

1 [DIOXIN]

2 ESTABLISHING DIOXIN POLLUTION AS A HIGH PRIORITY FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR THE CITY
3 AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO IN ORDER TO RESTORE WATER, AIR AND TOTAL ENVIRONMENT
4 QUALITY

5 WHEREAS, The term dioxin represents the group of chemicals that includes furan and biphenyl compounds; and,

6 WHEREAS, Dioxin is a toxic waste byproduct that occurs when chlorinated waste is burned and when other
7 organic chemicals that contain chlorine are manufactured and which in itself has no commercial or industrial use; and,

8 WHEREAS, Dioxin is dangerous to humans and is a human carcinogen and reproductive toxicant; and,

9 WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates the lifetime risk of contracting cancer
10 from dioxin exposure is generally above accepted safe levels; and,

11 WHEREAS, Dioxin exposure has been linked in some reports to endometriosis, immune system impairment,
12 diabetes, neurotoxicity, birth defects, decreased fertility, testicular atrophy, and reproductive dysfunction in both men and
13 women; and,

14 WHEREAS, Dioxin exposure is significant and universal ; more than 90 percent of human exposure to dioxin
15 occurs through diet and every person in the world now carries a "body burden" of dioxin; and,

16 WHEREAS, Americans ingest a daily amount of dioxin that already is substantially higher than EPA "safe dose"
17 levels and the EPA estimates that eating just one-quarter pound of San Francisco Bay fish daily causes cancer risks that are
18 10 to 100 times greater than those generally considered to be acceptable in California; and,

19 WHEREAS, San Francisco residents who consume fish from the Bay are at additional risk since dioxin
20 contamination in fish reaches health advisory levels through the San Francisco Bay; and,

21 WHEREAS, Respected expert associations and agencies, including the California Medical Association, the
22 American Public Health Association, the Chicago Medical Society and the International Joint Commission , comprised of
23 the governments of Canada and U.S., have agreed upon the need to reduce or eliminate dioxin in the environment; and,

24 WHEREAS, Dioxin has been detected in at least 27 measurements of treated waste water discharged from
25 pollution sources in the Bay Area; and,

1 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board has resolved that dioxin is a high
2 priority for immediate action to restore water quality and protect public health; and,

3 WHEREAS, primary sources of dioxin include medical and hazardous waste incineration, the production of
4 polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastics, biomass combustion, pesticide manufacturing, paper production, oil refineries, metal
5 recovery furnaces, chemical drum recovery furnaces, foundries, cement kilns, coke-fired electric power generation, and
6 fires in electrical and industrial equipment containing PCBs; and

7 WHEREAS, The healthcare industry is one of the largest consumers of products that create dioxin in the United
8 States. Bay Area and out of state public health care institutions generate significant amounts of medical waste that threaten
9 or harm public health, fishing, and aquatic life through out the San Francisco Bay; and,

10 WHEREAS, A strategy that eliminates the production of dioxin is the only viable course in protecting public health
11 because once dioxin is produced, it is very difficult to destroy or degrade; and,

12 WHEREAS, Adverse health effects from dioxin exposure can be reduced through purchasing decisions that reduce
13 or eliminate products that produce dioxin (such as PVC-free plastic chlorine free paper); and alternatively, less toxic options
14 exist for many products that create dioxins; and,

15 WHEREAS, Pollution prevention is recognized as the most effective waste management strategy and dioxin
16 production has been eliminated at the source by preventing chlorine inputs to dioxin-forming reactions in the paper industry
17 and other industries; and,

18 WHEREAS, Careful waste segregation has been proven to dramatically reduce the medical waste requiring
19 incineration and cost-effective technologies, which are alternatives to incineration, exist for almost all of the waste that
20 requires special handling; and,

21 WHEREAS, Dioxin is a threat to public and the environment, zero exposure is the only strategy that truly protects
22 public health , local dioxin contamination has a disproportionate impact on low-income and minority communities; and
23 dioxin exposure affects all resident of San Francisco and the Bay area; now, therefore, be it:

