

1 [Bay Area Water Centennial Day - December 19, 2013]

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3 **Resolution retroactively declaring December 19, 2013, Bay Area Water Centennial Day**
4 **in the City and County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, A reliable water system is a critical lifeline that supports the San Francisco
7 Bay Area; and

8 WHEREAS, Following the 1906 earthquake, when San Francisco burned to the ground
9 due to lack of water, San Francisco citizens searched for a reliable and sustainable water
10 supply; and

11 WHEREAS, On December, 19, 1913, President Woodrow Wilson signed into law the
12 Raker Act, which provided San Francisco the rights of way to construct water and power
13 facilities over federal land in Yosemite and Stanislaus National Forest; and

14 WHEREAS, The Act allowed for the construction of O'Shaughnessy Dam in Hetch
15 Hetchy Valley to impound drinking water from the Tuolumne Watershed for the San Francisco
16 Bay Area and for the construction of water-collection and hydroelectric power-generating
17 facilities stretching from the Sierras to the Bay Area; and

18 WHEREAS, As a result of its passage, San Francisco began construction of the Hetch
19 Hetchy Regional Water System in 1914 and began delivering water in 1934; and

20 WHEREAS, The construction of the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System provided
21 much needed jobs during the Great Depression and current investment through the Water
22 System Improvement Program continues to create jobs for Bay Area residents; and

23 WHEREAS, The Hetch Hetchy Regional Water system does not require filtration, is
24 entirely gravity fed, and generates an average of 1.7 billion kilowatts per hour of clean
25 renewable energy that powers municipal buildings and services; and

1 WHEREAS, The reliability of the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System has been
2 essential to the growth of the Bay Area into an economically vibrant region; and

3 WHEREAS, Today the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water Systems provides 265 million
4 gallons of water per day to 2.6 million people in Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San
5 Francisco counties; and

6 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission has continued to invest in
7 San Francisco's water infrastructure in order to ensure that clean water flows to Bay Area
8 residents for another 100 years; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, in recognition of the 100th
10 Anniversary of the signing of the Raker Act, does hereby proclaim December 19, 2013, as
11 Bay Area Water Centennial Day.

