

1 [Citizens Advisory Committee for Natural Areas Program.]

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3 **Resolution establishing a Board of Supervisors Citizens Advisory Committee of twelve**
4 **members for the Recreation and Park Natural Areas Program; establishing a sunset**
5 **date of December 1, 2003.**

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7 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors recognizes the need and the responsibility for
8 public input and public discussion regarding the use of City resources; and

9 WHEREAS, The City's parkland and open space are among the most precious and
10 most valued of City resources, intended for the use of all San Franciscans and not to be
11 alienated or divested from them, or to be changed in use or access without full public
12 disclosure, comment, and process; and

13 WHEREAS, The Recreation and Park Department has not fulfilled its responsibilities to
14 ensure public and open process with regard to the Natural Areas Program, as was required in
15 the Recreation and Park Department's own documentation in both 1995 and 1997; and

16 WHEREAS, Legitimate concerns regarding access to and use of open space were
17 raised at the Board of Supervisors Neighborhood Services and Recreation Committee
18 Hearing on the Natural Areas Program, held July 11, 2002; and

19 WHEREAS, The activities of the Recreation and Park Department Natural Areas
20 Program have exceeded the permitted mandate even of the Recreation and Park Department
21 itself, and have ignored both public process and public policy with, for example, the cutting
22 down of mature and healthy trees in San Francisco City parks and open spaces without notice
23 to citizens, proper process, or opportunity for response; and

24 WHEREAS, The Natural Areas Program is being expanded to include more staff and
25 more activities through Open Space funding paid for by the people of the City and County of

1 San Francisco; and

2 WHEREAS, The concept and extent of Natural Areas are being expanded in
3 Recreation and Park documentation, definitions and actions to include corridors, buffer zones,
4 “naturalistic” areas, and areas which have the potential to be restored or to provide habitat;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, At the August 6, 2002 meeting of the Rules and Audits Committee, strong
7 public support was shown for the creation of a Board of Supervisors Work Group that would
8 include groups excluded from the Recreation and Park Department’s Green Ribbon Panel;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The Rules and Audits Committee has sought a compromise solution that
11 would result in a single, balanced committee under the Board with greater scope and duration
12 than the Work Group or the Green Ribbon Panel; and

13 WHEREAS, The Recreation and Park Department expressed its willingness to disband
14 the Green Ribbon Panel and to have a Board Advisory Committee to oversee the Natural
15 Areas Program and planning process; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors establish forthwith a Natural Areas Program
17 Citizens Advisory Committee (NAPCAC) to report and make recommendations directly to the
18 Board of Supervisors; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Manager of the Recreation and Park
20 Department has agreed to disband the Green Ribbon Panel and have its duties assumed by
21 NAPCAC within its broader mandate; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Recreation and Park Department shall assist
23 NAPCAC with input from its staff as required by the Committee, including giving notice of
24 meetings, providing meeting space, and publishing minutes; and, be it

25 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Recreation and Park Department shall assist

1 NAPCAC by providing to each member a copy of the “Significant Natural Resource Areas
2 Management Plan,” prepared by EIP Associates; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That NAPCAC shall have 12 members, 10 to be appointed by
4 the Board of Supervisors. Each member shall represent at least one of the community
5 interest categories listed below.

6 Community Interest Categories:

7 1. Four persons shall be appointed who are knowledgeable in issues related to natural
8 areas, including

9 Environmental interest advocacy;

10 Academic ecology;

11 Open space restoration;

12 Water and soil erosion.

13 2. Four persons shall be appointed who are interested in access to and use of public
14 parks and open space, including:

15 Recreational uses;

16 Persons interested in trees and plants in public parks and open space;

17 Youth activities;

18 Representation of neighborhoods that contain public parks and open space.

19 3. Four persons shall be appointed at large. The Board of Supervisors shall appoint
20 two of these persons, and two shall be appointed by the General Manager of the
21 Recreation and Park Department.

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the NAPCAC shall be subject to the Sunshine
23 Ordinance; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That NAPCAC shall be an Advisory Committee to the Board
25 of Supervisors; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the NAPCAC is given the responsibility and duty to
2 develop a management plan for natural areas in the City; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That until the Natural Areas Management Plan is completed
4 and approved by the Board of Supervisors, the Natural Areas Program may continue to
5 preserve and maintain genuine remnants of San Francisco's native flora and fauna so long as
6 those activities do not include:

7 Removal of healthy trees that pose no safety hazards

8 Trail closures, or restrictions on access and recreation

9 Trapping and removal of wild or feral animals currently inhabiting parks and lakes

10 Expansion of activities into areas that no longer support predominantly native flora and
11 fauna; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the NAPCAC shall report to the Board of Supervisors by
13 November 1, 2003, a summary of its work, and any recommendations it may have for further
14 legislative initiatives on the part of the City; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the NAPCAC shall terminate and cease functioning,
16 unless otherwise extended by the Board of Supervisors, on December 1, 2003.

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