

1 [Supporting Report of Declining Fossil Fuel Supplies]

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3 **Resolution in support of the measures and actions to mitigate the effects of declining**
4 **fossil fuel supplies recommended in the report of the San Francisco Peak Oil**
5 **Preparedness Task Force.**
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7 WHEREAS, Worldwide production of oil, and natural gas is near or past its point of
8 maximum output (known as “Peak Oil”) and will enter a prolonged period of irreversible
9 decline of available supply leading to ever-increasing prices; and

10 WHEREAS, Global demand for oil and natural gas continues to increase and
11 substitutes for oil and natural gas are highly unlikely to become available in sufficient
12 quantities quickly enough to replace the shortfall; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the latest edition of the World Energy Outlook released by
14 the International Energy Agency in November of 2010, the global production of crude oil from
15 existing oil fields likely already peaked in 2006; and

16 WHEREAS, In the United States, domestic production of oil and natural gas has
17 peaked resulting in our continued dependence on fuels imported from politically unstable
18 regions; and

19 WHEREAS, San Francisco and its inhabitants are reliant on fossil fuel energy: 84% of
20 the energy consumed in San Francisco comes from oil and natural gas. As production of oil
21 and natural gas begin to decline, San Francisco will face a painful adjustment unless it
22 prepares in advance; and

23 WHEREAS, The most important impacts of “Peak Oil” on San Francisco will be:
24 fluctuations in energy prices; rising food prices; possible food shortages; damage to the
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1 overall local economy; spreading poverty; increasing cost of travel and freight particularly air
2 travel; declining city government revenue; and lower level of economic activity; and

3 WHEREAS, Governmental intervention will be required to facilitate the transition from
4 reliance on oil and natural gas and several decades of lead time are required for effective
5 mitigation and transition, so it is prudent and beneficial to begin preparations now; and

6 WHEREAS, The challenges of reducing our overall reliance on energy from fossil fuels
7 and finding new sources of energy are so enormous that they will require an array of adaptive
8 strategies at every level of government; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors thanks the members of the Peak Oil
10 Preparedness Task Force for their work; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges City departments to
12 include one or more Peak Oil scenarios in their plans and forecasts, including in the
13 Countywide Transportation, San Francisco's Economic Development Plan, the capital plans
14 of City agencies, and other official plans of the City to ensure that the strategies, policies,
15 programs, and investments undertaken by City agencies will provide the greatest possible
16 future resilience; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges all City departments and
18 agencies to report to the Board on legislative impediments to their implementation of
19 measures in the Task Force report; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports prioritizing
21 implementation of the following recommendations of the Peak Oil Preparedness Task Force:

22 3.4.1 Implement Community Choice Aggregation.

23 3.4.2 Contract an independent city-wide energy waste audit.

24 3.4.3 Produce an updated Electricity Resource Plan.

25 3.4.4 Develop smart grid technology.

1 3.4.5 Advance a Green Jobs workforce development program.

2 3.4.6 Continue the process of implementing feed-in tariffs.

3 3.4.7 Develop a better working relationship with PG&E to administer state (CPUC)
4 energy efficiency funds in an effective way that is consistent with City goals.

5 3.4.8 Seek ways to maximize the City's influence on primary energy resource decision-
6 making.

7 4.4.4 Expand and enforce the City's own policy of sourcing locally for City purchases.

8 4.4.5 Resume development of a project to make high-speed Internet available to all
9 residents throughout the city.

10 4.4.6 Establish local venture capital and micro-lending funds.

11 4.4.7 Revise the City's business tax to be assessed on gross receipts as it used to be,
12 and to be progressive, with an exemption for the smallest businesses.

13 4.4.8 Look for new revenue sources for City government to fund the transition despite
14 declining revenues from current sources: Carbon tax, progressive business tax, demand-
15 sensitive parking fees, city vehicle tax, gasoline tax based on price floor, and borrowing
16 against future savings.

17 5.4.1 Implement a "Buy Local First" food purchasing policy as a way of bolstering
18 regional food production. Public institutions should seek to purchase regionally grown food
19 whenever possible.

20 5.4.3 Undertake a comprehensive evaluation of public parklands, San Francisco
21 Department of Public Works (SFDPW) rights-of-way, and SFPUC, Port Authority, and San
22 Francisco Housing Authority (SFHA) properties to determine what vacant parcels can be used
23 for food cultivation. The Recreation and Park Department should study what portions of
24 parklands and golf courses could be transitioned from recreational to food production uses.

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1 5.4.4 Investigate offering private property owners property tax rebates or water bill
2 rebates for transitioning vacant or underutilized land to food production.

3 5.4.6 Investigate instituting a tax on fast food sales to pay for local food production and
4 education programs.

