

1 [Construction Approval - West Garden Cafe Project - Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate
2 Park]

3 **Resolution approving the construction of a cafe in the West Garden of the Academy of**
4 **Sciences in Golden Gate Park pursuant to Charter, Section 4.113; adopting findings**
5 **pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act; and adopting findings of**
6 **consistency with the Golden Gate Park Master Plan, the General Plan, and the eight**
7 **priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1.**

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9 WHEREAS, The California Academy of Sciences ("Academy") is located in Golden
10 Gate Park and includes a 400,000 square foot structure that houses an aquarium, a
11 planetarium, a natural history museum and a 4-story rainforest. Pursuant to Charter Section
12 16.105, the buildings and improvements erected by the Academy in Golden Gate Park are the
13 property of the City and County of San Francisco ("City"), however, the buildings and
14 improvements, and the activities and personnel therein, are managed and controlled
15 exclusively by the Academy; and

16 WHEREAS, The Academy currently leases a temporary tent that is erected in the West
17 Garden adjacent to the Academy to provide guests with additional seating protected from the
18 weather and a "grab-and-go" style café. The tent does not fit in with the Academy's overall
19 architecture and is located directly underneath, and obstructing the view of, the Maya Lin
20 sculpture, "Where the Land Meets the Sea," displayed outside the western face of the
21 Academy building; and

22 WHEREAS, The Academy proposes to construct a new cafe in the Academy's West
23 Garden to replace the temporary tent, supplement the Academy's existing food services, and
24 provide guests with additional dining options and capacity in the West Garden ("the Project").
25 The new glass and steel structure would be open to the West Garden when weather permits,

1 but could be fully enclosed to allow for year-round use. The Project does not involve any
2 demolition of existing structures; and

3 WHEREAS, The proposed cafe would be approximately 1,450 square feet in size and
4 one-story tall at approximately 13 feet high, detached from the main Academy building, and
5 within the Academy property footprint. The design incorporates an existing small, unused
6 building (an aviary) into the new structure, and the Project satisfies the Academy's LEED
7 Platinum certification standards; and

8 WHEREAS, The design, construction, and installation of the Project will be funded
9 entirely by the Academy's privately-sourced funds; and

10 WHEREAS, On July 24, 2013, the Planning Department determined that the Project is
11 exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
12 (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.) as a Class 3 Exemption (CEQA
13 Guidelines Section 15303). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of
14 Supervisors in File No. _____ and is incorporated herein by reference; and

15 WHEREAS, On October 25, 2013, the Planning Department determined that the
16 actions contemplated in this resolution are consistent, on balance, with the City's General
17 Plan and eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1. The Board adopts this
18 determination as its own. A copy of said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of
19 Supervisors in File No. _____, and is incorporated herein by reference; and

20 WHEREAS, Administrative Code Section 2A.160 requires that plans for all proposed
21 buildings and improvements of the Academy, including any additions, must be approved by
22 the Recreation and Park Commission and the Arts Commission; and

23 WHEREAS, At a public hearing on June 17, 2013, the Arts Commission, by Resolution
24 No. 0708-13-165, approved the conceptual design for the Project; and

1 WHEREAS, At a public hearing on August 15, 2013, the Recreation and Park
2 Commission, by Resolution No. 1308-008, copies of which are on file with the Clerk in File No.
3 _____, recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve construction of the Project;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The Board finds that the Project is consistent with the Golden Gate Park
6 Master Plan for the following reasons: (1) "Golden Gate Park Master Plan, Objectives and
7 Policies, Land Use and Activities, Policy I(G)" provides that the Academy of Sciences is an
8 important element that fits within the overall park landscape, contributes to the park's unique
9 character and history, contributes to the cultural focus of the Music Concourse, and has an
10 historic and ongoing role in Golden Gate Park that should continue; (2) consistent with
11 "Golden Gate Park Master Plan, Objectives and Policies, Buildings, Structures, and
12 Monuments, Policy IV(C)," the Project is compatible with the landscape character and historic
13 form of the park, meets the requirements of all applicable accessibility codes and regulations,
14 and satisfies the following criteria set forth in Policy IV(C): (a) the addition will serve the public
15 by providing much-needed space for the over-crowded café area and protecting visitors from
16 the elements, (b) for the intended purpose, alternative sites outside the park are not feasible,
17 (c) the Project will serve the needs of existing visitors and will not necessitate additional
18 surface parking, access roads or have a deleterious effect on the park landscape, (d) the
19 design reflects the very best architectural quality, and (e) design plans ensure minimize visual
20 impacts upon the park environment; and (3) consistent with "Golden Gate Park Master Plan,
21 Objectives and Policies, Park Management and Security, Policy VI(B)," the Project will
22 improve and maintain park amenities and ensure adequate visitor service; and

23 WHEREAS, Charter Section 4.113.1 requires the Board of Supervisors approve by a
24 vote of two thirds the erection, enlargement or expansion of a building in Golden Gate Park,
25 except for nurseries, equipment storage facilities and comfort stations; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That this Board of Supervisors finds that the Project is exempt from
2 further environmental review and adopts the Planning Department's determination of
3 exemption as its own; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Board of Supervisors determines that the Project is
5 in conformity with the Priority Policies of Section 101.1 of the Planning Code and the General
6 Plan for the reasons set forth in the Planning Department's determination, and the Golden
7 Gate Park Master Plan for the reasons set forth herein; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Board of Supervisors, by a two-thirds vote, hereby
9 approves construction of the Project in the West Garden of the Academy of Sciences
10 pursuant to Charter Section 4.113.

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