

1 [Reaffirming the Commitment to Protect and Preserve Coit Tower]

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3 **Motion reaffirming the commitment of the Board of Supervisors to protect and preserve**
4 **Coit Tower and its murals following the passage by voters of Proposition B on June 5,**
5 **2012.**

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7 WHEREAS, Since 1933, Coit Tower has graced San Francisco’s skyline as one of the
8 City’s most iconic buildings; and

9 WHEREAS, Coit Tower was named in honor of Lillie Hitchcock Coit, a wealthy booster
10 of San Francisco’s dedicated firefighters, who left a significant bequest “for the purpose of
11 adding to the beauty of the City I have always loved”; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1934, a group of artists supported by the Public Works of Art Project, a
13 forerunner of the Works Progress Administration, painted a series of murals portraying daily
14 life in California during the Depression; and

15 WHEREAS, Coit Tower is officially designated as City Landmark #165; and

16 WHEREAS, On June 5, 2012, 53.43 percent of voters approved Proposition B, a
17 Declaration of Policy which stated:

18 “It shall be the policy of the People of the City and County of San Francisco to protect
19 Coit Tower and preserve the historic murals inside Coit Tower by strictly limiting
20 commercial activities and private events at Coit Tower and by prioritizing the funds
21 received by the City from any concession operations at Coit Tower for preserving the
22 Coit Tower murals, protecting and maintaining the Coit Tower building, and beautifying
23 Pioneer Park around Coit Tower”; and

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1 WHEREAS, Under Charter Section 2.113(a), the Board of Supervisors “shall within 90
2 days of such approval take such actions within their powers as shall be necessary to carry
3 such declarations of policy into effect”; and

4 WHEREAS, A report commissioned by the Recreation and Park Department (RPD)
5 and completed in June 2012 by the Architectural Resource Group (ARG) and conservator
6 Anne Rosenthal made numerous recommendations of maintenance and repair needs for both
7 the Coit Tower building and the interior murals; and

8 WHEREAS, The RPD budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13 and was finally approved by the
9 Board of Supervisors on July 24, 2012, and includes a \$1.75 million capital allocation to
10 implement the recommendations of the ARG report; and

11 WHEREAS, The Arts Commission in August 2012 proposed “Guidelines for Coit Tower
12 Usage,” (the “Guidelines”) which include comprehensive regulations to protect the Coit Tower
13 murals, and the Recreation and Park Commission will incorporate the Guidelines into any
14 future concession lease at Coit Tower during all activities; and

15 WHEREAS, According to the professional assessment of Arts Commission
16 preservationists, proper implementation, enforcement and adherence to the Guidelines,
17 including the strict limitations set forth on special events, will adequately protect the Tower’s
18 treasured murals; now, therefore, be it

19 MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors reaffirms its commitment to protect and
20 preserve Coit Tower and its murals following the passage by voters of Proposition B on June
21 5, 2012; and, be it

22 FURTHER MOVED, That the FY 2012-13 RPD budget allocation of \$1.75 million
23 reflects the commitment of the Board of Supervisors to preserve and protect Coit Tower
24 consistent with Proposition B; and, be it

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1 FURTHER MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors shall during its annual budget
2 deliberations request information from RPD on any unfunded maintenance needs of Coit
3 Tower, and shall prioritize those needs consistent with Proposition B; and, be it

4 FURTHER MOVED, That any new lease for the operation of the concession at Coit
5 Tower approved by the Board of Supervisors shall be consistent with Proposition B and
6 incorporate the Guidelines established by the Arts Commission to protect the Coit Tower
7 murals; and, be it

8 FURTHER MOVED, That any construction or maintenance contract and any permit for
9 activity at Coit Tower approved by the Board of Supervisors shall be consistent with
10 Proposition B and incorporate the Guidelines established by the Arts Commission to protect
11 the Coit Tower murals.

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