

1 [Muwekma Ohlone Tribe]

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3 **Resolution urging the United States Congress, the Department of the Interior and its**
4 **Bureau of Indian Affairs to reaffirm and restore the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San**
5 **Francisco Bay Area as a Federally Acknowledged Indian Tribe.**

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7 WHEREAS, Based upon the determinations made by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and
8 the United States Federal District Court of the District of Columbia Circuit, Case No. 99-3261
9 (RMU) the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe is identified as the indigenous Native American Tribe of
10 the San Francisco Bay Area; and

11 WHEREAS, The Muwekma Ohlone people, who never left their aboriginal land and
12 were once pronounced extinct by anthropologists, have retained their culture and social
13 identity for the past 230 years; and,

14 WHEREAS, The Ohlone people have left a record of approximately 13,000 years of
15 human history; and,

16 WHEREAS, The United States Government maintained a “trust” relationship with three
17 Costanoan tribal groups, including the Muwekma, historically identified as the Verona Band,
18 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs from 1906-1927; and,

19 WHEREAS, The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe were illegally removed from the Federal
20 Register in 1927 despite its “trust” relationship and its previous efforts to foster and secure
21 federal recognition as an Indian tribe; and,

22 WHEREAS, The Muwekma Ohlone tribe enrolled with and was approved by the
23 Bureau of Indian Affairs under the 1928 California Jurisdictional Act, and have since
24 organized themselves according to the Bureau’s directives, still have no right to be legally
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1 considered an Indian Tribe without first obtaining reaffirmation and formal acknowledgement
2 by the Secretary of the Interior; and,

3 WHEREAS, There are over 400 identified descendents of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe
4 in the San Francisco Bay Area; and,

5 WHEREAS, European migration led to the near decimation of the Muwekma Ohlone
6 Tribe and the lack of formal recognition after 1927 by the Department of the Interior suggests
7 a disregard for the cultural diversity and historical presence that the Muwekma have offered to
8 our state, including service in the United States Armed Services in previous wars and military
9 conflicts; and,

10 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors has officially supported the Muwekma in its
11 efforts for recognition through legislation commending their efforts and historical and social
12 accomplishments in 1992 on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 6-92-
13 13, and also supporting the requests for historical claim by the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe at the
14 Presidio of San Francisco in 1998, on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File
15 No. 98-0824; and,

16 WHEREAS, It is imperative that the Department of the Interior and the Federal
17 Government officially recognize the historical and social history of the Muwekma Ohlone
18 through its efforts to attain federal recognition; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
20 does hereby urge the United States Congress and the Department of the Interior and its
21 Bureau of Indian Affairs to reaffirm and restore the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San
22 Francisco Bay as a Federally Acknowledged Indian Tribe; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco does hereby ask
24 that copies of this resolution be sent to our congressional representatives, the Secretary of the
25 Department of the Interior and His Honor the Mayor, with instructions that all actions be taken

1 to support and ensure the immediate reaffirmation and restoration of the Muwekma Ohlone
2 Tribe as a Federally Acknowledged Indian Tribe, and include them within the Federal Registry
3 of Recognized Tribes under the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

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