

1 [Affirm certification of New M.H. de Young Museum EIR]

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Motion affirming the certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report for the New M.H. de Young Museum Development Project located at 75 Tea Garden Drive by the Planning Commission.

WHEREAS, The New M.H. de Young Museum (the "Project") is proposed to be constructed at the museum's existing site at 75 Tea Garden Drive in the Music Concourse of Golden Gate Park, Lot 1 in Assessor's Block 1700, after demolition of the eight existing buildings comprising the M.H. de Young Museum and the Asian Art Museum and relocation of the Asian Art Museum to its new facility in the City's Civic Center; and,

WHEREAS, The Corporation of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco submitted its application for environmental review of the proposed New de Young Museum on July 12, 1999 (City Planning File No. 1999.455E); and

WHEREAS, The Planning Department for the City and County of San Francisco (the "Department") determined that an Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") was required and provided public notice of that determination by publication in a newspaper of general circulation on May 6, 2000; and

WHEREAS, On July 22, 2000, the Department published the Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR") for the Project; and

WHEREAS, On August 24, 2000, the Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on the DEIR, at which time opportunity for public comment was received on the DEIR, and written comments were received through August 24, 2000; and

1 WHEREAS, The Department prepared responses to comments received at the public
2 hearing on the DEIR and submitted in writing to the Department, prepared revisions to the text
3 of the DEIR and published a Draft Summary of Comments and Responses on November 22,
4 2000; and

5 WHEREAS, A Final Environmental Impact Report ("FEIR") for the Project was
6 prepared by the Department, consisting of the DEIR, any consultations and comments
7 received during the review process, any additional information that became available and the
8 Draft Summary of Comments and Responses, all as required by law; and

9 WHEREAS, On December 7, 2000, the Commission reviewed and considered the
10 FEIR and, by Motion No. 16039, found that the contents of said report and the procedures
11 through which the FEIR was prepared, publicized and reviewed complied with the provisions
12 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines and
13 Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code; and

14 WHEREAS, By Motion No. 16039, the Commission found the FEIR to be adequate,
15 accurate and objective, reflected the independent judgment and analysis of the Department
16 and the Commission and that the Summary of Comments and Responses contained no
17 significant revisions to the DEIR, adopted findings relating to significant impacts associated
18 with the Project and certified the completion of the FEIR in compliance with CEQA and the
19 State CEQA Guidelines; and

20 WHEREAS, A challenge to the FEIR and the process by which the FEIR was certified
21 was brought and the San Francisco Superior Court issued a Writ of Mandamus on August 2,
22 2001 requiring the Board of Supervisors to hear an appeal of the FEIR in compliance with
23 CEQA; and

24 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on August 20, 2001 to
25 review the decision by the Planning Commission to certify the FEIR; and

1 WHEREAS, the FEIR files and other Project-related Department files have been
2 available for review by this Board of Supervisors and the public, and those files are part of the
3 record before this Board of Supervisors; and

4 WHEREAS, this Board has reviewed and considered the FEIR and heard testimony
5 and received public comment regarding the adequacy of the FEIR; now, therefore, be it

6 MOVED, That this Board of Supervisors hereby affirms the decision of the Planning
7 Commission to certify the FEIR and finds the FEIR to be complete, adequate and objective
8 and reflecting the independent judgment of the City and in compliance with CEQA and the
9 State CEQA Guidelines.

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