

1 [Urging Congress to Pass the California Emergency Drought Relief Act]

2

3 **Resolution urging the United States Congress to pass the California Emergency**
4 **Drought Relief Act of 2014 in order to support critical water supply and conservation**
5 **projects for the San Francisco Bay Area.**

6

7 WHEREAS, The Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System operated by the San Francisco
8 Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) provides 265 million gallons of water per day to 2.6
9 million people in Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco counties; and

10 WHEREAS, California continues to experience one of the most extreme droughts since
11 hydrologic recordkeeping began; and

12 WHEREAS, As of March 9, 2014, precipitation in the Hetch Hetchy watershed was at
13 40% of normal levels and snowpack was at 32% of normal levels; and

14 WHEREAS, On Friday, January 17th, Governor Brown issued a State Declaration of
15 Emergency for California due to drought and severe water supply conditions; and

16 WHEREAS, On January 31, 2014, the SFPUC asked customers to voluntarily conserve
17 water with the goal of reducing systemwide usage by 10% to stretch limited water supplies
18 during this time of drought; and

19 WHEREAS, On February 10, 2014, Mayor Ed Lee issued an Executive Directive to all
20 city departments outlining actions to be taken to reduce water use, and directing the SFPUC
21 to develop alternative sources of water supplies for both potable and non-potable uses; and

22 WHEREAS, On February 11, 2014, Senator Diane Feinstein, along with cosponsors
23 Senator Barbara Boxer (CA), Senator Jeff Merkeley (OR), and Senator Ron Wyden (OR),
24 introduced S.2016 the California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014 (the Act); and

25

1 WHEREAS, The Act directs the EPA to prioritize projects under the Clean Water and
2 Drinking Water State Revolving Funds programs that can immediately provide water to areas
3 at risk of public health and safety problems; and

4 WHEREAS, The Act provides \$100 million in emergency funding to the Department of
5 the Interior for a range of water supply projects, including but not limited to groundwater wells,
6 temporary Delta barriers, water purchases, WaterSmart grants and other conservation
7 technologies and projects yielding water supply benefits; and

8 WHEREAS, The Act includes a variety of measures to increase assistance under the
9 drought disaster declaration including Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants for
10 water conservation and water systems' upgrades and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants to fund
11 community projects to reduce the impact of the drought; and

12 WHEREAS, The SFPUC has identified three projects that can be quickly implemented
13 and would have an immediate impact in stretching critical water supplies throughout its
14 service area during this statewide drought, including: San Francisco Groundwater Supply
15 Project, Lower Cherry Aqueduct Restoration Project, and Citywide Direct Install Toilet
16 Program; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the United States
18 Congress to pass the California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014 in order to support the
19 above identified SFPUC projects, which help strengthen immediate water reserves and
20 promote conservation and water supply diversification for the long-term sustainability of critical
21 water supplies for 2.6 million residents in the San Francisco Bay Area.