



COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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January 10, 2003

RESOLUTION No. 001-03-COE

["Hydrogen City"]

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A SUB-COMMITTEE TO STUDY HYDROGEN SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT; HEAR TESTIMONY AND REPORT TO THE COMMISSION; AND URGING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE MAYOR TO DECLARE SAN FRANCISCO A *HYDROGEN CITY* AND TAKE OTHER ACTIONS CONSISTENT WITH SUCH DECLARATION.

WHEREAS, There are over a half a billion automobiles in the world as well as numerous trucks, buses, locomotives, aircraft, ships and boats in growing numbers all powered by oil; and

WHEREAS, The limited occurrence and finite amounts of oil deposits around the world is not a sustainable long-term source of energy; and

WHEREAS, Combustion of oil and other fossil fuels account for significant amounts of greenhouse gases and other pollutants in the atmosphere that pose a threat to human health and the natural systems that support life¹; and

¹ Third Assessment Report "Climate Change 2001," 2001, IPCC

WHEREAS, The money from local economies that currently goes to distant oil-producing nations and corporations may be used locally to develop self-sufficient regional energy systems, supporting local jobs and economic development; and

WHEREAS, Hydrogen, unlike oil or other fossil fuels, is the most plentiful element found in the universe and can be produced locally; and

WHEREAS, Hydrogen can provide energy for both transportation and stationary power needs without contributing carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gasses to the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, Achieving greenhouse gas emission reductions required to protect the climate is of significant importance not just to the community of nations but to the City and County of San Francisco, which relies heavily on the stability of the climate for our water and power supplies; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has adopted a greenhouse gas emission reduction goal of 20% by 2012; and

WHEREAS, Hydrogen energy systems can contribute substantially to the achievement of many of the San Francisco's priorities, including but not limited to: energy security and cost reduction; increased mobility and transportation options; urban and rural forest protection; sustainable local economic development; and improved air quality; and

WHEREAS, Using hydrogen as a replacement for fossil fuels would demonstrate that renewable energy and environmentally benign energy systems are currently achievable on a local level; and

WHEREAS, A hydrogen transportation corridor from Sacramento through the San Francisco Bay Area to Los Angeles is already being designed and built

and the City and County of San Francisco wants to do its part to support such important innovation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco to declare San Francisco a HYDROGEN CITY that will seek to adopt new hydrogen technologies for both transportation and stationary applications; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco to actively notify major transportation companies and manufacturers of stationary hydrogen applications (such as back-up generators) that San Francisco seeks a long-term business relationships; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco to actively support the synergistic goals of increasing San Francisco's hydrogen power use, energy efficiency, development of renewable energy systems, greenhouse gas emission reductions, and reducing oil dependence; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Commission hereby establishes a sub-committee of three Commissioners to study hydrogen systems development and hear testimony from industry, community groups, academics, and the general public as well as the Climate Protection Division of the Department the Environment and other appropriate City agencies. The sub-committee will research and report to the Commission on hydrogen use and oil reduction strategies with specific milestones and goals. These may include:

- a. Assessing of the most promising alternatives for hydrogen technologies, their approximate costs and benefits, and the estimated time and resources required to implement them;

- b. Assessing of alternatives that require actions that lie outside the City's control and what the City can do to influence those responsible for such actions;
- c. An accounting of City activities where hydrogen may replace fossil fuel use;
- d. Establishing a website list entitled NATIONAL REGISTRY OF HYDROGEN CITIES to promote cooperation toward the ultimate goal of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere and reducing oil dependence via hydrogen, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

I hereby certify that this resolution was adopted by the Commission on the Environment at its regular meeting on January 9, 2003.

Emily D. Rogers
Commission Secretary

VOTE:

Ayes: Commissioners, Bingham Evans, Hayes, Rodriguez Shah and
Noes: None
Absent: Commissioners Werbe