

[Sutro Tower Health and Safety Task Force]

**ESTABLISHING A SUTRO TOWER HEALTH AND SAFETY TASK FORCE TO MAKE  
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND  
SETTING FORTH THE MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE.**

WHEREAS, on October 17, 1989 at approximately 5:04 PM the Loma Prieta earthquake struck the San Francisco Bay Area and lasted 15 seconds, killing 67 people, crushing 42 lives trapped beneath the Cypress freeway, injuring 3,000 people, leaving 8,000 people temporarily homeless, destroying 1,000 houses, severely damaging 27,000 houses, and closing 140 roads; and

WHEREAS, Estimated property damage in Northern California exceeded \$6 billion and damaged to Northern California extended for 3,000 square miles, reaching from Hollister to Sonoma County; and

WHEREAS, Because the Loma Prieta earthquake was centered in the Santa Cruz Mountains, 60 miles from San Francisco, the damage was not as extensive if the earthquake had been centered in San Francisco; and.

WHEREAS, Most leading seismologist predict that within the next 30 years there will be a 70 to 80 percent probability of an occurrence a 7.0 earthquake centered in San Francisco and potentially resulting in a death toll of over 5,000 people and property damage exceeding \$100 billion; and

WHEREAS, The 977 feet Sutro Tower is the only such structure in the nation located within a densely populated urban area; and.

WHEREAS, Sutro Tower is situated within the Twin Peaks and Midtown Terrace neighborhoods and is surrounded by over 250 homes and apartment complexes, an elementary School and a hospital; and

WHEREAS, There are 149 unlicensed antennas installed on the Tower with the latest addition of a 12 ton HDTV antenna currently under construction; and

WHEREAS, The probability that these antennas might be ejected during a major earthquake poses a grave risk to residents who live within the Tower's fall zone; and

Supervisors Ammiano, Teng, Leno, Bierman

1           WHEREAS, Groves of highly combustible Eucalyptus trees circumscribe the area  
2 adjacent to Sutro Tower and may contribute to the spread of fire onto surrounding residential  
3 homes; and

4           WHEREAS, Three City owned water reservoirs are also situated under the fall zone,  
5 including Summit Reservoir, Sutro Reservoir and the Fire Department's Water Cistern off of  
6 Palo Alto Avenue; and

7           WHEREAS, The surrounding area includes Christmas Tree Point which is the  
8 site of San Francisco's Emergency Broadcast and Emergency Telecommunications  
9 receivers and transmitters; and

10           WHEREAS, Designated as an "essential facility" to be relied for emergency broadcast  
11 during a major disaster, the function of Sutro Tower may be compromised in the event of a  
12 major earthquake; and

13           WHEREAS, The dynamic analysis performed for the Sutro Tower telecommunications  
14 tower was submitted to the Department of Building Inspection on June 10, 1999, which  
15 demonstrates that the Sutro Tower must be retrofitted in at least 379 areas; and

16           WHEREAS, The retrofit is required to prevent the collapse of the tower onto  
17 the surrounding community; and

18           WHEREAS, The Structural Advisory Committee advised the Department of Building  
19 Inspection that a rigorous, on-going maintenance program be employed in order to detect  
20 corrosion and other maintenance needs of the Sutro Tower; and

21           WHEREAS, Ongoing controversy pertaining to the proposed scope, extent of,  
22 and the disclosure requirements contained within the proposed inspection report submitted by  
23 Sutro Tower Incorporated presently exists; and

24           WHEREAS, The Peer Review Committee consisting of three pre-eminent experts in  
25 their respective fields unanimously concluded that further review of the retrofit plans for the  
26 tower be Peer Reviewed to ensure the validity of the retrofit plans; and

          WHEREAS, The dynamic analysis also demonstrated that a 5 % chance exists that  
an earthquake will strike that is more powerful than the retrofit was designed to accommodate;  
therefore, let it be

1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
2 Francisco hereby creates an advisory task force which shall be called the Sutro Tower Health  
3 and Safety Task Force; and let it be

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the membership of the Task Force shall consist of 28  
5 members total of which 27 will be voting members and they shall be comprised of the following  
6 members:

- 7 • one (1) member appointed by the City Attorney from the City Attorney's Code  
8 Enforcement Task Force who shall not be a voting member of the Task Force,
- 9 • one (1) member to include the Director of the Mayor's Office of Emergency  
10 Services or his/her appointed representative,
- 11 • one (1) member to include the Zoning Administrator of the San Francisco  
12 Planning Department,
- 13 • one (1) member to include the superintendent of the San Francisco Unified School  
14 District or his/her appointed representative
- 15 • one (1) member to include the director of the Department of Building Inspection or  
16 his/her appointed representative
- 17 • one (1) member to include the director of the San Francisco Water Department or  
18 his/her appointed representative,
- 19 • one (1) member to include the Chief of the San Francisco Fire Department or  
20 his/her appointed representative,
- 21 • one (1) member to include the Director of the Department of Telecommunications  
22 and Information Services or his/her appointed representative,
- 23 • two (2) members to include delegates from UCSF's children's oncology research  
24 program
- 25 • two (2) members appointed by the Twin Peaks Improvement Association,
- two (2) members appointed by the Midtown Terrace Homeowners Association,