24 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco intends by this resolution to encourage the elimination of
25 dioxin pollution; and be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco designates dioxin pollution as a high priority
2 for immediate action to restore water, air and total environment quality and protect public health; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco directs the San Francisco Public Utilities
4 Commission to exercise its full power and jurisdiction to phase out dioxin at its sources; and be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco will work with other local governments to
6 convene a regional task force to identify the sources of regional dioxin pollution , including sources from all municipal
7 practices; this task force would also develop dioxin pollution prevention strategies along with any associated cost
8 implications, and make any further recommendations to implement the intent of this resolution; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco intends to implement dioxin pollution
10 prevention practices as recommended by the regional task force in all waste management and recycling programs by City
11 and County departments, and encourage such pollution prevention practices in all hospitals and businesses that operate in
12 the City and County of San Francisco; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco assess its current purchasing practices and
14 encourage that less-toxic, non-chlorinated products and processes, such as chlorine-free paper and PVC-free plastics are
15 supported and used by the City and County of San Francisco to the extent possible as recommended by the regional task
16 force; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Public Health educate people who live and work in San
18 Francisco , and others as appropriate about the health and environmental effects of dioxin; and be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges San Francisco health care institutions to
20 reduce PVC use and eventually become PVC-free where appropriate alternative products composed of non-chlorinated
21 materials are available and where any substitution for a PVC product must provide a less toxic alternative with concern for
22 the full public health implications of the replacement, including infectious considerations; and be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City and County of San Francisco is committed to eliminate no workers jobs and
24 therefore will pursue dioxin elimination practices that do not cause workers to become unemployed; and be it
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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the Mayors Office of Community
2 Development to assist small business in obtaining any needed financial and technical assistance for the elimination of
3 dioxin, provided that the company will remain in San Francisco and will eliminate no workers' jobs; and be it ,

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco send a letter to all San Francisco-based health
5 care institutions encouraging them to reduce, and where possible eliminate, the use of products and procedures that are
6 found to be sources of dioxin by the regional task force; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco send a letter to the City of Oakland to support
8 the elimination of dioxin pollution and to notify the City of Oakland that the City and County of San Francisco has
9 designated dioxin pollution as a high priority for immediate action to restore water, air and total environment quality to the
10 region and protect public health; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco send a letter to the Bay Area Air Quality
12 Management District (BAAQMD) to protect the quality of air from degradation and to urge the BAAQMD to eliminate
13 dioxin pollution into the air; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco send a letter to encourage the Regional Water
15 Quality Board to exercise its full power and jurisdiction as intended by the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act and the
16 federal Clean Water Act, to protect the quality of water from degradation and to implement a plan to phase out dioxin
17 discharges at its sources; and be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco send a letter to the U.S. Environmental
19 Protection Agency to support its proposal to require community right-to-know reporting of dioxin releases, and the
20 Environmental Protection Agency's proposals to make dioxin pollution of the San Francisco Bay a high priority under the
21 U.S. Clean Water Act and the U.S. Clean Air Act and to urge the EPA to require reporting of dioxin emitters at any and all
22 levels.



City and County of San Francisco

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

Tails

Resolution

File Number: 981989

Date Passed:

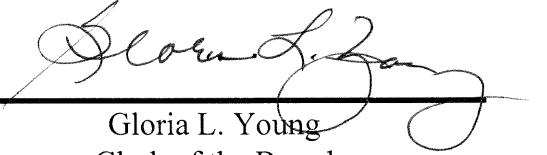
Resolution establishing dioxin as a high priority for immediate action for the City and County of San Francisco in order to restore water, air and total environment quality.

March 22, 1999 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki, Yee

File No. 981989

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on March 22, 1999 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

APR - 2 1999

Date Approved



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.

File No. 981989 continued...

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To correct Line 23 following the words "must represent" by replacing "non-profit organizations that contract with the City" with the words "organized labor".



Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board
June 14, 1999