

1 [Reducing Greenhouse Gas Pollution under the Clean Air Act]

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3 **Resolution in Support of Reducing Greenhouse Gas Pollution Under the Clean Air Act.**

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5 WHEREAS, The decade from 2000 to 2010 was the warmest on record, and 2005 and
6 2010 tied for the hottest years on record; and

7 WHEREAS, The Environmental Protection Agency determined that current and future
8 greenhouse gas concentrations endanger public health, and according to the Global
9 Humanitarian Forum climate change is already responsible every year for some 300,000
10 deaths, 325 million people seriously affected, and economic losses worldwide of U.S. \$125
11 billion; and

12 WHEREAS, Extreme weather events, most notably heat waves and precipitation
13 extremes, are striking with increased frequency, with deadly consequences for people and
14 wildlife; in the United States in 2011 alone, a record fourteen weather and climate disasters
15 occurred, including droughts, heat waves, and floods, that cost \$1 billion or more in damages
16 each; and

17 WHEREAS, By mid-century, the city could see three to four times as many extreme
18 heat days as we do today with related increases in hospitalizations and deaths, especially for
19 vulnerable populations of seniors, young children, and those living in low-income
20 neighborhoods; and

21 WHEREAS, Climate change is affecting food security by negatively impacting the
22 growth and yields of important crops, and droughts, floods and changes in snowpack are
23 altering water supplies; and

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1 WHEREAS, Scientists have concluded that by 2100 as many as one in ten species
2 may be on the verge of extinction due to climate change; and

3 WHEREAS, Rising sea levels, reduced snow pack in the Sierras, and extreme weather
4 are issues that are beginning to affect the San Francisco Bay Area; sea level rise in the Bay
5 Area is expected to increase by sixteen inches by 2050 and fifty-five inches by 2100; and
6 runways at San Francisco International Airport, primary transportation arteries such as
7 Highway 101 and miles of shoreline and parks could be underwater, which could result in \$62
8 billion worth of infrastructure damage in the Bay Area; and

9 WHEREAS, For four decades, the Clean Air Act has protected our air through a
10 proven, comprehensive, successful system of pollution control that saves lives and creates
11 economic benefits exceeding its costs by many times; and

12 WHEREAS, With the Clean Air Act, air quality in this country has improved significantly
13 since 1970, despite major growth both in our economy and industrial production; and

14 WHEREAS, Between 1970 and 1990, the six main pollutants covered by the Clean Air
15 Act — particulate matter, ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide, lead, sulfur and nitrogen
16 oxides — were reduced by between 47% and 93%, and airborne lead was virtually eliminated;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The Clean Air Act has produced economic benefits valued at \$2 trillion or
19 30 times the cost of regulation; and

20 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has been a leader in the fight
21 against climate change and for clean air, having (a) issued the Climate Action Plan in 2004,
22 which aims to reduce the city's carbon emissions to 20% below 1990 levels by 2012, 25% by
23 2017, 40% by 2025, and 80% by 2050, and has already reduced emissions 14.5% below
24 1990 levels as of 2010; (b) asked each city department to produce a climate action plan
25 annually; (c) established the San Francisco Carbon Fund in 2009 to support initiatives to

1 reduce the city's carbon footprint ; and (d) passed CleanPowerSF, a program that will provide
2 the residents of San Francisco with the opportunity to consume 100% renewable energy; and

3 WHEREAS, The Center for Biological Diversity is spearheading an effort calling on
4 U.S. cities to pass a resolution urging the Environmental Protection Agency and President
5 Obama to use the Clean Air Act to curb climate change; as of October 2011, thirty-six cities
6 had passed resolutions in support of the Clean Air Cities campaign; and

7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Commission on the Environment passed a resolution
8 on September 20, 2012 urging the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution in
9 support of the Clean Air Cities campaign; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors joins thirty-six other U.S. cities in
11 supporting the Center for Biological Diversity's Clean Air Act Campaign and hereby urges the
12 Environmental Protection Agency and President Barack Obama to move swiftly to fully
13 employ and enforce the Clean Air Act to reduce carbon emissions in our atmosphere to no
14 more than 350 parts per million; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall forward a
16 copy of this resolution to Lisa P. Jackson of the Environmental Protection Agency and
17 President Barack Obama.