

1 [Resolution urging San Franciscans to avoid burning wood in fireplaces and wood-burning
2 stoves during the winter months and to comply with the Bay Area Air Quality Management
3 District’s advisories to “Spare the Air Tonight” in instances where the air quality is especially
4 vulnerable to pollutants from burning wood.]

5 **Resolution urging the residents of the City and County of San Francisco to eliminate or**
6 **reduce wood burning in residential fireplaces and wood burning stoves as a way to**
7 **reduce toxic air pollution during the winter months.**

8 WHEREAS, Wood that is burned in fireplaces and wood-burning stoves it is not an
9 efficient combustion process and produces many harmful air pollutants that have been found
10 to cause serious threats to human health; and

11 WHEREAS, These toxic pollutants include: carbon monoxide (CO) that reduces the
12 blood’s ability to supply oxygen to body tissues; oxides of nitrogen (NO2) which impair proper
13 functioning of the respiratory system and its ability to fight infection as well as being a
14 precursor to acid rain and acid fog; volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that form irritating,
15 toxic and/or cancer-causing substances such as benzene, formaldehyde and benzo-a-pyrene;
16 and inhalable particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) that remain airborne for weeks and when
17 inhaled stay deep in the lungs, causing irritation and coughing as well as chronic lung
18 diseases and cancer; and

19 WHEREAS, PM2.5 is most concentrated at night and during the early morning hours
20 when the chilled dense air is still and the pollutants from wood burning the night before are
21 trapped near the earth’s surface; and

22 WHEREAS, US EPA studies show that pollution from burning wood can seep into
23 homes and offices and pollutant levels can be 70% higher indoors than outdoors; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is starting their
2 first ever wintertime Spare the Air campaign focusing specifically on reducing wood smoke
3 and monitoring air quality for PM2.5; and

4 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has adopted a new building
5 ordinance that requires that new installation of fireplaces and wood burning appliances meet
6 strict EPA standards for emissions¹; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, The Mayor and Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
8 Francisco support the Bay Area Air Quality Management District’s wintertime Spare the Air
9 Tonight program aimed at reducing wood burning in residences and businesses; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mayor and Board of Supervisors of the City and
11 County of San Francisco urge all San Franciscans to eliminate or reduce wood burning in
12 fireplaces and wood burning stoves; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mayor and Board of Supervisors of the City and
14 County of San Francisco direct the Department of the Environment to work collaboratively
15 with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to alert San Francisco residents about
16 Spare the Air Tonight warnings that will be issued by the Air District as a preventative
17 measure to avoid poor air quality.

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¹ Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Building Code, Section 3102.8.