

1 [Southeast Digester Task Force - Biosolids Digester Facility Project]

2
3 **Resolution urging the Public Utilities Commission to incorporate the Southeast**
4 **Digester Task Force recommendations into the Biosolids Digester Facility Project, to**
5 **select the preferred site and expedite implementation.**

6
7 WHEREAS, The existing 1950's era digesters at the Southeast Plant, which were built
8 across the street from residences in the Bayview/Hunters Point community with 1940's
9 technology, are rapidly deteriorating; and

10 WHEREAS, The roof of one of the digesters collapsed due to corrosion and is no
11 longer in service and the remaining nine digesters have cracked and aging foundations that
12 create significant risk of failure and an inability to meet treatment requirements; and

13 WHEREAS, The Southeast Digester Task Force (the Task Force), a nine member
14 advisory group, was convened for 17 months to review information regarding the replacement
15 of the aged and unreliable Southeast Plant's Biosolids Digester Facility and to voice their
16 concerns and recommendations to the SFPUC; and

17 WHEREAS, The Task Force was comprised of community leaders and key
18 stakeholders and included Southeast Community Facility Commissioners Bobbrie Brown and
19 Helen Yang; SFPUC Citizens' Advisory Committee member Alex Lantsberg; Michael
20 Hamman, a representative of Supervisor Maxwell; job training specialist Fathina Holmes of
21 Young Community Developers; Espanola Jackson, a homeowner and community
22 representative; Karen Pierce, a homeowner and Southern Waterfront Committee member;
23 business owner and Bayview Rotary Club member Mark Klaiman of Pet Camp store; and non-
24 profit Arc Ecology staff scientist Michael McGowan; and

1 WHEREAS, The Task Force is supportive of the SFPUC's vision of building a new
2 Biosolids Digester Facility that is functional, green, state-of-the-art, architecturally pleasing,
3 and sustainable; and serves as a symbol of civic pride, becoming a visitor friendly destination
4 with concurrent public information and science education uses for local students, delegations,
5 and the larger San Francisco community; and

6 WHEREAS, There was substantive community engagement in the Task Force process
7 as well as scientific rigor in discussion about this critical facility located within the members'
8 neighborhood; and

9 WHEREAS, The Task Force in their final report entitled "Review of the Biosolids
10 Digester Facility Project" by the Southeast Digester Task Force for the SFPUC (June 2, 2010)
11 included consensus recommendations for site options and preliminary facility layout, design
12 requirements, architectural improvements, and community benefits; and

13 WHEREAS, The Task Force spent a great deal of time discussing the merits of 17
14 potential sites with technical experts, and after extensive deliberation, the Task Force
15 members expressed preference for the Central Shops site; and recommended that the City
16 move forward with building new digesters that will meet the City's needs; and

17 WHEREAS, This proposed facility should utilize green, state-of-the-art treatment and
18 odor control processes that reduce the number of digesters required, providing the opportunity
19 for improved plant operating efficiencies and green energy generation, while producing a
20 reusable product; and

21 WHEREAS, This proposed facility should be designed with attractive 3-D architecture
22 facades and landscaping to maximize interaction among neighbors and integrate the facility
23 into the community while promoting opportunities for public art; and

24 WHEREAS, The SFPUC should work with City Build and the Unified School District to
25 provide green jobs and job training programs for the Southeast Sector that will result in

1 construction jobs and employment opportunities with the City and other entities, and will result
2 in educational and mentoring opportunities for local youth through specific programs, school
3 curriculum, tours, and internships available for high school and college students; and

4 WHEREAS, The SFPUC has many challenging, exciting, and long-term career
5 opportunities that will be created by the new Biosolids Digester Facility, including positions in
6 the operations and maintenance of wastewater facilities; and these positions will be filled in
7 part through apprenticeship programs and other job training programs; and

8 WHEREAS, The proposed new facility should be designed utilizing stringent seismic
9 standards, and each individual component should be designed with the highest level of odor
10 control to reliably prevent odors from impacting the neighbors; and

11 WHEREAS Under the City Charter, the SFPUC must provide reliable wastewater
12 services to San Francisco while ensuring that no disproportionate burden of providing
13 wastewater services falls on any particular community; and

14 WHEREAS, The SFPUC declares as its mission: “To provide its customers with high-
15 quality, efficient, and reliable water, power, and wastewater services in a manner that values
16 environmental and community interests and sustains the resources entrusted to its care”; and

17 WHEREAS, The California Environmental Quality Act section 15126.6 requires that the
18 environmental review must describe a reasonable range of feasible alternatives to the project
19 or project location that could feasibly attain most of the basic project objectives and would
20 avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant environmental impacts of the proposed
21 project; and

22 WHEREAS, the SFPUC, through its environmental justice policy (SFPUC Resolution
23 09-0170), has committed to “prevent, mitigate, and lessen disproportionate environmental
24 impacts of its activities on communities in all SFPUC service areas and to ensure that public
25 benefits are shared across all communities”; now therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to urge the SFPUC to
2 incorporate the Southeast Digester Task Force’s deliberations and recommendations into the
3 selection of a proposed preferred alternative for purposes of environmental review of the
4 Biosolids Digester Facility, and to incorporate state-of-the-art technology, architectural and
5 landscape features, community benefits, jobs programs, and a sustainable green design in
6 the proposed new facility; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to urge the
8 SFPUC to finalize selection of a single preferred alternative site for the Southeast Plant’s
9 Biosolids Digester Facility, and to expedite the planning, environmental review, and design of
10 a proposed new advanced treatment facility that will take the City through the next century.