

1 **[SUPPORT FOR THE CALLE 24 LATINO CULTURAL DISTRICT]**

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3 COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE
4 CREATION AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY IMPACT OF THE CALLE 24 LATINO
5 CULTURAL DISTRICT.

6 WHEREAS, The environmental movement grows stronger when it embraces,
7 supports, and learns from communities of color and limited English speakers that may
8 not be part of the traditional environment movement; and,

9 WHEREAS, The Commission on the Environment and San Francisco
10 Department of Environment seek to promote environmental justice across all program
11 areas by identifying opportunities to ensure that the work of the Commission and the
12 Department promotes putting an end to disproportionate pollution in vulnerable
13 communities as an integral part of our environmental stewardship mission; and,

14 WHEREAS, A November 2013 report by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's
15 (MIT) Center for Advanced Urbanism highlighted that a disproportionate share of
16 pollution has caused the Mission District to suffer from the worst health conditions
17 among all San Francisco neighborhoods, in part due to the increased diversion of traffic
18 from congested freeways to neighborhood streets; and,

19 WHEREAS, Over the past two years , the Calle 24 Council, a collaboration of
20 Mission District residents, merchants, youth, artists, and non-profit service providers,
21 has worked with the San Francisco Latino Historical Society, San Francisco Heritage,
22 Mayor Edwin Lee, and Supervisor David Campos to establish the Calle 24 Latino
23 Cultural District; and,

1 WHEREAS, The Calle 24 Latino Cultural District is an effort to sustain the
2 community culture, history, and entrepreneurship of the neighborhood on and around
3 24th Street in the Mission District by preserving Latino cultural landmarks and
4 institutions, stabilizing the displacement of Latino residents and businesses, and
5 promoting local job creation for a diverse economy; and,

6 WHEREAS, The neighborhoods outlined in the proposed Calle 24 Latino Cultural
7 District also have a rich history of promoting community-driven environmentalism and
8 conservation, whether through efforts initiated by families to remove waste that had
9 once piled up in Balmy Alley so as to provide a more efficient means for local students
10 to walk to school, local merchant-sponsored efforts to keep 24th Street clean and litter-
11 free, neighborhood-based tree-planting and community gardening initiatives that
12 promote cleaner air and healthy food, or community health clinics that provide services
13 to local families impacted by environmental health hazards; and,

14 WHEREAS, The Calle 24 Latino Cultural District will not only deliver on the goals
15 of sustaining the neighborhood's culture, history, residents, businesses, and jobs but
16 will enhance the ability to continue community-based environmental initiatives and
17 provide community health services as a means of addressing the environmental health
18 disparities cited in the November 2013 MIT report; and,

19 WHEREAS, Achievement of these goals through the creation of the Calle 24
20 Latino Cultural District is a means of promoting environmental justice in the City and
21 County of San Francisco; and,

22 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors expressed its support for
23 the establishment of the Calle 24 Latino Cultural District in a resolution unanimously
24 adopted on May 20, 2014; now, therefore, be it,

1 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Commission on the Environment supports
2 the establishment of the Calle 24 Latino Cultural District as a Latino cultural,
3 commercial, and environmental justice district in San Francisco; and, be it,

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission commends the efforts of the
5 Latino community and the Calle 24 Council and its partners on their efforts, and offers
6 its support and assistance to successfully establish the Calle 24 Latino Cultural District.

7 I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Commission on the
8 Environment’s Meeting on September 30, 2014.

Monica Fish

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10 Monica Fish, Commission Secretary

11 VOTE: 6-0 Approved; 1 Vacant

12 AYES: Commissioners Arce, Gravanis, King, Stephenson, Wald, and Wan

13 NOES: None

14 ABSENT: None

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