

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 \$30,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency to develop**
5 **the San Francisco Green Healthcare Working Group consisting of local healthcare**
6 **professionals and to facilitate ongoing meetings to conduct hands-on training to its**
7 **members on a broad range of pollution prevention and resource conservation**
8 **strategies.**

9 WHEREAS, Based upon evaluation of responses to an Environmental Protection
10 Agency request for proposals in the area of Source Reduction, the Department of the
11 Environment's Toxics Program was selected to be the recipient of \$30,000 in funding to
12 develop the San Francisco Healthcare Working Group and achieve reductions in the levels of
13 pollutants (e.g. – mercury, dioxins) entering the environment by providing hands-on support to
14 local hospital staff to help them implement resource conservation strategies that will minimize
15 waste and toxic chemicals; and,

16 WHEREAS, The healthcare industry has been shown to have significant impacts on
17 the environment; and,

18 WHEREAS, Recent federal studies found that hospitals were incorrectly incinerating
19 millions of pounds of waste that could be diverted or treated by safer methods; and,

20 WHEREAS, Initial surveys of local hospitals show that health care facilities are
21 struggling with proper segregation of medical waste and have a strong need for hands-on
22 support; and,

23 WHEREAS, The Department of the Environment operates one of the most progressive
24 waste diversion programs in the country and is ideally positioned to apply its recycling and
25 recovery knowledge to healthcare sector; and,

1 WHEREAS, The Department of the Environment's Toxics Program has partnered with
2 Kaiser Permanente, a leader in environmental stewardship in the healthcare sector, to
3 address the challenges faced by the industry; and,

4 WHEREAS, The Department of the Environment will bring together key staff from local
5 hospitals, environmental and occupational health advocates, healthcare professional
6 organizations and consultants to create a San Francisco Healthcare Working Group; and,

7 WHEREAS, San Francisco will facilitate bi-monthly sessions for members, that offer
8 presentations by technical experts followed by discussions structured around implementation
9 barriers, challenges and pollution prevention successes; and,

10 WHEREAS, Funding from this grant will help create and coordinate the Healthcare
11 Working Group; and,

12 WHEREAS, The Department of the Environment will assign staff and resources to go
13 beyond information sharing to address the challenges experienced by local hospitals and to
14 ensure that information obtained will be translated into action; and,

15 WHEREAS, The Department of the Environment will conduct extensive outreach to
16 local hospitals and will provide onsite training and consultation opportunities to help
17 implement at least three pilot pollution prevention programs in interested hospitals; and,

18 WHEREAS, San Francisco's Healthcare Working Group will serve as an important
19 model in the region and beyond, as it will help showcase green practices adopted by local
20 hospitals and motivate other healthcare systems in the region to adopt the same; and,

21 WHEREAS, The grant budget includes provision for indirect costs of \$2,727.00 now;
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors authorizes the Director of
24 the Department of the Environment to accept and expend funding in the amount of \$30,000
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1 from the Environmental Protection Agency to develop the San Francisco Healthcare Working
2 Group.

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4 Recommended:

Approved: _____

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Mayor

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7 Department Head

Approved: _____

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Controller

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