

1 [Preparation of Findings to Reverse the Final Environmental Impact Report Certification -
2 Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Plan]

3 **Motion directing the Clerk of the Board to prepare findings related to reversing the**
4 **Planning Commission’s certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report for the**
5 **proposed Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Plan.**

6
7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department (SFRPD) developed
8 the Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP), formerly referred to as the Significant
9 Natural Resource Areas Management Plan (SNRAMP), which addresses 31 Natural Areas in
10 San Francisco, scattered mostly throughout the central and southern portions of San
11 Francisco, and the Sharp Park Natural Area in Pacifica; and

12 WHEREAS, These Natural Areas range in size from less than one acre to almost 400
13 acres, support sensitive plant and animal species and habitats, and are used as recreational
14 open spaces by residents and visitors; and

15 WHEREAS, The stated purpose of the NRMP is to provide for long-term management
16 of the Natural Areas through natural resource protection, habitat restoration, trail and access
17 improvements, other capital projects, and maintenance activities over the next 20 years; and

18 WHEREAS, The activities planned for the Natural Areas can generally be divided
19 between routine maintenance and programmatic projects, and also include the proposed
20 restoration of Sharp Park (referred to as the “Sharp Park Laguna Salada Restoration Project”)
21 in Pacifica; and

22 WHEREAS, The Planning Department sent a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an
23 Environmental Impact Report and Initial Study to more than 2,400 interested parties on
24 April 22, 2009; and

1 WHEREAS, The Draft EIR for the proposed Project was first published on
2 August 31, 2011, and circulated to local, state, and federal agencies and to interested
3 organizations and individuals for a 45-day public review period that was later extended for two
4 weeks by the San Francisco Planning Commission, resulting in a 61-day public review period
5 that began August 31, 2011, and continued through October 31, 2011; and

6 WHEREAS, The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the Draft EIR on
7 October 6, 2011; and

8 WHEREAS, A second public review comment period, during which written comments
9 were once again invited, was provided from April 27, 2012, to June 11, 2012, for a total of an
10 additional 46 days; and

11 WHEREAS, The Planning Department prepared a Responses to Comments document
12 (RTC), responding to all comments received orally at the public hearings and in writing, and
13 published the RTC on November 16, 2016; and

14 WHEREAS, Following publication of the RTC, the Recreation and Parks Department
15 proposed modifications to the Project Description with respect to proposed actions at the
16 Sharp Park Natural Area with the intent of emphasizing the preferred use of soil spoils for
17 habitat restoration purposes and identifying the other disposal sites required for excess spoils
18 as equal disposal options, and on December 15, 2016, the Planning Department issued an
19 Errata to the EIR, analyzing the proposed modifications to the Project Description and finding
20 that they would not result in any new significant environmental impacts or substantially
21 increase the severity of a significant impact identified in the Draft EIR, and no new mitigation
22 measures would be necessary, and that these modifications to the project description and
23 additional revisions to the EIR, do not change any of the conclusions in the Draft EIR and do
24 not constitute significant new information that requires recirculation of the Draft EIR; and
25

1 WHEREAS, On December 15, 2016, the Planning Commission, by Motion No. 19825,
2 certified a Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) for the proposed Project under the
3 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.,
4 the CEQA Guidelines, 14 California Code of Regulations, Section 15000 et seq., and San
5 Francisco Administrative Code Chapter 31, finding that the Final EIR reflects the independent
6 judgment and analysis of the City and County of San Francisco, that it is adequate, accurate
7 and objective, and contains no significant revisions to the Draft EIR; and

8 WHEREAS, By letter to the Clerk of the Board, received by the Clerk's Office on
9 January 5, 2017, Dee Seligman, Rupa Bose, and Tom Borden, of the San Francisco Forest
10 Alliance, appealed the Final EIR certification, and by letter to the Clerk of the Board, received
11 by the Clerk's Office on January 17, 2017, Brent Plater of the Wild Equity Institute, on behalf
12 of the Sierra Club's San Francisco Bay Chapter, the National Parks Conservation Association,
13 Golden Gate Audubon Society, and the Sequoia Audubon Society, appealed the Final EIR
14 certification, (together, "Appellants"); and

15 WHEREAS, The Planning Department's Environmental Review Officer, by
16 memorandum to the Clerk of the Board dated January 10, 2017, determined that the appeals
17 had been timely filed; and

18 WHEREAS, On February 28, 2017, this Board held a duly noticed public hearing to
19 consider the appeal of the Final EIR certification filed by Appellants and, following the public
20 hearing, conditionally reversed the Final EIR certification, subject to the adoption of written
21 findings in support of such determination; and

22 WHEREAS, In reviewing the appeal of the Final EIR certification, this Board reviewed
23 and considered the determination, the appeal letters, the responses to the appeal documents
24 that the Planning Department prepared, the other written records before the Board of
25

1 Supervisors and all of the public testimony made in support of and opposed to the Infill
2 Determination appeal; and

3 WHEREAS, Following the conclusion of the public hearing, the Board of Supervisors
4 conditionally reversed the Final EIR certification, subject to the adoption of written findings of
5 the Board in support of such determination, based on the written record before the Board of
6 Supervisors as well as all of the testimony at the public hearing in support of and opposed to
7 the appeal; and

8 WHEREAS, The written record and oral testimony in support of and opposed to the
9 appeal and deliberation of the oral and written testimony at the public hearing before the
10 Board of Supervisors by all parties and the public in support of and opposed to the appeal of
11 the Final EIR certification is in the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors File No. 170044 and is
12 incorporated in this motion as though set forth in its entirety; now, therefore, be it

13 MOVED, That this Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to prepare the
14 findings specifying the basis for its decision on the appeal of the Planning Commission's
15 certification of the Final EIR for the project.

16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25