- 1           • one (1) member appointed by the Forest Knolls Neighbors Association,.
- 2           • one (1) member appointed by Galewood Circle Homeowner's Association,
- 3           • two (2) members appointed by Sutro Tower Incorporated, who are authorized to
- 4 represent that entity,
- 5           • three (3) members who are the three representatives from the Structural
- 6 Advisory Committee which convened March 13 and March 19, 1998
- 7           • three (3) members who comprise the Peer Review Group from who have reviewed
- 8 the Dynamic Analysis; and let it be
- 9           • one (1) member representing Sutro Tower tenants at large but who does not own or
- 10 partially own Sutro Tower; and be it
- 11           • two (2) members representing of Sutro Tower tenant but who does not own or
- 12 partially own Sutro Tower Incorporated and who further represents a television and
- 13 or radio broadcasting company that has 55% or more its prime-time programming
- 14 tailored to and targeting minority communities; and let it be

15           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Sutro Tower Health and Safety Task Force shall

16 monitor and make policy recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and draft

17 an initial progress report by February 5, 2000 to be followed by a comprehensive report within

18 six months of the formal establishment of the Task Force; and be it

19           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Sutro Tower Health and Safety Task Force should

20 address the following major areas of concerns in addition to any further issues that may arise

21 in the future:

22           A. Emergency Response and Follow Through

- 23           1. Have the various hazards posed by Sutro Tower to the City and County of San Francisco
- 24           been adequately identified ?
- 25           2. What are the hazards posed by Sutro Tower to the City and County of San
- Francisco as well as its residents ?

1 3. Is there coordination between the various City departments and community organizations  
2 to create a working emergency response program pertaining to the various hazard scenarios  
3 posed by Sutro Tower?

4 4. Has the City created a disaster plan to address the needs of the area and  
5 San Francisco in the event of Sutro Tower's collapse or failure ?

6  
7 5. Has the Water Department created contingency plans to accommodate for the  
8 potential loss of three reservoirs in the area?

9 5. Can the hazards by Sutro Tower be mitigated ? If so, how ?

10  
11 6. Can the needs of the residents be met after tower failure and if so how ?

12  
13 7. Are there ways that insurance protection can be made available in the event of  
14 dam/reservoir failure? If so how?

15 B. Fire Mitigation Efforts

16  
17 1. Are fire prevention efforts adequate to the unnecessary loss of life and  
18 property to the area in the event of Tower collapse ?

19  
20 2. How can the City assist and expedite the implementation of fire mitigation  
21 measures ?

22  
23 3. Are there ways to facilitate better coordination or review of Sutro Tower  
24 permit applications between the Fire Department, the Department of Building  
25 Inspection, the Code Enforcement Task Force, the Planning Department, and the  
Department of Public Health ?

1 4. What impact and hazards are posed by the underground fuel storage tanks?

2 5. Can these hazards be mitigated, if so how ?

3  
4 C. Telecommunications Plan

5  
6 1. What role does Sutro Tower presently play in the field of telecommunications?

7  
8 2. Is it technologically possible to reproduce the broadcasting of digital television signals from  
9 another location in the Bay Area ?

10 3. Is it technologically possible to broadcast FM radio signals from another location in the Bay  
11 Area?

12  
13 D. Potential Long Term Health Risks From Exposure To Radiation

14  
15 1. Has the City ever conducted a long term epidemiological study of the potential health  
16 effects of exposure to radio frequency radiation ?

17  
18 2. What health risks, if any, are posed by such long term exposure to radio frequency  
19 radiation?

20  
21 3. What studies, both internationally and nationally, have been conducted to  
22 address this issue ?

23 E. Seismic Safety and Structural Integrity

24 1. What are the results of the Dynamic Analysis that was submitted to the Department of  
25 Building Inspection?

- 1 2. Does the Dynamic Analysis evaluate the behavior of the structure beyond the incipient  
2 failure of the 379 members and connections to the tower?
- 3 3. Should the study be done to evaluate the effects of the incipient failures on the Sutro  
4 Tower structure?
- 5 4. Does the Dynamic Analysis take into account or factor in the condition of the metal of the  
6 tower structure in its results?
- 7 5. What is the condition of the metal on the tower and would the condition of the metal have  
8 an impact on the results of the dynamic analysis?
- 9 6. Have non-destructive testing methods been employed in ascertaining the condition of the  
10 metal on the tower?
- 11 7. Have the welds and bolts been tested at the base of the tower?
- 12 8. Have the welds and bolts been tested using non-destructive methods at places other than  
13 the base of the tower?
- 14 9. If not, why not?
- 15 10. If so, what are the results?
- 16 11. Have the results been properly reviewed by the Department of Building Inspection?

17 and let it be

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Task Force will issue a comprehensive report  
19 detailing progress in the focus areas, addressed above, six months after its formation, and be  
20 it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That after the lapse of two years year, the Board of  
22 Supervisors will determine whether to continue the Task Force for an additional period of time  
23 of whether to sunset the Task Force.

24  
25 **SUPERVISOR AMMIANO, TENG, LENO, BIERMAN, YAKI**



# City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

## Tails

### Resolution

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**File Number:** 992082

**Date Passed:**

Resolution establishing a Sutro Tower Health and Safety Task Force to make policy recommendations to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors and setting forth the membership and duties of the task force.

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November 22, 1999 Board of Supervisors — AMENDED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki, Yee

November 22, 1999 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki, Yee



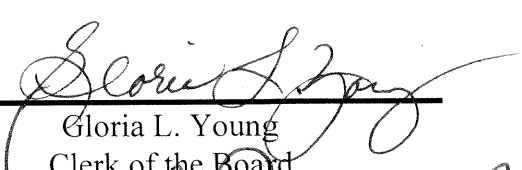
File No. 992082

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution  
was ADOPTED AS AMENDED on  
November 22, 1999 by the Board of  
Supervisors of the City and County of San  
Francisco.

DEC - 3 1999

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Date Approved

  
Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

  
Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.