

1 [Resolution recognizing freshwater as a human right and the importance of access to safe
2 drinking water for all]

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5 **safe drinking water for all.**

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7 WHEREAS, the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
8 established March 22 as World Water Day to promote the international observance of
9 freshwater as a human right for all persons; and

10 WHEREAS, freshwater is fundamental for life, a finite natural resource, and belongs to
11 the earth and all species for all time; and

12 WHEREAS, available freshwater represents less than one-half of the world's total
13 water stock; and

14 WHEREAS, global consumption of water is doubling every 20 years, more than twice
15 the rate of human population growth; and

16 WHEREAS, more than one billion people already lack adequate access to safe
17 drinking water, 2.5 billion people have no access to proper sanitation and more than five
18 million people, mostly children, die each year from water related diseases; and

19 WHEREAS, unsustainable practices lead to the destruction of aquifers, falling water
20 tables, and ground and surface water pollution; and

21 WHEREAS, indigenous peoples have had waters on which they depend dangerously
22 polluted and exploited; and

23 WHEREAS, the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in December 2004 aggravated
24 the already overwhelming water crisis and the World Health Organization projects that without
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1 mobilized and coordinated assistance, there could be as many fatalities from diseases, water
2 borne, as were seen from the actual disaster itself; and

3 WHEREAS, current United Nations Millennium Development Goals now call for
4 reducing by one-half the number of those without safe drinking water and sanitation by the
5 year 2015; and

6 WHEREAS, the United Nations committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
7 has adopted the General Comment on the right to water, which states that the human right to
8 drinking water is fundamental for life and health, and sufficient and safe drinking water is a
9 precondition for the realization of all other human rights; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes freshwater as a
11 fundamental and human right for all, the importance of access to sanitation and safe drinking
12 water, and that water management priorities should reflect the goals of preservation and
13 sustainable development of water resources.

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