

1 [Commendation.]
2

3 **Resolution commending Oscar Olivera and La Coordinadora for their successful**
4 **efforts to combat water privatization in Bolivia.**
5

6 WHEREAS, Privatization of water in the City of Cochabamba, Bolivia led to rate
7 increases of as much as 300% by Aguas del Tunari, a Bolivian subsidiary of Bechtel
8 Corporation, impacting some of South America's poorest people; and

9 WHEREAS, The law that privatized the water system forced families who had built
10 wells or irrigation systems decades earlier to pay Bechtel for the right to use their water; and,

11 WHEREAS, Many of the citizens of Cochabamba suddenly found themselves unable
12 to afford water for drinking or irrigation; and,

13 WHEREAS, Oscar Olivera, executive secretary of the Cochabamba Federation of
14 Factory Workers helped form the Coalition in Defense of Water and Life (La Coordinadora), a
15 new alliance of peasants, professionals, human rights, labor and community leaders who
16 came together to demand reform of the water system; and,

17 WHEREAS, The Bolivian government refused to release the terms of the water
18 contract, and Olivera and La Coordinadora led street protests that shut down the City for
19 days, calling for public control of the water system; and,

20 WHEREAS, An emergency session of the Bolivian Congress in April 2000 was called
21 to cancel the contract with Bechtel, and water was de-privatized and returned to local control;
22 and,

23 WHEREAS, San Franciscans joined in international solidarity by sending e-mails and
24 letters to Bechtel demanding its departure from Bolivia; and,
25

1 WHEREAS, Oscar Olivera continues to head La Coordinadora's work to develop a
2 water system with local, public control; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors commends Oscar Olivera
4 and La Coordinadora for their bravery, leadership and humanitarianism.

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City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails Resolution

File Number: 010747

Date Passed:

Resolution commending Oscar Olivera and La Coordinadora for their successful efforts to combat water privatization in Bolivia.

April 30, 2001 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick,
Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval

Absent: 1 - Yee

File No. 010747

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on April 30, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

MAY 11 2001

Date Approved

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.