

1 [Peak Oil Plan of Response and Preparation]

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3 **Resolution acknowledging the challenge of Peak Oil and the need for San Francisco to**  
4 **prepare a plan of response and preparation.**

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6 WHEREAS, World oil production is nearing its point of maximum production  
7 (“Peak Oil”) and will enter a prolonged period of irreversible decline leading to ever-increasing  
8 prices; and

9 WHEREAS, The United States has only 2 percent of the world's oil reserves, produces  
10 8 percent of the world's oil and consumes 25 percent of the world's oil, of which nearly 60  
11 percent is imported from foreign countries; and,

12 WHEREAS, The decline in global oil production threatens to increase resource  
13 competition, geopolitical instability, and lead to greater impoverishment; and,

14 WHEREAS, National oil companies own 72% of remaining oil reserves and 55% of  
15 remaining gas reserves<sup>i</sup>, and resource nationalism is increasingly dominating decisions of oil  
16 and gas development and trade relationships; and,

17 WHEREAS, The availability of affordable petroleum is critical to the functioning of our  
18 transportation system, the production of our food and of petrochemical-based consumer  
19 goods, the paving of roads, the lubrication of all machinery, and myriad other parts of the  
20 economy; and,

21 WHEREAS, San Francisco is entirely dependent on external supplies of petroleum,  
22 including the crude oil processed in Bay Area refineries; and,

23 WHEREAS, Price signals of petroleum scarcity are likely to come too late to trigger  
24 effective mitigation efforts in the private sector, and governmental intervention at all levels of  
25 government will be required to avert social and economic chaos; and,

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1           WHEREAS, The Department of Energy-sponsored study<sup>ii</sup> on mitigation of Peak Oil  
2 demonstrated that a twenty-year lead time is required for effective mitigation, while current  
3 measures supported by the federal government will replace only three-weeks worth of  
4 gasoline consumption by 2012<sup>iii</sup>; and,

5           WHEREAS, Alternative sources of transport fuels from coal and natural gas both  
6 require high energy inputs and increase total carbon emissions, and biomass-based fuels  
7 compete with soil fertility, impacting agricultural sustainability<sup>iv</sup>; and,

8           WHEREAS, Substitution of petroleum with other fossil fuels threatens even greater  
9 damage to water, air, soil, and species diversity through their extraction and combustion; and,

10          WHEREAS, North American production of natural gas has already peaked, and 46% of  
11 California's electricity supply is generated from natural gas; and

12          WHEREAS, San Francisco has demonstrated leadership in confronting challenges of  
13 environmental quality and energy security, promoting environmental and economic equity,  
14 and has a rich diversity of citizens committed to maintaining San Francisco's long-term  
15 viability; now, therefore, be it

16          RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
17 acknowledges the unprecedented challenges of Peak Oil; and, be it

18          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports the adoption of a  
19 global Oil Depletion Protocol to provide transparency in oil markets, control price swings,  
20 address issues of equity in access to remaining oil resources, and provide a framework of  
21 predictability within which municipal governments can adjust to increasing oil scarcity; and, be  
22 it

23          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports the undertaking of a  
24 city-wide assessment study in order to inventory city activities and their corollary resource  
25 requirements, evaluating the impact in each area of a decline in petroleum availability and of

1 higher prices, with the aim of developing a comprehensive city plan of action and response to  
2 Peak Oil; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to provide  
4 funding and direction to city departments for the development of a response plan.  
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8 <sup>i</sup> “The Role of the National Oil Companies in a Changing World: Economic and  
9 Energy Relations”, OPEC, 2004, at <http://www.saudinf.com/main/y7480.htm>

10 <sup>ii</sup> Robert L. Hirsch, R. Bezdek, R.Wendling, Peaking Of World Oil Production:  
11 Impacts, Mitigation, & Risk Management, February 2005, online at  
12 [http://www.mnforsustain.org/oil\\_peaking\\_of\\_world\\_oil\\_production\\_study\\_hirsch.htm3](http://www.mnforsustain.org/oil_peaking_of_world_oil_production_study_hirsch.htm3)

13 <sup>iii</sup> <http://www.eia.doe.gov/neic/brochure/renew05/renewable.html>

14 <sup>iv</sup> 4 L. Reijnders, “Conditions for the sustainability of biomass based fuel  
15 use”, Energy Policy 34 (2006) 863–876  
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