

1 [Resolution preserving the Francisco Reservoir as public recreation and open space]

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Resolution declaring the policy of the Board of Supervisors to maintain the Francisco Reservoir as open space and urging the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, in light of the General Plan designating the property as such, to preserve the property for public recreation and open space.

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco acquired approximately 4 acres of land known as the Francisco Reservoir Tract (“the property”) in 1930 from Spring Valley Water Company, which land is bordered by Hyde, Larkin and Bay Streets and homes on Chestnut Street ; and,

WHEREAS, The property now includes the abandoned Francisco Reservoir and Bay Street Park under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), approximately one acre of hillside land under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Parks Commission and the 900 block of Francisco Street right-of-way under jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works; and,

WHEREAS, The property under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission was transferred to its predecessor, the San Francisco Water Department for use as a reservoir, without any payment to the City; and,

WHEREAS, The property is no longer being used as a reservoir and has not been used for a reservoir for a number of years; and,

WHEREAS, Jurisdiction over the one acre hillside was transferred to the Recreation and Parks Commission by Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 7103 in 1947; and,

1 WHEREAS, PROPOSITION C “Parks and Playgrounds” provided \$58,000 for
2 completion of a park on this hillside portion of the property and plans were developed and
3 accepted by the City in 1955 (park plans for the entire property were concurrently developed
4 by the Russian Hill Improvement Association); and,

5 WHEREAS, The Recreation and Park Commission stated the need for the entire
6 property to provide adequate recreation and park services for the northeastern part of San
7 Francisco in 1958; and,

8 WHEREAS, Representatives of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission have in
9 2007-2008 indicated the possibility of declaring that part of the property under its jurisdiction
10 “surplus” and selling it for private development; and,

11 WHEREAS, The General Plan for the City and County of San Francisco designates
12 the entire property for “Public Recreation and Open Space” even if the property is designated
13 as surplus by the Public Utilities Commission; and,

14 WHEREAS, For the Public Utilities Commission to realize any profit from the property,
15 the General Plan would have to be amended by the Board of Supervisors; and,

16 WHEREAS, San Francisco is critically short of public open space with only one-half
17 the national standard (the national standard being ten acres of open space per 1,000 people);
18 and,

19 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s unique topography and current density make open space
20 acquisition a particular challenge. With 739,426 people living on a peninsula of 47 square
21 miles, San Francisco is second only to New York City among American Cities in population
22 density; and,

23 WHEREAS, The northeast area of San Francisco is particularly lacking in open space
24 despite the great needs of it’s high-density residential and tourist traffic; and,

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1 WHEREAS, The property currently serves, and could serve much better, the acute
2 open space and recreational needs of the area; and,

3 WHEREAS, The property is a major visual asset for the City, not only for it's own open
4 qualities, but also for views of the San Francisco Bay, Golden Gate Bridge and Marin
5 Headlands from the Hyde Street pedestrian and cable car thoroughfare heavily traveled by
6 tourists; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That it is the policy of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors that the
8 property remain public open space; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That future uses of the property consistent with public open
10 space be determined by appropriate City processes.

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