1	[Supporting the Bay Area Air District's Zero-Emission Building Appliance Rules]
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3	Resolution supporting the Bay Area Air District's timely implementation of Rules 9-4
4	and 9-6 that establish zero-emission standards for building appliances.
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6	WHEREAS, The combustion of gas in building equipment like furnaces and water
7	heaters generates a range of air pollutants linked to poor health outcomes, including nitrogen
8	oxides (NOx), fine particle pollution (PM2.5), formaldehyde, carbon monoxide, and benzene,
9	which contribute to breathing problems, asthma attacks, cardiovascular issues, dementia, and
10	premature death; and
11	WHEREAS, Gas-powered furnaces and water heaters are major contributors to smog-
12	forming NOx pollution and PM2.5 in the Bay Area, causing up to 85 premature deaths and
13	15,000 asthma attacks per year, and costing the region \$890 million annually in health-related
14	costs from air pollution exposure; and
15	WHEREAS, Communities of color are disproportionately exposed to health-harming
16	pollution from gas combustion in homes and businesses, both nationally and in the Bay Area;
17	and
18	WHEREAS, The Bay Area faces an ongoing air quality crisis – with nearly 30
19	consecutive years failing to achieve national ambient air quality standards for ozone and 15
20	straight years of nonattainment with fine particulate matter standards – and further reductions
21	of particulate matter and ozone pollution through the implementation of all feasible measures
22	are needed for attainment and maintenance of these health-protective standards; and
23	WHEREAS, Gas-burning building equipment in the region's homes and businesses
24	emits more NOx pollution than all the Bay Area's passenger cars combined, making it one of

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the top sources of pollution in the region; and

1	WHEREAS, The Bay Area Air District's Board of Directors adopted Rules 9-4 and 9-6
2	without any 'no' votes in March of 2023, establishing future zero-NOx standards for water
3	heaters and furnaces, and these rules will accelerate the transition to zero-polluting heating
4	equipment in the region as residents' old equipment reaches end of life; and
5	WHEREAS, The Air District's Implementation Working Group has worked with the Air
6	District to achieve a successful and equitable implementation of the zero-emission rules to
7	residential water heating in 2027; and
8	WHEREAS, San Francisco is engaging with the Air District to provide feedback on
9	additional rulemaking to introduce flexibility measures that reduce compliance complexity and
10	enhance equity within the zero-NOx equipment rules, thereby ensuring that residents who
11	may face challenges meeting these requirements have viable compliance options; and
12	WHEREAS, Switching from gas-powered space and water heating to efficient zero-
13	emission appliances like electric heat pumps reduces smog-forming pollution, enhances
14	climate resilience, and improves household resilience by introducing reliable cooling and
15	improved air filtration to homes without air conditioning; and
16	WHEREAS, The Air District's zero-NOx furnace and water heater rules help San
17	Francisco make substantial progress toward achieving its climate goals of reducing and
18	eventually eliminating the burning of fossil fuels, a step required to curb global warming and
19	mitigate sea level rise, extreme heat, and climate related natural disasters; and
20	WHEREAS, Adoption of these rules aligns with California's commitment to achieving
21	zero-emission space and water heating standards statewide by 2030, and San Francisco's
22	net-zero emissions goal by 2040; and
23	WHEREAS, San Francisco has been integrally involved in planning for the
24	implementation of these rules and has participated in the Air District's Implementation

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1	Working Group, which has thus far examined challenges and recommended solutions for the
2	successful, equitable rollout of zero-emission residential water heating; now, therefore, be it
3	RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports the timely
4	implementation of the Bay Area Air District's Rules 9-4 and 9-6 to accelerate the transition to
5	zero-emission water heaters and furnaces, with amendments to ensure flexibility for residents
6	who have particular difficulty with compliance - prioritizing equity and simplicity.
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