

1 [Recognizing San Francisco’s Camp Mather and Commending Those Who Helped Save it
2 from the Rim Fire of 2013]

3 **Resolution recognizing the 90th Anniversary of San Francisco’s Camp Mather, and**
4 **commending those who helped save Camp Mather, located in the Stanislaus National**
5 **Forest, from the devastating Rim Fire of August 17, 2013, through October 25, 2013.**

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7 WHEREAS, On July 5, 2014, Camp Mather celebrated its 90th Anniversary and 90
8 years of service to San Francisco residents; and

9 WHEREAS, Camp Mather lies within an important ecosystem of Yosemite National
10 Park and Stanislaus National Forest, and for 90 years has been a much-beloved family camp
11 and retreat for San Francisco residents, serving over 1500 families a year; and

12 WHEREAS, Camp Mather stands on the site of Ike Dye’s Hog Ranch, and later, a
13 sawmill that provided wood for the construction of the Hetch Hetchy Dam, completed in 1923;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Named after Stephen T. Mather, first head of the National Parks Service,
16 the original camp housed workers for the Dam construction project; and

17 WHEREAS, After the completion of the Dam, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors
18 converted this 329-acre plot of land into a summer family camp, which opened to San
19 Francisco residents on July 5, 1924; and

20 WHEREAS, Since 1924, Camp Mather has been an affordable and cherished retreat
21 from city life, offering cabins, a communal dining room, hiking, swimming, lake-side activities,
22 and sports for San Francisco children and adults, within a setting of firs, soaring lodgepole
23 pines, streams, and native flora and fauna; and

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1 WHEREAS, There was a devastating forest fire in Yosemite National Park and
2 Stanislaus National Forest between August 17 and October 25, 2013, that destroyed 260,000
3 acres or 406 square miles of land; and

4 WHEREAS, On August 17, 2013, the fire was started by an illegal campfire set by a
5 bow and arrow hunter. It started on the Clavey River just one and half miles from its junction
6 with the Tuolumne River, about 20 miles west of Camp Mather; and

7 WHEREAS, The fire is considered the largest fire in Sierra Nevada history and the third
8 largest in California. The fire was contained by October 25, 2013, at a suppression cost of
9 \$127,000,000 or \$1,800,000 a day. The fire has had a devastating effect on wildlife, plants,
10 and trees in a landscape that holds our California and National histories; and

11 WHEREAS, In the midst of this disaster, Camp Mather and Hog Ranch were saved by
12 diverting the fires through “back fires” and aggressive firefighting; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition to the California State firefighters, many City staff worked
14 diligently and under extremely difficult and stressful conditions to save Camp Mather, and
15 make it a staging area to continue fighting the Rim Fire until its successful suppression; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes and celebrates Camp Mather’s
18 90th Anniversary, and congratulates the past and present staff members of Camp Mather for
19 their years of service; and, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the residents of San Francisco
21 commend and appreciate the work of the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department
22 staffers including Camp Mather Manager Michael Cunnane, Caretaker Paul Spring, Assistant
23 Manager Lawrence R. McNesby, Jr., engineers John Ascariz and Neil Hemming, truck driver
24 Mark Buckman, and Dennis Kern, Bob Palacio, and Jim Wheeler for their work in fire
25 management and the restoration of Camp Mather; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the residents of San
2 Francisco commend and appreciate the work of the San Francisco Fire Department staffers
3 including Assistant Chief Tom Siragusa, Battalion Chief Bryan Rubenstein, Lt. John Hickey,
4 and firefighter Ron Johansen; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors and the residents of San
6 Francisco commend and appreciate the work of San Francisco Recreation and Parks
7 Department General Manager Phil Ginsburg and Public Utilities Deputy General Manager
8 Michael Carlin who also played key roles in coordinating support to suppress the fire.

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