

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - Power House]

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3 **Resolution initiating landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**
4 **the Power House, located at 1526 Masonic Avenue, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 2616,**
5 **Lot No. 039.**

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7 WHEREAS, Under Planning Code, Section 1004.1, the Board of Supervisors may by
8 Resolution initiate landmark designations; and

9 WHEREAS, Planning Code, Section 1004.2(b), requires the Historic Preservation
10 Commission to respond to historic district or individual landmark designations initiated by the
11 Board of Supervisors within 90 days, and authorizes the Board, by Resolution, to extend the
12 time within which the Historic Preservation Commission is to render its decision; and

13 WHEREAS, The Power House, located at 1526 Masonic Avenue, Assessor's Parcel
14 Block No. 2616, Lot No. 039, was constructed in 1910 in the Haight Ashbury neighborhood
15 near Buena Vista Park; and

16 WHEREAS, The property was built for U.S. Attorney Mr. E.B. Powers and his family,
17 who had camped on the site after the 1906 Great Earthquake and Fires and was impressed
18 by the views; and

19 WHEREAS, The Power House is one of the few residential properties in San Francisco
20 designed by Architect of Merit Bernard Maybeck; and

21 WHEREAS, The property is an exemplary and early example of the work of Maybeck,
22 who was relatively unknown at the time it was designed; and

23 WHEREAS, Bernard Maybeck later went on to design the Palace of Fine Arts, which
24 he is well known for, and became recognized as one of California's most prominent architects;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, The property possesses intact features, including its rough shingling,
2 smooth beams, pitched roof, projecting eaves and arrowhead motif; and

3 WHEREAS, The property is discussed in the 1968 book "Here Today, San Francisco's
4 Architectural Heritage", by the Junior League of San Francisco, Inc; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2023, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the
6 Architecture, Planning, and Preservation Professionals: A Collection of Biographies Historic
7 Context Statement, which provided frameworks for evaluating buildings designed by
8 architects of merit for historical significance and integrity; and

9 WHEREAS, Through applying the evaluative framework as outlined in the Architecture,
10 Planning, and Preservation Professionals: A Collection of Biographies Historic Context
11 Statement, the property can be considered as an individually eligible historic resource based
12 on year built, extant character-defining features, and sufficient integrity; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of the
14 Power House under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a
16 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its
17 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of
18 the Power House; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic
20 Preservation Commission consider whether the Power House warrants landmark designation
21 and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the Planning Code.

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