

1 [Supporting California State Senate Bill No. 875 (Wiener) - Access to Public Power Act]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill No. 875, introduced by State Senator**
4 **Scott Wiener, which will strengthen and protect the ability of local jurisdictions within**
5 **the Pacific Gas and Electric service territory to form or expand their own public**
6 **utilities.**

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8 WHEREAS, Reliable, affordable, and clean energy is essential to the health, safety,
9 and economic well-being of San Francisco residents and businesses; and

10 WHEREAS, Investor-owned utilities (IOUs) like Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) were
11 granted special statutory protections in 1992 making it unusually difficult and costly for local
12 governments to acquire utility infrastructure or establish municipal power service; and

13 WHEREAS, PG&E regularly obstructs and delays critical City projects, including
14 affordable housing and transit development, by imposing unreasonable interconnection
15 requirements and charging excessive costs for the City's use of the electric grid; and

16 WHEREAS, Increases in PG&E wholesale and retail distribution rates and retail
17 charges, such as the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment, continue to impact energy
18 affordability for San Franciscans; and

19 WHEREAS, PG&E has an extensive record of negligence that has led to wildfires,
20 destruction of homes, and death; and

21 WHEREAS, Recent unplanned power outages affecting hundreds of thousands of San
22 Franciscans have underscored concerns about the ability of IOUs like PG&E to meet basic
23 service expectations and adequately maintain and invest in essential grid infrastructure in San
24 Francisco; and

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1 WHEREAS, California State Senate Bill No. 875 (SB 875), introduced by State Senator
2 Scott Wiener, would address these concerns by removing IOUs' special protections and
3 modifying rules governing utility transfers, thereby allowing local governments like San
4 Francisco to more feasibly evaluate and pursue public power; and

5 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission already provides more
6 than 75% of the electricity consumed in the City from renewable and greenhouse gas-free
7 resources through its publicly owned utility, Hetch Hetchy Power, and through CleanPowerSF,
8 the City's community choice aggregation program; and

9 WHEREAS, Public power expansion would provide San Francisco with the ability to
10 improve reliability, increase accountability, stabilize rates, and accelerate progress toward
11 local clean-energy goals, including San Francisco's target of ensuring all San Francisco
12 residents and businesses use 100% renewable and/or greenhouse gas-free electricity by
13 2030; and

14 WHEREAS, SB 875 preserves protections for utility workers by mandating review of
15 fairness to affected employees in the case of any transfer of utility assets; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
17 supports SB 875 as a means to restore local flexibility and remove barriers preventing
18 municipalities from pursuing public power options and urges its timely adoption; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board shall send a copy of this
20 Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom, President pro-Tempore Monique Limón, Speaker of
21 the State Assembly Robert Rivas, and the offices of San Francisco's State delegation.

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