

**Resolution No. 009-00-COE**

**May 15, 2000**

ENDORSING THE "SAVE THE QUAIL" CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, The California Quail (*Callipepla californica*) is the official state bird of California; and,

WHEREAS, The quail is native to San Francisco, its current population being descended from the quail that were here before European contact; and,

WHEREAS, The California Quail is significant to our cultural history as well as our natural heritage, as quail were an important food source to the Ohlone people and to the early settlers; and,

WHEREAS, Recent quail counts in parks across San Francisco reveal a major city-wide decline over the past 150 years; and,

WHEREAS, In Golden Gate Park there has been a fifty percent decline in the quail population since 1998 and a drop in numbers from 1500 birds in 1900 to 12 birds in February 2000; and,

WHEREAS, Quail no longer reside at Lincoln Park, Lake Merced and Harding Park, Stern Grove and Pine Lake Park, and presumably other areas, where they were once numerous; and,

WHEREAS, The California quail is in danger of being extirpated from San Francisco County due to continued loss of suitable and sustainable habitat and the introduction of invasive non-native plants, and if extirpated will not re-populate on their own; and,

WHEREAS, The Sustainability Plan for the City of San Francisco emphasizes that protecting our city's biodiversity is essential to the ecological health of the ecosystems found here, and includes the following goals: "To protect and restore remnant natural ecosystems" and to protect sensitive species and their habitats and support their recovery in San Francisco"; and,

WHEREAS, the Golden Gate Audubon Society has developed a program called the "Save the Quail Campaign" to increase quail populations in appropriate open spaces throughout the City through hands-on habitat enhancement stewardship for residents of all ages and cultures; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Commission on the Environment urges the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco to endorse the "Save the Quail Campaign" and urges the Recreation and Park Department, the Public Utilities Commission, and other city departments to give the utmost cooperation and support to the "Save the Quail Campaign" without killing other animals; 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 designate the California Quail as the Official Bird of the City and County of San Francisco; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission on the Environment urges the Recreation and Park Department to allocate sufficient funds to the Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Program for the development and implementation of a quail recovery and management 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 urge the Audubon Society, SPCA, and other interested parties to work together to produce a plan to save the quail.

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

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*Sraddha Mehta*  
*Commission Secretary*

**VOTE:**

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