

Resolution No. 007-00-COE

May 15, 2000

[Supporting Treasure Island Wetlands Creation]

SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF WETLANDS ON TREASURE ISLAND AND URGING THE INCORPORATION OF THE WETLANDS CREATION CONCEPT INTO ANY REQUESTS FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR A MASTER DEVELOPER, THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/REPORT, AND REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR TREASURE ISLAND AND YERBA BUENA ISLAND.

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, Treasure Island was constructed of fill, reducing the surface of San Francisco Bay by 403 acres and displacing a large area of benthic and aquatic habitat; and,

WHEREAS, Treasure Island's stormwater runoff is currently discharged to the Bay untreated, contributing to the pollution of the Bay, and future regulatory requirements may no longer permit the discharge of untreated stormwater; and,

WHEREAS, Wetlands 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 not only provide habitat for wildlife but also attract tourists, students, and recreational users; and,

WHEREAS, Preliminary studies commissioned specifically by Treasure Island demonstrate that it appears feasible and desirable to site both treatment wetlands and tidal wetlands on Treasure Island; and,

WHEREAS, In July, 1999, the Treasure Island Development Authority and the San Francisco City Planning Commission endorsed Preliminary Plan Guidelines which include: "Pursue wetlands as a means of treating stormwater runoff" and "Maintain and improve the quality of Treasure Island's natural environment, including, to the extent feasible, the development of wetlands"; and,

WHEREAS, Numerous potential funding sources for wetlands creation and management exist which might not otherwise be available for Treasure Island; and,

WHEREAS, The wetlands system 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 creation and operation of a wetlands and interpretive center will provide job training and employment opportunities in a variety of fields; and,

WHEREAS, Wildlife watching is one of the most popular and quickly growing forms of recreation in the country; and,

WHEREAS, Wetlands on Treasure Island would serve as a visitor attraction, consistent with the goals and objectives of the Draft Base Reuse Plan, and contribute to the economic vitality of Treasure Island by taking advantage of the growing ecotourism industry, a market largely untapped in San Francisco; and,

WHEREAS, Treatment wetlands would provide seasonal wetland values essential to migratory shorebirds and waterfowl, given Treasure Island's position on the Pacific Flyway; and,

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors is responsible for approving the Redevelopment Plan for Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island; now, therefore, 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 the creation of a wetlands habitat of sufficient size to treat a significant portion of the island's storm water runoff and to provide meaningful wildlife habitat and educational opportunities; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment urges the Treasure Island Development Authority to specify a wetlands component in the project description and request information regarding the respondents' experience and expertise in wetland design and construction in the Request for Qualifications for a master developer or developers; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment urges the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco to urge the United States Navy and the San Francisco Planning Department to include a wetlands component of meaningful size and function in at least one alternative in the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment urges the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco to urge the United States Navy to clean up the future wetlands site to standards appropriate for wildlife habitat; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment urges the Treasure Island Development Authority to include the wetlands concept in the Draft Redevelopment Plan; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment urges the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco to transmit copies of this resolution to the Treasure Island Development Authority, the San Francisco Planning Department, and the United States Navy with a request that they take all action necessary to achieve the objectives of this resolution.

I hereby certify that this resolution was adopted by the Commission on the Environment at its regular meeting on May 15, 2000.

Sraddha Mehta
Commission Secretary

VOTE:

Ayes: *Commissioners Evans, Hayes, Shah, Werbe, and Chang.*
Noes: *None.*
Absent: *Commissioners Bradford-Bell and Bingham.*