1   [Accept-Expend Federal Grant]

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3   **Resolution authorizing the Department of the Environment to accept and expend a**

4   **grant in the amount of $51,500 from the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce**

5   **levels of mercury entering the San Francisco Bay by limiting the wastes associated**

6   **with mercury amalgam fillings generated by dental offices to minimum achievable**

7   **levels through a Dental Mercury Reduction Program.**

8   WHEREAS, Based upon evaluation of responses to an Environmental Protection

9   Agency request for proposals in the area of Source Reduction, the Department of the

10   Environment's Toxics Program was selected to be the recipient of $51,500 in funding to

11   reduce levels of mercury entering the San Francisco Bay by limiting the wastes associated

12   with mercury amalgam fillings generated by dental offices to minimum achievable levels

13   through a Dental Mercury Reduction Program; and,

14   WHEREAS, In 1994 the Bay Protection and Toxic Cleanup Program performed a pilot

15   study to measure concentrations of contaminants in fish in San Francisco Bay which indicated

16   the presence of chemicals or chemical groups, including mercury, dioxins and others that

17   impair the bay waters; and,

18   WHEREAS, Mercury is a persistent, bioaccumulative toxin that poses a risk to human

19   health, wildlife and the environment; and,

20   WHEREAS, Recent studies on mercury levels in San Francisco residents have been

21   linked to fish consumption and to a number of specific health conditions; and,

22   WHEREAS, Dental amalgam fillings typically contain 45% of mercury by weight and

23   mercury is the primary pollutant emitted from dental practices; and,

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1   WHEREAS, Dental clinics remain largely unregulated for mercury disposal and

2   extracted amalgam materials are often disposed of down the drain and into the Bay via the

3   municipal waste water system; and,

4   WHEREAS, The Department of the Environment in collaboration with the San

5   Francisco Public Utilities Commission will require dental offices to limit amalgam wastes

6   generated to minimum achievable levels through installation of Amalgam Removal Equipment

7   and implementation of best management practices **or** self-monitoring to show compliance with

8   the local limit and implementation best management practices; and,

9   WHEREAS, San Francisco will promote the installation of Amalgam Removal

10   Equipment and recognize early adopters of this equipment by awarding rebate checks to

11   cover partial cost of equipment; and,

12   WHEREAS, Money through this grant will support those dental practices identified by

13   the San Francisco Dental Society as serving low-income populations; and,

14   WHEREAS, The Department of the Environment Toxics Program will conduct

15   extensive outreach to local dentists and will provide dental practices training opportunities in

16   issues such as mercury waste management, installation of Amalgam Removal Equipment and

17   proper hazardous waste management; and,

18   WHEREAS, The Department of the Environment Toxics Program will hold a Workshop

19   to train neighboring counties on implementation of similar mandatory programs; and,

20   WHEREAS, San Francisco's Dental Mercury Reduction Program will create the first

21   mandatory mercury pollution prevention program for dental offices in the EPA's Region IX and

22   serve as a model for other jurisdictions around the San Francisco Bay, throughout California

23   and the rest of the United States; and,

24   WHEREAS, The grant budget includes provision for indirect costs of $4,682.00 now,

25   therefore, be it

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1   RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors authorizes the Director of

2   the Department of the Environment to accept and expend funding of $51,500 from the

3   Environmental Protection Agency to provide a Dental Mercury Reduction Program.

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5   Recommended: Approved: _____

6   Mayor

7   _____

8   Department Head   Approved: _____

9   Controller

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