclable material generated within the park should be recycled within a designated  
20 area", further stating " Volunteer programs to remove litter from the park and to increase  
21 public awareness about recycling and the impact of litter on the park should be  
22 increased"; and

23           WHEREAS, The HANC Recycling Center has been engaging and educating the  
24 public over the past 35 years as stewards of the built environment and continues to be a  
25 resource for recycling, taking initiative on bottle redemption, keeping the Park and

1 adjacent neighborhood clean and providing job opportunities and is thus ideally suited  
2 to fulfill Objective VI, Policy H of the GGP Master Plan; now, therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors calls upon the Department of  
4 Environment to assemble a task force to create an Independent Recycling Center  
5 Master Plan that will outline the unmet recycling needs of the City and County of San  
6 Francisco which will complement the curb side pickup program and support both the  
7 intent of California's "Bottle Bill" as well as assure San Francisco's recycling programs  
8 are both sustainable, efficacious and provide a clear strategy for the City to reach its  
9 goal of zero waste by 2020; and, be it

10       FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests the Recreation and  
11 Parks Department and the Department of the Environment collaborate with the Haight  
12 Ashbury Neighborhood Council in developing and implementing a recycling program for  
13 Golden Gate Park; and be it

14       FURTHUR RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to direct  
15 RPD to rescind the termination of HANC's lease allowing the Recycling Center to  
16 continue to serve Golden Gate Park, continue to fulfill its mission as state-required  
17 redemption center and continue to provide the San Franciscans the capacity to recycle  
18 materials ineligible for curbside pick-up and, be it

19       FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors, in the event of the loss or  
20 downsizing of the HANC GGP site, urges the Mayor's Office, RPD and DOE to work  
21 with HANC to develop a plan to provide alternative recycling services to absorb the  
22 recycling capacity of the HANC Center, or preferably, find a suitable property to relocate  
23 the recycling services provided by HANC if RPD proceeds to evict the HANC center in  
24 such a manner as to assure the uninterrupted continuity of the center's operations and  
25 employment.

