File No. 100	043
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COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Completed I	oy: <u>Gail Johnson</u> oy:	Date	3/12/10 3/18/10

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3/23/0

[Potential Health Impacts of Wireless Facilities]

Resolution urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to study the health impacts of wireless facilities and, if appropriate, to establish a safe level of exposure to radiofrequency radiation emissions; urging the Federal Communications Commission to update its existing standards; and urging the California Congressional Delegation to introduce federal legislation to repeal limitations on state and local authority imposed by the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

WHEREAS, The health and safety of our residents are fundamental concerns of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, There continues to be considerable debate and uncertainty within the scientific community as to the potential health effects to individuals, especially children, from exposure to extremely low frequency electromagnetic and radio-frequency radiation, and

WHEREAS, The desire of the wireless companies to market new wireless services has since led to a proliferation of cellular facilities targeting residential areas and areas near schools, and

WHEREAS, Section 704 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 preempts local communities from regulating the placement, construction, and modification of personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the environmental effects of radio-frequency emissions to the extent that the proposed facilities comply with the Federal Communications Commission regulations concerning such emissions, and

WHEREAS, Based upon new and emerging scientific evidence there continues to be considerable debate as to the adequacy of existing public exposure standards including those promulgated by the Federal Communications Commission, and

Supervisor David Campos, John Avalos, Carmen Chu, MAV BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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WHEREAS, The scientific community and most health officials agree that more research is needed to provide a definitive answer as to the effects of extremely low frequency electromagnetic and radio-frequency radiation on our health and recommend the prudent avoidance of equipment which generates non-ionizing radiation, and

WHEREAS, The full Parliament of the European Union has raised concerns about the exposure of children and young people to electromagnetic fields and continuing uncertainties about possible health risks; and therefore, adopted on April 2, 2009 a resolution encouraging 1) the establishment of setback criteria for wireless antennas, mobile phone masts and other electromagnetic emitting devices to be set within a specific distance from schools and health institutions, 2) stricter regulations and protections for residents and consumers and 3) more reliable information be made available about the effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields to citizens in an effort to prevent a "proliferation of poorly positioned masts and transmitters,"

WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission is obliged to conduct periodic reviews of current research and analysis of the health implications associated with radio-frequency exposures in cooperation with industry, agency, and organizations responsible for community health and safety to ensure exposure guidelines are appropriate and scientifically valid, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to perform the appropriate research and experimentation to determine the effects of non-ionizing radiation on the health of adults and children and, if appropriate, establish a safe level of exposure, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the Federal Communications Commission to pursue a comprehensive global analysis of best

practices and scientific evidence in order to update its existing standards and to adequately measure the health impacts of wireless facilities, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors encourages the California Congressional delegation to introduce federal legislation to repeal limitations on state and local authority imposed by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that infringe upon the authority of local governments to regulate the placement, construction and modification of telecommunications towers and other personal wireless services facilities on the basis of the health and environmental effects of these facilities, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of this resolution to the offices of Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, the Federal Communications Commission, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.