

[Initiating Landmark Designation - Castro Rock Steam Baths]

Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for the Castro Rock Steam Baths, located at 578-582 Castro Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 2695, Lot No. 013.

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

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

WHEREAS, 582 Castro Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 2695, Lot No. 013, and located across the street from Harvey Milk's residence and camera shop, is significant for its early association with the Castro as an LGBTQ enclave; and

WHEREAS, 582 Castro Street was home to one of the City's longest-running bathhouses, open from circa 1933-1977; and

WHEREAS, The Castro Rock Steam Baths became an exclusively gay bathhouse in the 1970s amidst the backdrop of the Castro neighborhood initially establishing itself as an internationally recognized LGBTQ enclave; and

WHEREAS, Bathhouses played an important role in LGBTQ community development as relatively safe and private spaces for queer men to meet; and

WHEREAS, The Castro Rock Steam Baths was conveniently located in the Upper Market-Castro area, open 24 hours, serving a diversity of queer male patrons of different ages and economic circumstances; and

1 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Health Department ordered a citywide closure of
2 bathhouses at the onset of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, leading to the loss of a vital
3 economic and social resource for the LGBTQ community; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2016 the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the
5 Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco which provided
6 frameworks for identifying and evaluating sites for historical significance and integrity
7 associated with San Francisco's diverse and robust LGBTQ histories; and

8 WHEREAS, The Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History was prepared
9 by qualified historians in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards; and

10 WHEREAS, Through applying the evaluative framework as outlined in the Citywide
11 Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History, the property can be considered as an
12 individually eligible historic resource based on its strong association with LGBTQ History; and

13 WHEREAS, The Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History identifies the
14 Castro Rock Steam Baths as a property which may be eligible for City Landmark status; and

15 WHEREAS, The building exterior remains identifiable as the location of the Castro
16 Rock Steam Baths, as it did in the 1970s; and

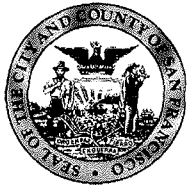
17 WHEREAS, The Castro LGBTQ Cultural District's 2024 Cultural History, Housing and
18 Economic Sustainability Strategies (CHHESS) report includes the strategy, "Ensure the
19 Historic Preservation Commission and/or the Board of Supervisors prioritize further municipal
20 landmarking and state and national nominations of Castro LGBTQIA+ historical sites..."; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates a landmark designation of the
23 Castro Rock Steam Baths under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a
25 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its

consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of the Castro Rock Steam Baths; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic Preservation Commission consider whether the Castro Rock Steam Baths warrants landmark designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the Planning Code.



City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 250843

Date Passed: October 21, 2025

Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for the Castro Rock Steam Baths, located at 578-582 Castro Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 2695, Lot No. 013.

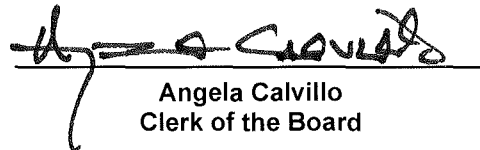
October 06, 2025 Land Use and Transportation Committee - RECOMMENDED

October 21, 2025 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Fielder, Mahmood, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill and Walton

File No. 250843

I hereby certify that the foregoing
Resolution was ADOPTED on 10/21/2025 by
the Board of Supervisors of the City and
County of San Francisco.


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board


Daniel Lurie
Mayor

OCT 21, 2025
Date Approved