

1 [Committing to Enhancing Coastal Habitats in the Face of Climate Change and Sea Level
2 Rise]

3 **Resolution committing to maintaining and enhancing California’s beaches, shoreline,**
4 **and related coastal habitats in the face of global climate change and sea level rise.**

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6 WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy and the California State Coastal Conservancy
7 recently completed a comprehensive, spatially-explicit assessment of the vulnerability of
8 California’s coastal habitats to sea level rise (the “Assessment”); and

9 WHEREAS, According to the Assessment, 55% of California’s coastal habitats are
10 highly vulnerable to sea level rise, including 60% of California’s beaches, 58% of rocky
11 intertidal habitat, 58% of coastal marshes, and 55% of tidal flats; and

12 WHEREAS, The Assessment also demonstrates that sea level rise will further stress
13 populations of 39 rare, threatened, or endangered species, and that 41,000 acres of public
14 conservation lands are projected to be drowned by rising waters; and

15 WHEREAS, The Assessment also outlines a plan for conserving these vulnerable
16 habitats through concerted, sustained efforts between local, state, and federal agencies, as
17 well as private conservation groups; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco strongly and unequivocally
19 commits to continuing and expanding upon its various efforts toward maintaining, protecting,
20 and enhancing California’s beaches, shoreline, and related coastal habitats as sea levels rise,
21 and thereby supporting the social, economic, and recreational benefits these areas provide for
22 current and future generations; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco commits to using
24 its authority to assist the state in achieving this goal by:

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1 1) Incorporating the best available science on climate change, including new
2 information and innovative strategies to address sea level rise, other climate change-related
3 impacts, as well as beach, shoreline, and related habitat loss, into agency guidance policies,
4 and planning and permitting decisions;

5 2) Partnering and collaborating where appropriate with other California coastal cities
6 and counties as well as industry stakeholders, not-for-profit groups and disadvantaged or
7 otherwise marginalized communities to address sea level rise vulnerability, including at-risk
8 beaches, shoreline, and related habitats;

9 3) Ensuring that shoreline armoring is only permitted if no environmentally-friendly
10 alternative is feasible and encouraging mitigation that offsets the impacts of shoreline
11 armoring on beaches, shorelines, offshore areas, and shoreline habitats to ensure continued
12 public access to the ocean and sandy beaches and to avoid loss of coastal habitats;

13 4) Supporting the implementation of adaptation strategies that seek to increase
14 conservation of vulnerable habitats such as beaches, dunes, salt marshes, and estuaries,
15 including living shorelines, coastal restoration projects, and approaches that allow habitats to
16 migrate inland as sea levels rise; and

17 5) Supporting efforts to assess coastal habitat losses and gains on a per acre basis, to
18 identify implementation methods and strategies for protecting, maintaining, and enhancing
19 such coastal habitats, and to proactively implement associated projects.

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