

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - California Masonic Memorial Temple]

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3 **Resolution initiating landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**  
4 **the California Masonic Memorial Temple, located at 1111-1171 California Street,**  
5 **Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 0253, Lot No. 020.**

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7 WHEREAS, Under Planning Code, Section 1004.1, the Board of Supervisors may by  
8 Resolution initiate landmark designations; and

9 WHEREAS, Planning Code, Section 1004.2(b), requires the Historic Preservation  
10 Commission to respond to historic district or individual landmark designations initiated by the  
11 Board of Supervisors within 90 days, and authorizes the Board, by Resolution, to extend the  
12 time within which the Historic Preservation Commission is to render its decision; and

13 WHEREAS, The California Masonic Memorial Temple, located at 1111-1171 California  
14 Street, Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 0253, Lot No. 020, was constructed in 1958 in the Nob  
15 Hill neighborhood; and

16 WHEREAS, The property is an excellent example of “Miesian” International Style  
17 architecture designed by San Francisco architect of merit Albert F. Roller with artwork created  
18 by Emile Norman; and

19 WHEREAS, The property exhibits extant “Miesian” International Style features,  
20 including its horizontal box shaped form with a rounded partial third story, and gradations of  
21 façade components from heavy to light, curtain walls of Vermont marble slabs in a repeating  
22 pattern on the same plane, for a taut, seamless façade that appears sleek and slippery,  
23 floating stair slabs accessing a plaza sheltered by a horizontal overhang supported by pilotis,  
24 absence of historically derived applied ornament, and endomosaic interior window and bas-

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1 relief frieze at the facade created by gay artists Emile Norman and partner Brooks Clement;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, In 2011, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the  
4 San Francisco Modern Architecture and Landscape Design 1935-1970 Historic Context  
5 Statement, which includes a framework for consistent, informed evaluations of San  
6 Francisco's Modern design buildings and landscapes; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2023, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the  
8 Architecture, Planning, & Preservation Professionals: A Collection of Biographies Historic  
9 Context Statement, which includes an evaluative framework to provide standards for  
10 consistent, informed evaluations of the city's various architecture professionals, including  
11 architect of merit Albert F. Roller; and

12 WHEREAS, Through its extant character defining features and applying the  
13 documentation presented in Architecture, Planning, & Preservation Professionals: A  
14 Collection of Biographies, the property can be considered as an individually eligible historic  
15 resource based on its year built, extant character-defining features, architect of merit, and  
16 sufficient integrity; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of the  
18 California Masonic Memorial Temple under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a  
20 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its  
21 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of  
22 the California Masonic Memorial Temple; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic  
24 Preservation Commission consider whether the California Masonic Memorial Temple warrants  
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1 landmark designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of  
2 the Planning Code.

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