

Resolution No. 015-00-COE

October 16, 2000

[Restoring the San Francisco Bay Estuary]

ENDORSING THE BAYLANDS ECOSYSTEM HABITAT GOALS REPORT AND THE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR RESTORING THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY ESTUARY AND SUPPORTING THE RESTORATION OF WETLANDS AT CANDLESTICK POINT STATE RECREATION AREA.

WHEREAS, "The Sustainability Plan for the City of San Francisco," as adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco in 1997, calls for preserving and restoring the region's biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Department of the Environment is to preserve, enhance, and protect the San Francisco's environment; and

WHEREAS, healthy baylands preserve the biodiversity of the San Francisco Bay Estuary, improve water quality, reduce flooding and sedimentation, help commercial fisheries, and provide outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities, as well as provide aesthetic benefits; and

WHEREAS, wetlands are a key component of healthy baylands and are proven to be a cost-effective and environmentally beneficial method of treating stormwater and wastewater; and,

WHEREAS, more than 500 wetlands in Europe and more than 200 in North America remove pollutants by a combination of physical, chemical, and biological processes including filtration, sedimentation, adsorption, volatilization, microbial decomposition, precipitation, and vegetative uptake; and,

WHEREAS, wetlands would serve not only as an outdoor classroom for students throughout the Bay Area but also as a major recreational and educational attraction for the general public, both locally and internationally; and,

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Project has prepared a report for the Bay Area entitled "*Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals*¹", which recommends the restoration of Bay Area wetlands and related habitats needed to sustain a healthy ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay Habitat Joint Venture, a public/private partnership composed of resource management agencies, local governments, the business community, and conservation organizations such as the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, Save San Francisco Bay Association, the Bay Institute and many others, have developed a consensus draft implementation strategy for baylands restoration entitled "*Restoring the Estuary: An Implementation Strategy for the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture*"; and

WHEREAS, the restoration of approximately 24 acres of wetlands is called for in the Master Plan for the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area²; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Airport is currently underwriting the development of conceptual plans, to be completed by the end of the calendar year 2000, for such a wetland restoration; now, therefore be it

¹ Goals Project. 1999. Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals. A report of habitat recommendations prepared by the San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Project. First Reprint. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco, Calif./S.F. Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, Oakland, Calif.

² California Department of Parks and Recreation, October 1986.

RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco to endorse the vision of protected and restored baylands as articulated by the "*Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals*"; and, be it

RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco to urge that the implementation strategy as envisioned by the San Francisco Joint Venture be used for the master plan for the 24 acre site of the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area; and, be it

RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment urges the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco to support an integrated region-wide program of bayland acquisition, restoration, research and monitoring to achieve the goal of healthy baylands; and, be it

RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment urges the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco to request that Bay Area federal and state legislators seek funding to implement an integrated region-wide program of bayland acquisition, restoration, research, and monitoring; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco to request that all appropriate agencies, including the Regional Water Quality Control Board and various City departments, support the restoration of wetlands at Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, identify funding to pay for construction work associated with the restoration, and work together to achieve the "*Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals*."

I hereby certify that this resolution was adopted by the Commission on the Environment at its special meeting on October 16, 2000.

Sraddha Mehta

Commission Secretary

VOTE:

Ayes: Commissioners Hayes, Shah, Evans, and Bradford-Bell.

Noes: None.

Absent: Commissioners Bingham, Werbe, and Chang.