

1 [Moratorium on Hydraulic Fracturing]

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3 **Resolution supporting a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing in the State of California.**

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5 WHEREAS, Hydraulic fracturing, also known as “fracking,” is a gas and oil resource
6 extraction technology that drills wells vertically and horizontally deep under the earth’s surface
7 through water tables, requires vast quantities of water, and uses numerous toxic chemicals
8 injected under high pressure to crack shale and dense rock formations, producing toxic waste
9 water, and therefore posing great potential threat to the public, the environment, the State’s
10 water supply and our coastal waters; and

11 WHEREAS, Hydraulic fracturing is not regulated in California and the California
12 Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) has
13 no records of the locations or numbers of wells where hydraulic fracturing is being used to
14 extract oil and gas in the state, nor maintains records of the types and amounts of chemicals
15 used, the amount of water used or the disposition of the wastewater generated by this
16 process; and

17 WHEREAS, The oil and gas industry is granted exceptions to compliance with federal
18 legislation designed to protect the public and the environment, including the Safe Drinking
19 Water Act of 1974 and the Clean Water Act of 1972; and

20 WHEREAS, Wastewater from hydraulic fracturing may be laced with hundreds of toxic
21 chemicals, heavy metals and naturally occurring radioactive materials, as documented by the
22 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and due to the volume and toxicity of “fracking”
23 wastewater, treating such complex waste is difficult, making safe disposal a significant
24 challenge and posing threats to the environment and public health and safety; and

25 WHEREAS, Current disposal methods in the State of California are inadequate, and

1 allow the possibility that “fracking” wastewater will affect watersheds, reaching rivers, streams,
2 wetlands, bay and coastal waters, as well as agricultural and drinking water supplies; and

3 WHEREAS, The vast quantities of water required for the hydraulic fracturing process
4 reduce the availability of water for other uses, in a state which often suffers from the effects of
5 periodic droughts; and

6 WHEREAS, The “fracking” process releases such hazardous air pollutants as
7 methanol, formaldehyde, and carbon disulfide, in addition to the release of volatile organic
8 compounds including benzene, toluene and nitrogen oxides; the projected 15 billion barrels of
9 oil from the Monterey Shale are estimated to release 6.45 billion metric tons of carbon
10 dioxide, 15 times the total greenhouse gas emitted from all sources in California in 2010; and

11 WHEREAS, Emissions generated by drilling and “fracking” for shale oil and gas, and
12 producing, refining and burning shale oil and gas, result in significant and uncontrolled
13 emission of methane, a far more lethal greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide; due to the high
14 quantity of leaked methane, the greenhouse gas emissions from the Monterey Shale is
15 greater than any other fossil fuel, including coal; and

16 WHEREAS, Unregulated “fracking” in California will likely undermine the State’s efforts
17 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, per AB32, the California Global
18 Warming Solutions Act of 2006, and the extraction of oil and gas, as well as coal, is
19 antithetical to the necessary transition to 100% renewable energy sources needed to
20 aggressively address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change; and

21 WHEREAS, Other local jurisdictions have weighed in on the issue of fracking, calling
22 for greater regulation, bans or moratoriums, including Marin County, Santa Cruz County,
23 Ventura County, the City of Los Angeles, and Santa Barbara County, and localities like San
24 Francisco have been asked to add their voices to the state dialogue because State
25 policymakers are currently deciding what is to be done about fracking in California; and

1 WHEREAS, San Francisco County Board of Supervisors has a long history of
2 supporting all possible reductions in the reliance on fossil fuels, and has taken significant
3 steps to address climate change, as evidenced by setting goals to reduce greenhouse gas
4 emissions (1999), joining Cities for Climate Protection Campaign administered by the
5 International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (2002), signing the Urban
6 Environmental Accords (2006), adopting a Local Action Plan to reduce the County's
7 greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020 (2006), accepting the report "Fossil Free by '33"
8 (2006), adopting the most recent Countywide Plan (2007), and founding the state's first
9 Community Choice Aggregation agency, Marin Energy Authority (2008), among other actions;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Protecting the health and safety of the environment and the public is of
12 paramount concern and discouraging reliance on fossil fuels is congruent with San Francisco
13 County's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to address climate change; now,
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports a moratorium on
16 hydraulic fracturing in the State of California, until further studies of the environmental impacts
17 of fracking are done in conjunction with public input.

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