

1 [Approval of Construction of Structures in Union Square Park for Central Subway Project]

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3 **Resolution approving, under Charter Section 4.113, construction of surface and subsurface structures in**  
4 **Union Square Park for the Central Subway Project's Union Square Market Street Station.**

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6 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (RPD) maintains and operates real  
7 property in the City and County of San Francisco (City) bounded by Geary, Powell, Post and Stockton Streets  
8 known as "Union Square Park"; and

9 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) is undertaking construction  
10 of the Central Subway Project (the Project), which is designed to address mobility and transit deficiencies in the  
11 northeastern part of San Francisco by improving connections from the northeastern part of the City to  
12 communities in the southeastern part for the City and improving reliability of transit services; and

13 WHEREAS, The Project will include the construction of three subway stations, including one with an  
14 entrance in Union Square Park, known as the Union Square Market Street (UMS) Station; and

15 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Planning Commission on August 7, 2008 certified the  
16 Final Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report (SEIS/SEIR) for the  
17 Project, and on August 19, 2008, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board  
18 of Directors approved the Project in Resolution No. 08-150, which can be found in Board of  
19 Supervisors file No. 081138, which resolution included findings under the California  
20 Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and

21 WHEREAS, The Planning Department staff has reviewed the current status of the  
22 Central Subway Project, including the UMS Station design, and in a memorandum to the file  
23 dated September 12, 2012, which can be found in Board of Supervisors' File No. \_\_\_\_\_,  
24 has confirmed that there have been no substantial changes proposed for the Project, and no  
25 substantial changes in Project circumstances, that would require major revisions to the

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1 SEIS/SEIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial  
2 increase in the severity of previously identified significant impacts; and that there is no new  
3 information of substantial importance that was not known and could not have been known at  
4 the time the SEIS/SEIR was certified, that shows significant environmental effects not  
5 discussed in the SEIS/SEIR, a substantial increase in the severity of previously examined  
6 significant effects, or that unadopted mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not  
7 to be feasible, would be feasible and capable of substantially reducing one or more of the  
8 significant effects of the Project; and

9 WHEREAS, SFMTA staff presented the Recreation and Park Commission with its final plans for the  
10 construction of structures required for the UMS Station in the southeastern corner of Union Square Park,  
11 consisting of an escalator, stairs, two elevators, emergency ventilation equipment, glass deck (public space) and  
12 ancillary components such as overhead doors to close off the station entrance, as shown in Exhibit 1 on file with  
13 the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. \_\_\_\_\_, which is hereby declared to be a part of this motion  
14 as if set forth fully herein; and

15 WHEREAS, The SFMTA has designed the UMS Station Entrance, which is the only  
16 visible portion of the UMS Station in the Park, to be as compact as possible in both plan and  
17 elevation to preserve open space, and to blend in with its surroundings by mimicking the  
18 existing retaining walls and planter terraces and by incorporating existing treatments,  
19 materials and finishes; and

20 WHEREAS, Approximately 2,135 square feet of exterior park space, which is less than  
21 two percent of the 2.6-acre (113,256 square feet) Union Square Park, will be redesigned or  
22 used in some respect for UMS Station facilities, and 1,410 square feet of that 2,135 square  
23 feet will continue to be some form of pedestrian open space or landscaped area; and

24 WHEREAS, Although the Union Square Station Entrance will displace approximately  
25 1,200 feet of terraced seating on the surface of the Park, the roof of the station entrance will

1 incorporate approximately 950 square feet of a translucent glass walk-on roof deck, resulting  
2 in a net loss of only 250 square feet of the open space that was previously occupied by  
3 terraced seating; and

4 WHEREAS, At its meeting on September 20, 2012, the Recreation and Park Commission found that the  
5 construction of the surface and subsurface structures in Union Square Park for the UMS Station is consistent  
6 with and supportive of a recreational purpose as required by Charter Section 4.113 because the proposed use  
7 (1) will occupy an insubstantial portion of the surface area of the Park and impact less than 2 percent of the  
8 Park's total square footage; (2) will not substantially impair or interfere with the use and enjoyment of the Park for  
9 recreational purposes because of the location and dimension of the proposed structures, and the nature and  
10 existing use of the affected park area; and (3) will substantially improve public access to and from the Park,  
11 thereby enhancing the Park's use and enjoyment by the public; and

12 WHEREAS, Under Charter Section 4.113, the construction of buildings or structures in  
13 Union Square Park generally requires approval by a vote of two-thirds of the Board of  
14 Supervisors; and

15 WHEREAS, On September 20, 2012, the Recreation and Park Commission adopted Resolution No.  
16 1209-005, in which it approved the construction of the surface and subsurface structures in Union Square Park  
17 for the UMS Station in substantially the same form as set forth in the aforementioned Exhibit 1 and  
18 recommended that the Board of Supervisors similarly approve such construction; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors adopts and incorporates by reference herein the CEQA  
20 findings adopted in SFMTA Resolution No. 08-150, and further finds that that there have been no substantial  
21 changes proposed for the Project, including construction of the surface and subsurface structures for the UMS  
22 Station of the Project, and no substantial changes in Project circumstances, that would require major revisions to  
23 the SEIS/SEIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the  
24 severity of previously identified significant impacts; and that there is no new information of substantial importance  
25 that was not known and could not have been known at the time the SEIS/SEIR was certified, that shows

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1 significant environmental effects not discussed in the SEIS/SEIR, a substantial increase in the severity of  
2 previously examined significant effects, or that unadopted mitigation measures or alternatives previously found  
3 not to be feasible, would be feasible and capable of substantially reducing one or more of the significant effects  
4 of the Project; and be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors approves the construction of the surface and  
6 subsurface structures in Union Square Park for the UMS Station in substantially the same form as set forth in  
7 Exhibit 1.

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