

1 [Acceptance of Gift of Nursery for Golden Gate Park Botanical Garden]

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3 **Resolution accepting a gift-in-place to the City and County of San Francisco of the San**
4 **Francisco Botanical Garden Nursery: Center for Sustainable Gardening valued at**
5 **approximately \$14,000,000 and making findings, including environmental findings.**
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8 WHEREAS, The City maintains and operates real property located in Golden Gate
9 Park known as the "San Francisco Botanical Garden," which features more than 8,000
10 different kinds of plants from around the world on 55 acres; and

11 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Botanical Garden Society (SFBGS) is a non-profit
12 entity that has actively supported the San Francisco Botanical Garden since 1955, operating
13 in partnership with the San Francisco Recreation & Park Department (RDP); and

14 WHEREAS, The fundamental purpose of the Nursery: Center for Sustainable
15 Gardening (Nursery) is to replace the San Francisco Botanical Garden's existing nursery
16 facilities, which were built many years ago and currently provide extremely substandard
17 working conditions for the dedicated Botanical Garden employees, SFBG employees, and
18 volunteers who spend many hours there each week; and

19 WHEREAS, Through a series of community meetings and other opportunities for public
20 input, a conceptual plan for the Nursery, targeted for LEED Platinum certification was
21 developed by SFBGS in collaboration with RPD and subsequently approved by the
22 Recreation and Park Commission on November 20, 2008; and

23 WHEREAS, The Nursery will be located slightly to the west of the existing facilities, at a
24 higher elevation and in an area that is vastly preferable for a nursery due to its improved
25 weather conditions; and

1 WHEREAS, SFBGS has offered to donate to the City and County of San Francisco the
2 design and construction of the Nursery as a gift-in place, valued at approximately \$14 million;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The terms and conditions of SFBGS's gifts are as follows:

5 The Nursery will replace the existing nursery and will become the hub of the Botanical
6 Garden's plant propagation and plant collection management. All uses of the Nursery will be
7 to further the mission and purpose of the Botanical Garden, including cultivating support for
8 the Botanical Garden and the bond between people and plants. The Nursery will be jointly
9 used for SFBGS nursery staff, including curatorial and plant collections management staff,
10 and for RPD gardening staff assigned to the Botanical Garden, as well as restrooms with a
11 shower and emergency eyewash station, storage areas, and space for meetings related to
12 nursery and gardening operations and for horticultural reference materials provided by
13 SFBGS. Before construction of the Nursery begins, SFBGS and RPD will enter into a Lease
14 Agreement that incorporates these understandings; and

15 WHEREAS, On November 29, 2011, the Planning Department issued a Mitigated
16 Negative Declaration for the San Francisco Botanical Gardens Nursery: Center for
17 Sustainable Gardening project, finding that all environmental impacts associated with the
18 proposed project would be mitigated to less than significant levels through the mitigation
19 measures set forth in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (FMND). These mitigation
20 measures are additionally set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
21 (MMRP), which is hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein. The
22 Board of Supervisors has reviewed and considered the FMND and the MMRP, as well as the
23 record as a whole including written and oral comments by the public on this matter. Copies of
24 both the FMND and the MMRP are on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File
25 No. 120288 and are incorporated herein by reference; and

1 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors find that there is no substantial evidence that
2 the Nursery project will have significant effect on the environment with the adoption of the
3 mitigation measures contained in the MMRP to avoid potentially significant environmental
4 effects associated with the Project; and

5 WHEREAS, The Planning Department, Linda Avery, is the custodian of records with
6 respect to the FMND, located in the File for Case No. 2008.0845E, at 1650 Mission Street,
7 Fourth Floor, San Francisco, California; and

8 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors finds that since the FMND was finalized, there
9 have been no substantial changes to the Nursery project and no substantial changes in the
10 circumstances of the Nursery project that would require major revisions to the FMND due to
11 the involvement of new significant environmental effects or an increase in the severity of
12 previously identified significant impacts, and there is no new information of substantial
13 importance that would change the conclusions set forth in the FMND; and

14 WHEREAS, The Recreation and Park Commission recommended to the Board of
15 Supervisors to accept the gift-in-place at the March 15, 2012 Recreation and Park
16 Commission Meeting, Resolution No. 1203-008, on file with the Clerk of the Board of
17 Supervisors Meeting, in File No. 120288, which is hereby incorporated by reference as though
18 fully set forth herein; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors adopts the FMND and the MMRP and imposes
20 all the mitigation measures set forth in the MMRP on the Project as conditions of approval;
21 and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors accepts the gifts-in-place valued at
23 approximately \$14,000,000 from SFBGS.
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