

1 [Follow-Up Board Response - 2013-2014 Civil Grand Jury Report - "Rising Sea Levels...At
2 Our Doorstep"]

3 **Motion responding to the Civil Grand Jury's request to provide a status update on the**
4 **Board of Supervisors' responses to Recommendation Nos. 3 and 12b contained in the**
5 **2013-2014 Civil Grand Jury Report, entitled "Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep"; and**
6 **urging the Mayor to cause the implementation of accepted recommendations through**
7 **his/her department heads and through the development of the annual budget.**

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9 WHEREAS, The 2013-2014 San Francisco Civil Grand Jury published a report, entitled
10 "Rising Sea Levels...At Our Doorstep" (Report) in June 2014; and

11 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors' Government Audit and Oversight Committee
12 (GAO) conducted a public hearing to hear and respond to the Report on September 11, 2014,
13 and the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 345-14 reflecting the GAO responses to
14 the Report on September 16, 2014, a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of
15 Supervisors in File No. 140940; and

16 WHEREAS, GAO conducted an additional hearing on December 11, 2014, to receive
17 an update from City departments on Recommendation Nos. 1a, 1b, 2a, 3, 11d, and 12b, and
18 adopted Motion No. M15-002 reflecting the GAO responses to the Report on January 13,
19 2015, a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 140792;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Recommendation No. 3 states: "The City's Building Code and the Port's
22 Building Code should be amended to include: (1) provisions addressing the impacts
23 associated with sea level rise, especially when combined with storm surges and king tides; (2)
24 construction methods that would ensure a project's resistance to and protection from the
25 impacts of rising sea levels, especially when combined with sudden storm surges and king

1 tides; (3) amendments written to protect the most vulnerable systems, including but not
2 necessarily limited to, electrical, telecommunications, and fire protection systems; (4)
3 provisions relating to rising sea levels be reviewed and reassessed every five years”; and

4 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors on September 16, 2014, responded by
5 Resolution No. 345-14 that Recommendation No. 3 “requires further analysis, for reasons as
6 follows: Future implementation of new Building Code provisions will require specific,
7 prescriptive changes that account for flexibility. Further analysis and coordination between
8 the scientific community and affected agencies must be performed to develop consistent,
9 effective and practical policies, including Building or Planning Code changes, to address sea
10 level rise. As such, the recommendation requires further analysis, and the Board of
11 Supervisors will report back to the Grand Jury no later than six months from the date of the
12 issuance of the report or by December 25, 2014”; and

13 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors on January 13, 2015, responded in Motion No.
14 M15-002 that the Board of Supervisors reports that Recommendation No. 3 “will require
15 further analysis, for reasons as follows: City departments are actively working with one
16 another and with regional and state agencies to evaluate and develop consistent guidance
17 and policies to address sea level rise”; and

18 WHEREAS, Recommendation No. 12b states: “The City should create a local working
19 group of community citizens and stakeholders to feed into the regional group”; and

20 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors on September 16, 2014, responded in
21 Resolution No. 345-14 that Recommendation No. 12b “requires further analysis, for reasons
22 as follows: The Board of Supervisors agrees that community and stakeholder involvement in
23 the process of adapting to sea level rise is essential. The exact nature of the outreach and
24 involvement has not yet been determined; as such, the recommendation requires further

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1 analysis, and the Board of Supervisors will report back to the Grand Jury no later than six
2 months from the date of the issuance of the report or by December 25, 2014”; and

3 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors on January 13, 2015, responded in Motion No.
4 M15-002 that the Board of Supervisors reports that Recommendation No. 12b “will be
5 implemented in the future, as follows: The proposed work program for developing a
6 comprehensive citywide sea level rise adaptation plan would provide for robust outreach to
7 and collaboration with local and regional community members and stakeholders”; and

8 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco Civil Grand Jury requested that the
9 Board of Supervisors provide a status update on the responses to Recommendation Nos. 3
10 and 12b; and

11 WHEREAS, GAO conducted an additional hearing on May 7, 2015, to receive an
12 update from City departments on Recommendation Nos. 3, and 12b; now, therefore, be it

13 MOVED, That Recommendation No. 3 will not be implemented as the Sea Level Rise
14 Coordinating and Technical Committees are already coordinating efforts to address these
15 issues; and, be it

16 FURTHER MOVED, That Recommendation No. 12b will not be implemented as the
17 Mayor’s Office and City departments have already taken steps to address this issue by
18 creating a Sea Level Rise Committee that seeks involvement from the community, private
19 sector, and stakeholders, who will also need to note the regional nature of this requirement;
20 and, be it

21 FURTHER MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to cause the
22 implementation of accepted recommendations through his/her department heads and through
23 the development of the annual budget.

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