

1 [Designating San Francisco a Bee City USA and Affirming San Francisco’s Commitment to
2 Supporting Pollinator Health]

3 **Resolution designating San Francisco a Bee City USA to promote healthy, sustainable**
4 **habitats and communities for bees and other pollinators.**

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6 WHEREAS, The goal of Bee City U.S.A. is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats for
7 bees and other pollinators; and

8 WHEREAS, Bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic
9 declines due to a combination of habitat loss, pesticides, and the spread of pests and
10 diseases; and

11 WHEREAS, Globally, insect pollinators are required for reproduction of
12 approximately 85% of flowering plants, which provide food, fiber and shelter for people and
13 wildlife; and

14 WHEREAS, Conservation of biodiversity and ecological integrity, including protecting
15 and restoring habitat for wild native bees, honey bees, butterflies, and other pollinators is a
16 top priority under federal, state, and city policies; and

17 WHEREAS, In response to our continental pollinator crisis the Obama White House
18 issued a Presidential Memorandum to create a federal strategy to promote the health of
19 pollinators; and

20 WHEREAS, The State of California created a Healthy Pollinators Working Group that
21 generates ideas and strategies that focus on improving pollinator health; and

22 WHEREAS, The Environmental Protection Element and the Open Space Element of
23 the San Francisco General Plan have established that the City and County of San Francisco
24 has a duty to protect the natural environment; and

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1 WHEREAS, San Francisco has demonstrated a decades-long commitment to
2 supporting pollinator health through its Natural Areas Program, which manages the parks'
3 grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and wetlands for native plant and animal diversity and
4 abundance, including providing undisturbed spaces for nesting and overwintering native
5 pollinators; and

6 WHEREAS, The City's Biodiversity Program has developed the San Francisco Plant
7 Finder, a comprehensive website by which the public can create a customized list of native
8 plant species to install in their home or community garden to create habitat and support native
9 pollinators; and

10 WHEREAS, San Francisco's Integrated Pest Management Program has successfully
11 reduced the use of environmentally disruptive pesticides on City properties over the past 20
12 years, including a 94% reduction in insecticides; and

13 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission sponsors the Our Water
14 Our World program, which partners with retail gardening and hardware stores to provide
15 public education on reducing pesticide use to improve water quality and promote less toxic
16 alternatives for gardening products, which supports pollinator health; and

17 WHEREAS, Approximately 100 City staff from Public Works and the Recreation and
18 Parks and Department have been trained in ReScape California's Bay Friendly Landscaping
19 practices, which reduce and recycle waste, keep pollutants out of local creeks and the Bay,
20 and provide healthy habitat; and

21 WHEREAS, San Francisco Department of the Environment is leading a Pollinator
22 Protection Program to encourage residents and private gardening companies to adopt
23 landscape management standards that increase the use of plants that support pollinators and
24 reduce the use of systemic and other pesticides that harm pollinator health; and

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1 WHEREAS, The City of San Francisco partners with community and nonprofit
2 organizations to engage city residents to conserve and restore habitat, including projects for
3 the federally listed endangered Mission Blue butterfly and the locally threatened Green
4 Hairstreak butterfly, which fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases
5 interactions among community stewards and stakeholders; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco accepts the Bee City USA
7 designation and agrees to meet the commitments required of Bee City USA; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Department of the Environment will
9 facilitate Bee City USA programming as the Bee City USA liaison, including encouraging and
10 coordinating local pollinator habitat and awareness activities; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco designates the
12 Commission on the Environment as the Bee City USA sponsor, including responsibility for
13 annual recommitment as a Bee City USA; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Department of the Environment,
15 working in collaboration with other city departments, scientific and educational institutions, and
16 community-based organizations, be urged to conduct education and outreach to foster
17 knowledge and appreciation of San Francisco’s pollinators and their interconnected role in the
18 City’s natural ecosystems.

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