5 5.4.7 Create a materials depot (or multiple depots) where residents can access (at
6 reduced cost, depending upon income) essential materials such as organic compost, and
7 possibly seeds, vegetable starts, hand tools, and irrigation equipment.

8 6.4.3 Use smart land-use planning to minimize pressure on the city's transportation
9 system.

10 6.4.5 Continue to explore ways to promote telecommuting.

11 6.4.9 Prohibit the use of green space for parking.

12 6.4.10 Expand and promote car-sharing and specifically explore messaging and
13 education strategies that encourage San Franciscans to give up car ownership, relying
14 instead on occasional use of a shared vehicle.

15 6.4.11 Implement the bicycle plan without delay.

16 6.4.12 Prioritize the repair of potholes that are in bicycle lanes.

17 6.4.13 Explore installation of bicycle lockers throughout the city, potentially as part of a
18 bicycle locker membership program.

19 6.4.14 Investigate the feasibility of expanding freight operations on the waterfront,
20 particularly on Piers 70 through 96.

21 7.4.1 Review both the possibility of Raker Act and/or PG&E contract amendments to
22 secure a more sustainable year-round generation of Hetch Hetchy power for San Francisco
23 municipal government agencies and departments.

24 8.4.1 Accelerate the timeline for on-site generation of sustainable power.
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1 9.4.3 In keeping with its policy of moving toward local sustainability, San Francisco
2 should identify alternative composting sites, either within city limits with a neighborhood focus,
3 or significantly closer than the current Solano site.

4 9.4.4 Studies should be undertaken to evaluate the potential for local product
5 manufacturing, utilizing the supplies of recycled materials locally generated.

6 10.4.1 The Department of Emergency Services should investigate the feasibility of
7 replacing all backup diesel generators with hydrogen fuel cell or other non-fossil fuel systems.

8 10.4.2 The San Francisco Fire Department should encourage manufacturers to
9 develop alternative fuel vehicles meeting all fire department specifications.

10 11.4.7 Work with local and state agencies to enact a feed-in tariff system to encourage
11 the installation of distributed renewable generation facilities.

12 13.4.6 Examine models for community, such as Transition Towns, to determine which
13 aspects can be adapted to this city and the metro area. Support the efforts of districts and
14 neighborhoods that create Transition initiatives.

15 13.4.7 Support the creation of neighborhood governance (Advisory Neighborhood
16 Commissions, Neighborhood Planning Councils).

17 13.4.9 Promote the use of neighborhood centers, schools and libraries, to meet,
18 organize, and share resources; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports prioritizing the intent
20 of the following recommendations of the Peak Oil Preparedness Task Force, which have
21 been restated as follows:

22 4.4.1 Urges the Controller's Office and other departments to consider rising energy
23 prices when evaluating potential policies and legislation.

24 4.4.2 Urges the Office of Economic and Workforce Development to revise the
25 Economic Strategy Report in light of increasing fossil fuel prices.

1 5.4.5 Explore expanding funding for food production education programs and urge the
2 San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to work other City agencies to coordinate
3 citywide horticultural trainings.

4 5.4.8 Urges the Department of Public Works (DPW) to clarify its regulations regarding
5 street tree planting and actively encourage residents to plant productive fruit and nut trees.
6 DPW should also actively encourage residents to remove sidewalk concrete (while
7 maintaining Americans with Disabilities Act corridors) and plant street-side gardens.

8 5.4.11 Urges the Department of the Environment to investigate the potential of
9 innovative technologies such as water catchments systems, gray water systems, vertical
10 farming, and local aquaculture to boost local food production.

11 6.4.16 Urges all City departments engaged in transportation modeling to consider
12 Peak Oil and Gas assumptions in fuel price forecasts, rather than only projections based on
13 historical price trends.

14 6.4.17 Take the lead in establishing a working group of city, regional and state level
15 decision-makers to collectively strategize on how to achieve Peak Oil & Gas preparedness
16 beyond the boundaries of San Francisco.

17 8.4.2 Urges the Public Utilities Commission to continue to explore a local fats, oil,
18 grease (FOG) program to produce biodiesel.

19 11.4.1 Urges City departments to develop ultra-low energy building standards,
20 consistent with the Passive House standard, and programs which encourage new and
21 remodeled buildings to meet those standards.

22 11.4.3 Urges City departments to develop programs and incentives to improve energy
23 conservation and efficiency, weatherization, and compliance with other building standards by
24 the City's rental housing stock.

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1 11.4.5 Urges City departments to require that certain energy conservation and
2 efficiency improvements be completed when buildings are offered for sale.

3 11.4.6 Supports the creation a solar assessment district to enable City residents to use
4 long-term, low-interest financing to fund the cost of installing solar panels.

5 13.4.5 Urges the SFUSD to expand sustainable energy awareness programs in the
6 curriculum.

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