

1 [Urging a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel-Free Future for California]

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3 **Resolution urging Governor Newsom and the California State Legislature to**
4 **discontinue permitting for any new oil and gas extraction, fossil fuel infrastructure, or**
5 **petrochemical projects in California; and urging Governor Newsom to set California on**
6 **a path to phase out existing oil production in line with the Paris climate goals, with a**
7 **just and equitable transition that protects workers, communities, and economies, and**
8 **require a 2,500-foot health and safety buffer between fossil-fuel infrastructure and**
9 **homes, schools, and other sensitive sites.**

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11 WHEREAS, In December 2015, world governments signed onto the Paris Agreement,
12 which entered into force on November 4th, 2016, and set an international goal to limit the
13 global average temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and to strive to limit it to 1.5
14 degrees Celsius, in order to avert global climate catastrophe and incalculable losses of human
15 life, capital, and property; and

16 WHEREAS, On April 2nd, 2019 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted a
17 resolution declaring a climate emergency in San Francisco and requesting immediate and
18 accelerated action to address the climate crisis and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees
19 Celsius, on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 190222, which is hereby
20 declared to be a part of this resolution as if set forth fully herein; and

21 WHEREAS, Without large-scale policy intervention, existing fossil fuel production will
22 push us far past 2 degrees of warming, into a world which will displace more than a billion
23 humans and likely result in food insecurity worldwide; and

1 WHEREAS, Continued extraction of the reserves in currently operating oil and gas
2 fields alone would take the world beyond 1.5°C of warming and exacerbate ongoing climate
3 catastrophe; and

4 WHEREAS, California extracts 250 billion cubic feet of natural gas per year and is the
5 nation’s seventh-largest oil-producing state, producing about 200 million barrels of oil per year
6 accounting for 8% of all oil extraction in the United States, and California is estimated to
7 contain nearly one-half of the country’s heavy oil; and

8 WHEREAS, California cannot be a true climate leader without addressing the dirty oil
9 and gas production within our borders; and

10 WHEREAS, California’s oil and gas industry directly employs over 150,000 workers
11 statewide, and indirectly supports more than 200,000 additional jobs, and workers will require
12 a full set of Just Transition policies to support them as the industry contracts, including job
13 retraining opportunities; and

14 WHEREAS, There is ample opportunity to create new, green jobs as part of the
15 necessary transition away from fossil fuels, with the potential for 725,000 jobs generated per
16 year with a public initiative to lower the state’s CO2 emissions by 45 percent by 2030; and

17 WHEREAS, California’s dirty oil and gas production not only fuels climate change but
18 also releases pollutants to the air, water, and soil that endanger surrounding communities;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Harmful pollutants emitted by oil and gas production include known
21 cancer-causing chemicals like benzene, formaldehyde, and cadmium; smog-forming
22 chemicals like nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, and methane; and particulate
23 matter including diesel exhaust and silica dust that cause lung and heart problems; and

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1 WHEREAS, Research has found that people living near drilling sites have a higher risk
2 for developing cancer, increased asthma attacks, higher hospitalization rates, and more upper
3 respiratory problems and rashes; and

4 WHEREAS, A recent study published by the National Institutes of Health found that
5 living near oil and gas wells caused significant adverse health effects to pregnant mothers
6 individuals and newborn babies; and

7 WHEREAS, New research shows living near oil and gas development in California is a
8 risk factor for preterm birth, the leading cause of infant death in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, As California continues to contend with the COVID-19 pandemic, recent
10 research by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health shows that exposure to air
11 pollution, such as that created by oil and gas extraction, leads to a large increase in the
12 COVID-19 death rate; and

13 WHEREAS, New analysis of oil and gas development in California shows that, already,
14 approximately 5.4 million people, or 14 percent of the state’s population, live within a mile of
15 one, or more, of more than 84,000 existing oil and gas wells; and

16 WHEREAS, More than a third of these people also live in areas most burdened by
17 environmental pollution as identified by California EPA’s tool, CalEnviroScreen 2.0; and

18 WHEREAS, 92% of the 1.8 million Californians living near oil and gas development in
19 areas already burdened by environmental pollution are people of color; and

20 WHEREAS, Therefore, fossil fuel extraction is a form of environmental racism that
21 exacerbates existing disparities in health outcomes for Black, Indigenous, and other people of
22 color; and

23 WHEREAS, The 2020 Policy Platform of The Movement for Black Lives calls for an
24 immediate halt to permits for all energy and petrochemical infrastructure building as part of
25 any declaration of a state of emergency, and the Vision for Black Lives includes divestment

1 from industrial multinational use of fossil fuels and investments in community based
2 sustainable energy solutions as a core policy demand; and

3 WHEREAS, Recent studies show the significant water footprint of hydraulic fracking, a
4 grave concern for a state with high risk of drought and where careful water management is
5 essential, with shale-gas wells using up to 6.27 million gallons of water per well, while shale-
6 oil wells use up 2 million gallons of water per well; and

7 WHEREAS, Another study found huge increases in both water use and wastewater at
8 fracking sites in the years spanning 2011 to 2016, with water use per well rising by up to 770
9 percent while wastewater volumes increased by a high of 1,440 percent within one year one
10 of production; and

11 WHEREAS, Recent polling shows that Californians overwhelmingly want more action
12 from their elected officials to protect them from the negative health impacts of oil operations;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, 79% of Californians support a 2,500-foot safety buffer zone around oil
15 operations; and

16 WHEREAS, Californians support funding for community colleges and universities to
17 offer programs to retrain oil and gas workers for renewable energy jobs by a 75-25 margin;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Californians support a Just Transition policy, defined as a policy to
20 transition people in the oil industry to clean energy jobs with family-sustaining wages and
21 benefits, by a 2-1 margin; and

22 WHEREAS, Youth activists in particular have been involved over the last year in
23 protesting Governor Newsom's policy reversals on approving new fossil fuel permits,
24 continued CalSTRS investment in the fossil fuel industry, and the general lack of transparency
25 and accountability around serious climate action at the state level in California; and

1 WHEREAS, The Last Chance Alliance, an alliance of more than 750 public health,
2 environmental justice, climate, and labor organizations, has united to urge Governor Gavin
3 Newsom to stop new fossil fuel permits, phase out existing oil drilling, and roll out health and
4 safety buffers; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges Governor Gavin
6 Newsom to discontinue permitting for any new oil and gas extraction, fossil fuel infrastructure,
7 or petrochemical projects in California; and urges the California State Legislature to enact
8 legislation prohibiting new permits for oil and gas extraction in California; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges Governor
10 Gavin Newsom to set California on a path to phase out existing oil production in line with the
11 Paris climate goals, with a just and equitable transition that protects workers, communities,
12 and economies, especially frontline Black, Indigenous, and other communities; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges Governor
14 Gavin Newsom to establish requirements for a 2,500-foot health and safety buffer between
15 existing fossil-fuel infrastructure and homes, schools, and other sensitive sites; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs
17 the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies to the Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom and to
18 San Francisco’s representatives in the State Legislature with a request to take all action
19 necessary to achieve the objectives of this Resolution.

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