

1 [Support of Environment Department's Refuse Rate Proposal]

2
3 **Resolution urging the Refuse Rate Administrator and Refuse Rate Board to support the refuse**
4 **rate proposal for the Environment Department to advance Zero Waste programs that enhance**
5 **circular economy.**
6

7 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has a duty to promote safety, improve the
8 health of its citizens, and enhance and protect the natural environment; and

9 WHEREAS, San Francisco's three-bin system and our pioneering Zero Waste policies have
10 become a defining characteristic of San Francisco's global leadership position in sustainability; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2022, the City and County of San Francisco passed Proposition F, which
12 requires the Refuse Rate Board to ensure that refuse rates account for resources necessary to achieve
13 compliance with environmental mandates, including the necessary resources and investments for the
14 Environment Department to meet its Zero Waste objectives; and

15 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors codified in Chapter 9 the San Francisco Climate Action
16 Plan, establishing Net Zero sector-based greenhouse gas emissions targets by 2040, and tasked the
17 Environment Department with producing this plan and including a circular economy element; and

18 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors codified in Chapter 9, Zero Waste targets to reduce the
19 amount of solid waste sent to landfill by at least 50% and to reduce the generation of solid waste to at
20 least 15% below 2015 levels by 2030; and

21 WHEREAS, The Commission on the Environment is authorized to investigate and make
22 recommendations to all City agencies related to solid waste management under the City Charter; and

23 WHEREAS, San Francisco in 2023 was still sending over 519,000 tons of solid waste to landfill
24 annually, and over 300,000 tons would need to be eliminated or recovered annually to meet San

1 Francisco's Zero Waste target [RDRS Report 1: Overall Jurisdiction Tons for Disposal and Disposal Related](#)
2 [Uses](#); and

3 WHEREAS, The 2025 waste characterization study indicates that over 40% of what is being
4 landfilled is organic material and contributing to methane gas creation, which is up to 28 times more
5 potent than carbon dioxide in its global warming potential; and

6 WHEREAS, The organics being sent to landfill are producing approximately 236,000 metric
7 tons of CO2 equivalent annually, equal to 55,000 gas vehicles on the road annually; and

8 WHEREAS, Discarded building products and materials represent 50% of the City's total solid
9 waste generation and 25% of total annual landfill deposits, and the City, through required Housing
10 Element goals, has plans to build 82,000 units of new residential housing over the next 6 years; and

11 WHEREAS, San Francisco has an expiring landfill contract in 2028 and currently only pays a
12 \$40.19 per ton disposal fee; and

13 WHEREAS, The new landfill contract is expected to double based on the current landfill
14 contracts from Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA), which currently pays a \$81.33
15 per ton disposal fee, and City of Alameda, which currently pays a \$96.50 per ton disposal fee; and

16 WHEREAS, Climate change has already affected San Francisco to varying degrees including
17 poor air quality from wildfires, drought, flooding, and extreme heat; and

18 WHEREAS, San Francisco has established an ambitious goal of achieving Net Zero emissions
19 by 2040 in order to do its part to stabilize the planet and protect the health of its residents; and

20 WHEREAS, In order to reach both Zero Waste and climate goals the Environment Department
21 will need to develop a robust circular economy for both building materials and consumer goods; and

22 WHEREAS, In order to identify the path forward for San Francisco's circular economy the
23 Environment Department needs to pilot, incubate, and scale effective models; and

24 WHEREAS, Investing in trash processing is critical in order to meet the Zero Waste targets set
25 and codified by the Board of Supervisors; and

1 WHEREAS, Underfunding Zero Waste programs reduces our ability to educate residents and
2 businesses and move them toward Zero Waste; and

3 WHEREAS, Underfunding Zero Waste programs sends a profoundly damaging message to
4 residents, businesses, and the international community that look to our City as a model for
5 environmental stewardship; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment urges the Refuse Rate Administrator
7 and Refuse Rate Board members to continue to support Zero Waste policies and programs that help San
8 Francisco reach its Zero Waste goals and target of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2040; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment urges the Refuse Rate
10 Board and Administrator to fund the Environment Department's request for an additional \$3,000,000
11 for Zero Waste programs that reduce waste generation, enhance safety, and reduce landfilling; and, be
12 it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment opposes the current Refuse
14 Rate Proposal because of insufficient consideration for voter-approved mandates in Proposition F and
15 environmental laws codified in Chapter 9.

16
17 I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Commission on the Environment at its
18 meeting on April 28, 2025.

19
20 *Alice Hur*

21 Alice Hur, Commission Affairs Officer

22
23 Vote: 7-0 Approved

24 Ayes: Commissioners Ahn, Bermejo, Hunter, Sullivan, Tompkins, Wan, Yuen

25 Noes: None

1 Absent: None