

Resolution No. 008-02-COE Alternative Fuels Bus Program

URGING THE SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL RAILWAY TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION ON THE PURCHASE OF ALTERNATIVE FUEL BUSES AND NOT PURCHASE ANY NEW DIESEL BUSES

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco is committed to reducing its air emissions and contribution to global warming; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr. introduced, and the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted, Resolution 158-02 directing the City to set a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 20% below 1990 levels to be attained by the year 2012; and

WHEREAS, the diesel combustion in diesel transit buses emits greenhouse gases and particulate matter that poses a health risk, with particular concern to asthma, and other health conditions, especially for children, the elderly, and those in poor health; and

WHEREAS, at least 30 of California's transit districts have already selected the alternative fuel path for their buses as opposed to the diesel path; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Municipal Railway (Muni) has already been granted permission to purchase 95 new diesel buses that will be cleaner than buses that are 12 years old and are currently in service, but that still emit significant greenhouse gases and harmful particulates as compared to alternative fueled buses; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Municipal Railway has recently completed the initial 6 month evaluation of its Alternative Fuel Pilot Program study with no conclusive results and their suggestion for an additional 12 -18 months of study would further delay the purchasing of 80 newer, cleaner alternative fuel buses; and

WHEREAS, similar studies done elsewhere, including long-term studies in New York City, have proven that alternative fuel buses offer significant reductions in greenhouse gas and particulate emissions; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Municipal Railway's ongoing operation of very old, highly polluting buses will continue to pose a serious health risk to San Franciscans until they are replaced; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Municipal Railway is California's 3rd largest public transit district and serves California's 2nd largest metropolitan area, and is therefore ideally positioned to lead all Bay Area transit districts toward cleaner technologies; and

WHEREAS the Commission on the Environment has issued previous resolutions (dated April 14, 2000 and January 16, 2001) urging the San Francisco Transportation Authority to authorize only funding for alternative fuel buses and not for any new diesel buses; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment urges the San Francisco County Transportation Authority to fund the purchase of alternative fuel buses and not contribute any funds for the purchase of any new diesel buses; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment urges the San Francisco Municipal Railway to decide which alternative fuel buses to purchase (such as hybrid or natural gas powered), as soon as possible, and not to further delay the replacement of the highly polluting diesel buses currently operating on San Francisco streets by conducting further studies.

I hereby certify that this resolution was adopted by the Commission on the Environment at its special meeting on May 21, 2002.

Kristal R. Aliyas
Commission Secretary

VOTE:

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