

1 [Urging the Prohibition of Clearcut Logging in California]

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3 **Resolution urging the California Legislature to prohibit the practice of clearcut logging**  
4 **in California and enhance protections for California's forests.**

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6 WHEREAS, California's forests provide 75% of California's clean water supply by  
7 capturing snow, rain, and fog and then storing, filtering, and gradually releasing water  
8 throughout the year; and this process increases humidity and rainfall, cools temperatures, and  
9 helps protect us from extreme weather; and

10 WHEREAS, California's forests continuously remove carbon dioxide from the air and  
11 store it in trees, roots, and forest soil, and this natural process is significant in the fight to  
12 reverse the climate crisis; with deforestation causing 15% of all greenhouse gas emissions,  
13 and intact forests absorbing up to 40% of human caused carbon dioxide releases; and

14 WHEREAS, California's forests provide other essential environmental services by  
15 releasing oxygen, preventing flooding and siltation, and supporting a wide diversity of plant  
16 and wildlife; and

17 WHEREAS, California's forests generate tremendous social, cultural, and economic  
18 value from recreation, tourism, sport and commercial fishing, and wood products; and

19 WHEREAS, The widespread industrial logging method called clear-cutting commonly  
20 involves the removal of virtually all trees and vegetation on large tracts, that are then  
21 cultivated with crop-like plantations of even-aged trees of limited species (usually only one  
22 species), with the repeated broad application of toxic herbicides used to prevent other tree  
23 and plant species from growing; and

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1           WHEREAS, Clearcutting, for the purposes of this Resolution, is defined as any public  
2 or private forest management or timber harvest method in which 60% or more of cubic tree  
3 volume of any area greater than 2.5 acres is felled within any 15-year period; and

4           WHEREAS, Clearcutting also refers to any forest management or timber harvesting  
5 practice that results in the above conditions and includes, but is not limited to, methods  
6 referred to as "even aged management," "seed tree removal," "shelterwood removal," "fuels  
7 reduction," "forest type conversion," "regeneration cutting," "patch cutting," and "plantation  
8 forestry;" and

9           WHEREAS, Timber and biotechnology corporations are currently seeking legal  
10 permission to openly cultivate genetically engineered trees for clearcut harvesting on tree  
11 plantations in the United States, a practice which threatens to further increase both clear-cut  
12 plantation forestry and toxic herbicide application in such forestry; and genetically engineered  
13 trees and their pollen are potentially hazardous to human health, wildlife, and biological  
14 integrity of wild tree and plant species; and

15           WHEREAS, Clearcut logging destroys many benefits of forests, as it contaminates our  
16 water supply with herbicides and sediment, greatly increases greenhouse gas emissions for  
17 many decades, and promotes drought, catastrophic wildfires, soil erosion, landslides, pest  
18 invasion, and tree diseases; and

19           WHEREAS, Within the San Francisco County, Santa Clara County, Santa Cruz  
20 County, San Mateo County, Marin County and in most public forests, the outmoded practice  
21 of clearcutting is prohibited; and

22           WHEREAS, Selective logging and modern forest management methods that promote  
23 fire-resilient, productive forests with trees of multiple ages and species can produce a  
24 sustainable supply of wood and forest products, and stable long term jobs; now, therefore, be  
25 it

1           RESOLVED, That that the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
2           Francisco call on the California Legislature and the Governor of California to prohibit the  
3           practice of industrial clearcut logging in the forests of California, require full immediate public  
4           disclosure of the locations and extent of clearcutting in California forests, and prohibit the  
5           outdoor cultivation of genetically engineered trees in California; and, be it

6           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs  
7           the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of this resolution to the President *pro Tempore* of the  
8           California Senate, Darrell Steinberg, and Speaker of the California State Assembly, Toni  
9           Atkins.

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