

1 [Solar Vision Goals for San Francisco by 2020]

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3 Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to make GoSolarSF a permanent
4 program, to require solar installation on all new construction or substantial retrofits in the City,
5 establishing Solar Vision goals for 2020, and establishing an overall megawatt solar energy
6 goal for the City.

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8 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco, under Ordinance 81-08, endorsed
9 a goal for the City to have a greenhouse gas-free electric system by 2030 and to reduce
10 greenhouse gas emissions citywide to 40% below 1990 levels by 2015 and 80% by 2050; and

11 WHEREAS, Energy consumption in buildings is responsible for 52 percent of all carbon
12 emissions in the City; and

13 WHEREAS, Locally produced renewable energy benefits the health, welfare and
14 resiliency of San Francisco and its residents and reduces carbon emissions associated with
15 energy consumption in buildings; and

16 WHEREAS, Rooftops are underutilized valuable real estate with multiple potential
17 uses, including solar installations and rooftop gardens, which can play a key role in reaching
18 San Francisco's greenhouse gas and sustainability goals; and

19 WHEREAS, Increasing solar installation in San Francisco promotes environmental
20 justice regionally and statewide by helping to eliminate polluting fossil fuel power plants often
21 located in low-income communities of color; and

22 WHEREAS, Solar helps increase housing affordability by decreasing energy costs to
23 occupants of solarized homes and apartments in the form of reduced energy bills; and

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1 WHEREAS, Solar installations significantly increase property values and it has been
2 estimated that property values increase by \$20,000 for every \$1,000 saved by solar annually;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Solar creates good-paying clean energy jobs that benefit San Francisco’s
5 workforce and the local installation community; and

6 WHEREAS, The last United States solar jobs census done by the Solar Foundation in
7 2013 showed that there are nearly 4,000 solar jobs in San Francisco alone; and

8 WHEREAS, The census showed a diverse array of more than 50,000 people working
9 in solar in California - 20% of the jobs are held by Latinos, 22.5% are held by women, 11.7%
10 are held by Asian-American/Pacific Islanders and 4% are held by African-Americans; and

11 WHEREAS, San Francisco has established its own groundbreaking clean energy
12 initiatives, such as the landmark Solar Energy Incentive Program (“GoSolarSF”), the
13 Solar@Work and SF SunShares group purchasing programs, and the newly re-launched
14 GreenFinanceSF Residential Property Assessed Clean Energy program, that helps reduce
15 the cost of solar installations; and

16 WHEREAS, The Solar Energy Incentive Program (“GoSolarSF”) began its seventh
17 year on July 1, 2014; and

18 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the San Francisco Public
19 Utilities Commission (SFPUC), and the San Francisco Department of Environment are
20 dedicated to installing solar energy systems that will reduce the City’s business and
21 residential reliance on energy created by fossil fuels; and

22 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) has constructed
23 and operates 16 municipal solar projects located at facilities such as the Moscone Convention
24 Center, Southeast Treatment Plant, Pier 96, Chinatown Public Health Center, Maxine Hall
25 Medical Center, City Distribution Division Warehouse, North Point Treatment Plant, the

1 San Francisco International Airport, Alvarado Elementary School, and Davies Symphony Hall,
2 and is constructing additional municipal solar projects located at Thurgood Marshall High
3 School, Cesar Chavez Elementary School, and Downtown High School; and

4 WHEREAS, The SFPUC has identified over 15 MW of municipal solar projects that
5 could be installed on school rooftops, covered water reservoirs, and other municipal facilities;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, GoSolarSF has achieved many of its objectives, including lowering the
8 cost of solar by 40-50% compared to when the program was started in 2008 and making it
9 more affordable for residents to install solar; and

10 WHEREAS, GoSolarSF has been successful in providing solar incentive payments for
11 more than 3,000 San Francisco homes, business and nonprofit organizations, collectively
12 producing more than 10 megawatts (MWs) of solar power, through June 2014, with
13 approximately 8 MWs expected to be installed over the next two years; and

14 WHEREAS, GoSolarSF has boosted the local San Francisco economy, driving \$65
15 million in total economic investment and 121 direct solar job placements for San Francisco
16 residents who otherwise face barriers to employment through June 2014; and

17 WHEREAS, GoSolarSF has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by more than
18 172,631,800 pounds over the lifetime of installed systems, helping to meet the City's climate
19 action goals; and

20 WHEREAS, GoSolarSF faces termination under Environment Code, Section 18.1(K)
21 ten years after its commencement since fiscal year 2008-2009; and

22 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco desires to re-establish itself as the
23 leader for solar in the Bay Area by 2020 after falling behind due to GoSolarSF budget cuts
24 and funding inconsistencies in recent years; and

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1 WHEREAS, Across the state of California, incentives are lacking for installing solar on
2 tenant-occupied residences, and designing programs for multifamily housing units is critical;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Environment's Solar Task Force has
5 developed recommendations to support local solar market development, including the
6 creation of GoSolarSF; and

7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Environment Commission passed a resolution on July
8 22, 2014, that supports the requirement of solar installations on all new construction in San
9 Francisco, including the housing currently eligible for California Solar Initiative's New Solar
10 Homes Partnership Incentives; and

11 WHEREAS, Mayor Edwin Lee and the Board of Supervisors fully funded GoSolarSF at
12 \$5 million annually for FYs 2014-2015 and 2016-2017, and full funding is necessary to meet
13 the City's in-city solar generation, greenhouse gas reduction, and green job creation goals;
14 now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports GoSolarSF as a permanent
16 program that has and will continue to create a robust solar market in San Francisco, with a full
17 funding level of \$5 million annually after the 2018 sunset date of the existing pilot program;
18 and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors support the requirement of
20 solar installations and/or rooftop gardens on all new construction or substantial retrofits in San
21 Francisco where feasible, and urges the Department of the Environment to convene
22 stakeholders to propose how this requirement be implemented; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors establish a 50 MW solar energy
24 goal for San Francisco to be achieved by 2020, including a 2 MW goal for existing tenant-
25 occupied residences annually, with this goal supported by GoSolarSF, CleanPowerSF,

1 Solar@Work, GreenFinanceSF, and other programs that support the development of in-city
2 solar on existing buildings and new construction.

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