

1 [Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund Commendation.]

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3 **Resolution commending the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund for its extraordinary**
4 **leadership gift to the Presidio.**

5 WHEREAS, The Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. fund was established in 1953 by Evelyn
6 D. Haas and Walter Haas, Jr. and is “dedicated to finding ways the Fund can continually grow
7 to serve the ever-changing needs of this diverse community”, “to serve as a voice of hope and
8 a positive unifying force for social change”; and

9 WHEREAS, The Haas, Jr. Fund has awarded more than \$268 million in grants, over
10 54 years, to diverse Neighborhood organizations, to organizations supporting Children, Youth
11 and Families, to organizations promoting Equality and Justice, to Nonprofit Leadership and
12 Governance organizations, to Partnerships and Initiatives as well as to the Arts and Culture;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The Haas, Jr. Fund underwrote a planning grant for the restoration of
15 Crissy Field in 1986, and followed that up in 1997, with a lead grant of \$18 million to the
16 National Park Service to jumpstart the transformation of Crissy Field from desolated ruins to a
17 stunning bay side natural habitat and wildly popular recreational area; and

18 WHEREAS, The Haas, Jr. Fund has positively inspired countless individuals in
19 multiple ways, both directly and indirectly through its visible and generous support of Crissy
20 Field in the Golden Gate National Parks; and

21 WHEREAS, On April 11, 2007, the Haas, Jr. Fund made a lead grant of \$15 million to
22 the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, with its public agency partners, the Presidio
23 Trust and the National Park Service, to continue the transformation of the Presidio into a great
24 national park, used by locals and visitors alike; and

1 WHEREAS, The \$15 million gift will support the implementation of a comprehensive
2 24 mile pedestrian, hiking and bicycle trail network at the Presidio, and the revitalization of
3 Rob Hill Campground – the only overnight campground in San Francisco; and

4 WHEREAS, The revitalization of Rob Hill Campground will include a Community
5 Access Program, a joint project of the Trust, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and
6 Bay Area Wilderness Training, and will provide kids from low-income communities first-time
7 camping and national park experiences; and

8 WHEREAS, The generous Haas, Jr. Fund gift reaffirms the importance of the
9 Presidio to our local community, the region, the nation and visitors from all over the world; and

10 WHEREAS, The Haas Jr. Fund gift is intended to mobilize community affection for
11 these parks and public generosity for their long term-benefit and stewardship; and

12 WHEREAS, \$10 million of the gift is a challenge grant for the Presidio Trails and
13 Bikeways project, and Bay Area philanthropists and park supporters are urged to join with the
14 Haas, Jr. Fund in advancing the Presidio’s mission as a national park for all with gifts of any
15 amount; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That Board of Supervisors extends its deepest thanks and commends the
17 Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, for the extraordinary leadership gift to the Presidio, an
18 emerging crown jewel of the Golden Gate National Parks.