

1 [Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions.]

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3 **Resolution supporting efforts to curb global warming, adopting greenhouse gas**
4 **emissions reduction goals for the City and County of San Francisco in excess of the**
5 **targeted goals of the Kyoto Protocol, and calling for continued actions towards**
6 **achieving these goals.**

7 WHEREAS, The world's leading climate scientists have documented a clear global
8 warming trend and the unmistakable impact of human activities on that trend; and

9 WHEREAS, Global warming of the magnitude now predicted by the scientific
10 community will cause extremely costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout
11 the world; and

12 WHEREAS, Climate change is the most critical threat to the sustainability of our planet
13 and the health of millions of people is at risk from smog, rising heat, increased disease, more
14 frequent extreme weather events and rising sea levels; and

15 WHEREAS, Over the next 50-100 years, sea levels around the world could rise one
16 meter; and

17 WHEREAS, To prevent flooding of the Airports in San Francisco and Oakland;
18 Treasure Island; Mission Bay Development; the Giants new ballpark; parts of Interstate 80
19 and Highway 101; railroad tracks; sewage treatment plants; marinas; and harbors would
20 require vast investments in dikes, pumping stations or other infrastructure; and

21 WHEREAS, The International Panel on Climate Change has determined that stabilizing
22 concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will require emission reductions in
23 excess of 60% of current emissions, and the Kyoto Protocol is a modest first step in the
24 direction of those reductions;

25 WHEREAS, Achieving greenhouse gas emission reductions required to protect the
climate is of overriding importance not just to the community of nations but to the City and
County of San Francisco, which relies heavily on the stability of the climate for our water and
power supplies; and

1 WHEREAS, President George H. W. Bush signed the United Nations Framework
2 Convention on Climate Change in 1992, which includes the commitment on the part of the
3 United States to seek the "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere
4 at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system;"
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The current administration in Washington, D.C. has demonstrated an
7 alarming unwillingness to play a leadership role in climate protection; and

8 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush rejected the Kyoto Protocol on global warming
9 outright, while in Bonn 178 countries, not including the United States, reached agreement on
10 the Kyoto Protocol in July, 2001, and

11 WHEREAS, Local actions can help to pave the way for national leadership, by
12 providing working models of greenhouse gas reduction initiatives that reinforce other high-
13 priority policy objectives; and

14 WHEREAS, Over 370 cities across the United States and around the world are
15 inventorying greenhouse gas emissions and adopting reduction targets as part of the
16 International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives' Cities for Climate Protection program;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, 16 cities from around the world have agreed in the Toronto Declaration to
19 send a communiqué to the Conference of the Parties meeting in Morocco in November 2001
20 declaring their intention to achieve much higher levels of greenhouse gas reduction than
21 those called for in the Kyoto Protocol; and

22 WHEREAS, Many of the critical components of a local action plan for climate protection
23 are already in place or under development in the City and County of San Francisco, including
24 the Green Building Program, the Resource Conservation Ordinance, the Environmentally
25 Preferable Purchasing Program, the Clean Air Program, the Urban Forestry Council, the
Sustainability Plan, and others; and

 WHEREAS, Greenhouse gas reduction activities contribute substantially to the
achievement of many of the City's highest priority goals, including but not limited to: energy
security and cost reduction; affordable housing; mobility and, transportation choices; solid

1 waste reduction and recycling; reliable, affordable water supply; urban and rural forest
2 protection; sustainable economic development; and clean air; and

3 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco's existing energy, solid waste, and
4 transportation and air quality initiatives – all designed and implemented to meet established
5 City priorities – are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while delivering tangible
6 local economic and environmental benefits; and

7 WHEREAS, On a municipal level, reducing greenhouse gas emissions to the target
8 established by the Kyoto Protocol or beyond would demonstrate that the goals of the
9 international treaty are realistic and can be met; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
11 establishes the long-range goal of reducing San Francisco's greenhouse gas emissions; and,
12 be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
14 Francisco directs the Department of the Environment as lead agency, to work with the Public
15 Utilities Commission, and other appropriate City agencies to complete and coordinate the
16 analysis and planning of a Local Action Plan targeting greenhouse gas emission reduction
17 activities, so that:

18 a. By April 30, 2002, these agencies will complete and deliver an inventory of 1990 and 2000
19 greenhouse gas emissions, including as a first step, defining the scope of activities and
20 geographic boundaries to be included in the inventory. The completed inventory should
21 include:

- 22 i. an accounting of greenhouse gas emissions associated with City activities for the
23 baseline years
- 24 ii. an accounting of greenhouse gas emissions within the City and County of San
25 Francisco, but not associated with City operations;
- 26 iii. a projection of future emissions through the year 2012.

27 b. By June 30, 2002, these agencies will present to the Board of Supervisors a proposed
28 plan for the City's role in achieving a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 20%
29 below 1990 levels by the year 2012. The Plan will also present other scenarios, such as one

1 describing what actions would be necessary to reverse global warming, according to the
2 United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) . The plan should include
3 but not be limited to:

- 4 i. reductions, the approximate costs and benefits of those alternatives, and the estimated
5 time and resources required to implement them;
- 6 ii. recommended combinations of measures to meet an emission reduction target of 20%
7 below 1990 levels by 2012, and United Nations IPCC set scientific targets above this target
8 that would constitute a proper scientific response to the global warming crisis;
- 9 iii. an assessment of which of those alternatives require actions that lie outside the City's
10 control and what the City can do to influence those responsible for such actions;
- 11 iv. an assessment of the time and resources required for continuing coordination of the plan
12 and to assure its successful implementation; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
14 Francisco do actively support the Kyoto Protocol, and call upon national leaders to do so as
15 well; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
17 Francisco join the cities that have signed the Toronto Declaration in calling for strong national
18 leadership and pledging to promote cooperation toward the ultimate goal of stabilizing
19 greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mayor and Board of Supervisors of the City and
21 County of San Francisco commit to continue to achieve steady progress in reducing
22 greenhouse gas emissions throughout the period covered by the Kyoto Protocol and beyond.

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