

1 [Mountain Lake]

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**Resolution urging CalTrans to use funds from the federal stimulus package to immediately resolve the toxicity issue at Mountain Lake through diversion of storm drains flowing directly into the lake and replacement of the outlet and overflow pipe and by dredging the lake to remove contaminated sediments and fill.**

WHEREAS, Mountain Lake is one of the last two remaining natural lakes in the City and County of San Francisco and has been designated a toxic clean up site by the Department of Toxic Substances Control, a department within the California Environmental Protection Agency; and,

WHEREAS, Mountain Lake is a spring-fed natural lake covering almost four acres located mostly in the southern portion of the Presidio and directly east of State Highway 1 just before the MacArthur Tunnel leading to the Golden Gate Bridge; and,

WHEREAS, Mountain Lake serves as a feeder to Lobos Creek, which is a source of drinking water for the Presidio; and,

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco own the adjacent hiking trails and beach outlining the Lake making Mountain Lake a focal point for Mountain Lake Park. The playground and tennis courts look out on to the Lake, walking trails wrap around its shores, park users picnic along the shoreline and families feed ducks that swim in the lake; and,

WHEREAS, Mountain Lake has been impacted by stormwater roadway runoff from the adjacent Park Presidio Boulevard also known as Highway 1; and,

1           WHEREAS, Since their inception in the 1930's, a series of storm drains collecting  
2 runoff from Highway 1 discharge directly into the lake through piping underneath and adjacent  
3 to the roadway; and,

4           WHEREAS, The Lake sediments have been compromised by heavy metals, sediment  
5 and petroleum hydrocarbons that have been washed off the roads and into the lake. The lake  
6 water and sediment quality is also compromised by other factors, such as filling of the lake  
7 during construction of the MacArthur Tunnel and Highway 1; and,

8           WHEREAS, Mountain Lake is vulnerable to any future accident or spill on Highway 1  
9 because of the Lake's proximity to the roadway and the direct flow of runoff from the road to  
10 the lake; and,

11           WHEREAS, To improve the lake water and sediment quality, two actions are  
12 necessary including (1) diversion of storm drains flowing directly into the lake from the  
13 roadway and replacement of the outlet and overflow pipe and (2) dredging of the lake to  
14 remove contaminated sediments and fill; and,

15           WHEREAS, A hearing was held on this issue in the Land Use and Economic  
16 Development Committee on Monday, February 25, 2008, where representatives from the  
17 Presidio Trust and CalTrans were present; and,

18           WHEREAS, Both parties bear responsibility for cleaning up Mountain Lake but have  
19 yet to come up with a plan to remediate the problems facing the Lake;

20           WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors passed a resolution urging the Presidio Trust  
21 and CalTrans to come up with a plan to clean up Mountain lake and to prevent further  
22 contamination as soon as possible (File No. 080289, Enacted number 110-08, March 14,  
23 2008); and,

1           WHEREAS, On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the American  
2 Recovery and Reinvestment Act (H.R. 1) to save and create jobs and to get our economy  
3 moving again; and,

4           WHEREAS, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act includes, among other  
5 things, funds to invest in roads, bridges, mass transit, clean water projects and other  
6 infrastructure projects; and,

7           WHEREAS, As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, California will  
8 receive roughly \$2.57 billion in highway funding as part of the federal stimulus package; and,

9           WHEREAS, Recent settlement negotiations between CalTrans and the Presidio Trust  
10 to clean up the lake and re-route the rainwater runoff from Highway 1 into storms drains to  
11 prevent further pollution did not result in a clean-up plan; and,

12           WHEREAS, The tolling agreement between CalTrans and the Presidio Trust expired  
13 on January 31, 2009, and a lawsuit to determine liability is imminent thereby further delaying  
14 clean-up measures; now, therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges CalTrans to use federal stimulus  
16 dollars to immediately resolve the toxicity issue at Mountain Lake through diversion of storm  
17 drains flowing directly into the lake and replacement of the outlet and overflow pipe and by  
18 dredging the lake to remove contaminated sediments and fill.

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