

1 [Support for Retaining the Commission on the Environment’s Governance Body Status]

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3 **Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors, Mayor, and Commission Streamlining Task Force to**
4 **Support Retaining the Commission on the Environment’s Governance Body Status.**
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6 WHEREAS, The Commission on the Environment is an established 29-year-old governance
7 body that was created when San Francisco voters passed a charter amendment in 1995, with the
8 objective to improve, enhance, and preserve the environment; and to promote San Francisco’s long-
9 term environmental sustainability, as laid out in Section 4.118 of the City Charter; and

10 WHEREAS, The Commission on the Environment is responsible for the oversight and
11 management of the San Francisco Environment Department; and

12 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Environment Department, under the Commission’s direction,
13 has successfully pioneered local environmental policies and programs such as the adoption of the three-
14 bin waste management system, the City’s original Sustainability Plan in 1997, the Integrated Pest
15 Management Program, the Safe Medicine Disposal Program, the City’s municipal Buy Green
16 initiatives, the prohibition of flame retardants in furniture, the development of the Environmental
17 Justice Grants Program, the ban on single use plastic bags, the requirements for electric vehicle
18 readiness in new construction, the formulation of the City’s ambitious net-zero emission goals by 2040,
19 the mandates for fossil fuel-free, all-electric new construction requirements, and—most recently—the
20 requirements for all-electric major renovations; and

21 WHEREAS, These landmark environmental ordinances and bold climate action initiatives have
22 been recognized and emulated both nationally and internationally and have secured San Francisco’s
23 status as a global environmental leader; and

24 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s trailblazing efforts culminated in San Francisco’s selection as the
25 host city for the Global Climate Action Summit in 2018; and

1 WHEREAS, San Francisco's Board of Supervisors declared a climate emergency in April 2019,
2 requesting immediate and accelerated actions locally to address the climate crisis; and

3 WHEREAS, The City adopted its updated Climate Action Plan in 2021, featuring 34 strategies
4 and 174 associated actions designed to address the climate crisis; and

5 WHEREAS, Since FY 22-23 – FY 24-25, the City appropriated approximately \$6 million of
6 General Fund dollars between 2022-2025 to support the Department's Climate, Building
7 Decarbonization, Climate Equity Hub, and Clean Transportation Teams; and

8 WHEREAS, The Department leveraged General Fund dollars to win \$84 million in grants since
9 2022; and

10 WHEREAS, Today, commitments to climate action and the necessary funding for that climate
11 action are being rolled back at the federal level; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2025, the federal government reversed key environmental commitments and
13 weakened climate protections, including rolling back clean energy investments, incentives, and the
14 Environmental Protection Agency's Endangerment Finding; and

15 WHEREAS, The federal government has frozen or rescinded approximately \$38 million in
16 federal grants previously awarded to the San Francisco Environment Department, including \$36.2
17 million in funding for EV infrastructure and building decarbonization; and

18 WHEREAS, The federal government's abandonment of climate protection has placed additional
19 pressure on local jurisdictions to curb the climate crisis and prioritize the health and safety of their
20 communities; and

21 WHEREAS, The City reduced the Environment Department's annual budget by approximately
22 \$1.2 million for Fiscal Year 2025-26; and

23 WHEREAS, The Environment Department is projected to incur an additional budget reduction
24 of \$0.9 million in Fiscal Year 2026-27 as the City further reduces General Fund Dollars and the San

1 Francisco Public Utilities Commission ends its approximately two-decade work order with the
2 Department; and

3 WHEREAS, In September 2025, the Commission Streamlining Task Force, established under
4 Proposition E, voted 4-1 to convert the Commission on the Environment to an advisory body that will
5 sunset after three (3) years; and

6 WHEREAS, A significant environmental and climate policy-making and City-wide
7 coordination vacuum would be created with the elimination of the Commission; and

8 WHEREAS, The decision to convert and potentially eliminate the Commission on the
9 Environment will eliminate the only public forum dedicated to climate and environmental issues in San
10 Francisco, and signal San Francisco's declining commitment to addressing those issues, despite the
11 climate emergency that the City faces and that was formally declared by the City in April 2019; and

12 WHEREAS, The recent and upcoming Environment Department budget cuts will significantly
13 and adversely impact the Department's ability to implement the City's Climate Action Plan at a time
14 when local climate action is more important than ever; and

15 WHEREAS, In aggregate, these actions threaten San Francisco's position as a global climate
16 and environmental innovation leader; now, therefore be it,

17 RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment opposes the current recommendation
18 by the Commission Streamlining Task Force to convert the Commission to an advisory body that will
19 sunset after three (3) years; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment urges the Board of
21 Supervisors, Mayor, and Commission Streamlining Task Force to retain the Commission on the
22 Environment's governance body status; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment urges the Board of
24 Supervisors and Mayor to adequately fund the Department and the Climate Action Plan to maintain San

Francisco’s global leadership on climate and fulfill the commitments to addressing the climate emergency as outlined in the City’s Climate Emergency Resolution.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Commission on the Environment at its meeting on October 27, 2025.

Alice Hur

Alice Hur, Commission Affairs Officer

- Vote: 6-0 Approved
- Ayes: Commissioners Bermejo, Hunter, Riles, Sullivan, Tompkins, Yuen
- Noes: None
- Absent: Commissioner Ahn