

1 [Strong New Orleans East.]

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3 **Resolution supporting the Citizens for a Strong New Orleans East in their effort to**
4 **close the operation of the Chef Menteur landfill and preserve New Orleans for the**
5 **communities of color.**

6 WHEREAS, The week of June 12 – 16, 2006 has been designated as a National Week
7 of Solidarity to support the Citizens for a Strong New Orleans East in their effort to save New
8 Orleans East for the communities of color that have historically resided there by closing the
9 operation of a landfill intended to store environmentally toxic debris resulting from Hurricane
10 Katrina; and

11 WHEREAS, The City of New Orleans and Waste Management Inc. have decided to
12 create and operate a landfill for Hurricane Katrina debris at 16600 Chef Menteur Highway,
13 proximate to the communities of New Orleans East, all of which were displaced by Hurricane
14 Katrina; and

15 WHEREAS, The Hurricane Katrina debris contains vast amounts of environmental
16 toxins, including building materials containing asbestos and nearly 5 millions gallons of toxic
17 household waste including paint, chlorine bleach, drain cleaner and the like; and

18 WHEREAS, This landfill is not appropriately safeguarded against incoming
19 groundwater seepage, which will mix with environmental toxins from the Katrina debris and
20 will be pumped into an adjacent canal that flows directly into the a largely Vietnamese
21 community in New Orleans East and, as a result, will result in the permanent displacement of
22 this community that has only now begun to rebuild; and

23 WHEREAS, This landfill is also approximately 80 feet away from Bayou Sauvage, the
24 largest urban wildlife refuge in the country and will likely contaminate and destroy this
25 delicately balanced ecosystem; and

1 WHEREAS, There are other nearby landfill sites that are readily available and
2 protected against groundwater seepage and are more appropriate to store Katrina debris, but
3 are not being used in order to save costs for the City of New Orleans, the Louisiana
4 Department of Environmental Quality, and Waste Management Inc., the company contracted
5 to haul the debris and operate the site; and

6 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco believes that cost savings and
7 profit should not be prioritized over the communities and people living in those communities;
8 now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports the Citizens for a
10 Strong New Orleans East in their effort to close the operation of the Chef Menteur landfill and
11 preserve New Orleans for the communities of color that have traditionally resided there; and
12 be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the City of
14 New Orleans, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, and Waste Management
15 Inc. to discontinue the operation of the landfill at 16600 Chef Menteur Highway in favor of
16 landfills in the surrounding vicinity that are more appropriately suited to store toxic debris
17 resulting from Hurricane Katrina; and be it

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19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that the Clerk of
20 the Board send copies of this resolution to the City of New Orleans, the Louisiana Department
21 of Environmental Quality, Waste Management Inc., U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and
22 Barbara Boxer, U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi, the Army Corps of Engineers, the
23 Environmental Protection Agency, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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