

1 [Clean Water Act 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary]

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3 **Resolution recognizing the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Federal Clean Water Act and**  
4 **commending the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission for Clean Water Act**  
5 **implementation.**

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7 WHEREAS, This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Clean Water Act, the primary  
8 statutory mechanism for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United  
9 States and for regulating the quality of our surface waters; and

10 WHEREAS, The Clean Water Act's primary goal is "to restore and maintain the  
11 chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters"; and

12 WHEREAS, By the late 1960s two-thirds of the Nation's lakes, rivers, and coastal  
13 waters were unsafe for fishing and swimming due to the discharge of industrial pollutants and  
14 untreated sewage, and the San Francisco Bay was so heavily polluted with sewage, industrial  
15 waste, and landfill runoff that it gave off an unpleasant odor; and

16 WHEREAS, During the 1970's, the City and County of San Francisco worked closely  
17 with the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the State Water Resources Control Board,  
18 the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the people of San Francisco to plan, fund, and  
19 construct almost two billion dollars of sewer system improvements necessary to implement  
20 the Clean Water Act and to protect San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean; and

21 WHEREAS, Upon the completion of sewer system construction in 1997, the City and  
22 County of San Francisco became one of the first cities in the country to fully implement the  
23 Clean Water Act's requirements for combined sewer systems and to eliminate discharges of  
24 untreated sewage during wet weather; and

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1           WHEREAS, San Francisco's system of subterranean transport storage boxes that line  
2 the City's shoreline for the purpose of storing sewage and stormwater runoff for primary and  
3 secondary treatment annually remove millions of pounds of pollutants from urban stormwater  
4 runoff that would otherwise flow directly into San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean; and

5           WHEREAS, San Francisco's system of transport boxes and wet weather treatment  
6 facilities has become a nationwide model for Clean Water Act combined sewer system  
7 implementation, and for the Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory program known as  
8 the Combined Sewer Overflow Control Policy; and

9           WHEREAS, Through the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, which operates  
10 the City's sewer system, the City has been a leader in water pollution prevention,  
11 sustainability, and community engagement for four decades; and

12           WHEREAS, In 2003, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission established a  
13 program to prevent dental mercury contamination in the City's receiving waters that has  
14 served as a model for mercury contamination elimination; and

15           WHEREAS, In 2007, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission established  
16 SFGreasecycle, a citywide effort that diverts fats, oils and grease away from the sewers and  
17 turns it into biofuel that runs the City's vehicular fleets; and

18           WHEREAS, in 2009, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission became the first  
19 utility in the Nation to adopt an environmental justice policy that "affirms and commits to the  
20 goals of environmental justice to prevent, mitigate, and lessen disproportionate environmental  
21 impacts of its activities on communities in all SFPUC service areas and to ensure that public  
22 benefits are shared across all communities"; and

23           WHEREAS, in 2010 The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission developed, and the  
24 Board of Supervisors adopted, the Stormwater Management Ordinance which requires  
25 integrating green space, native landscaping, and natural hydrologic functions into

1 development projects, in order to reduce water pollution and flows into the City's sewer  
2 system; and

3 WHEREAS, in 2011 the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and the Board of  
4 Supervisors adopted the Fats, Oils, and Grease Ordinance, which reduces the amount of fats,  
5 oils and grease entering the City's sewer system by establishing clear requirements for the  
6 servicing and maintenance of grease capturing equipment and the use of automatic grease  
7 removal devices; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2012, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission was awarded the  
9 U.S. Water Prize by the Clean Water America Alliance for its holistic approach to energy,  
10 water, and urban watershed management, including innovative regulation, collaboration with  
11 other entities, and financial assistance and outreach to increase community participation in  
12 enhancing the function of the our watersheds; and

13 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is beginning the  
14 implementation of the Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP), which will develop capital  
15 improvement projects to upgrade the City's sewer system to meet levels of service goals for  
16 regulatory permit compliance, system reliability and functionality, and sustainable operations  
17 for decades to come; and

18 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco's early and significant investment in  
19 its sewer system infrastructure resulted in compliance with the Clean Water Act in advance of  
20 most jurisdictions in the Nation, and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is  
21 continuing that legacy with the implementation of the Sewer System Improvement Program;  
22 now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes the  
24 immeasurable value of the federal Clean Water Act in its 40th anniversary year since  
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1 enactment and acknowledges the Act's vital role in protecting the Nation's lakes, rivers, and  
2 coastal waters; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commends the San Francisco  
4 Public Utilities Commission for its leadership in Clean Water Act compliance that has helped  
5 restore and protect San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean through exemplary operation of  
6 the City's sewer system, and through innovative programs that engage communities, prevent  
7 water pollution, and set San Francisco on a course of environmental sustainability and  
8 stewardship for decades to come.

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