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[Designating San Francisco a Bee City USA and Affirming San Francisco's Commitment to Supporting Pollinator Health]

Resolution designating San Francisco a Bee City USA to promote healthy, sustainable habitats and communities for bees and other pollinators.

WHEREAS, The goal of Bee City U.S.A. is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats for bees and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, Bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to a combination of habitat loss, pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases; and

WHEREAS, Globally, insect pollinators are required for reproduction of approximately 85% of flowering plants, which provide food, fiber and shelter for people and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Conservation of biodiversity and ecological integrity, including protecting and restoring habitat for wild native bees, honey bees, butterflies, and other pollinators is a top priority under federal, state, and city policies; and

WHEREAS, In response to our continental pollinator crisis the Obama White House issued a Presidential Memorandum to create a federal strategy to promote the health of pollinators; and

WHEREAS, The State of California created a Healthy Pollinators Working Group that generates ideas and strategies that focus on improving pollinator health; and

WHEREAS, The Environmental Protection Element and the Open Space Element of the San Francisco General Plan have established that the City and County of San Francisco has a duty to protect the natural environment; and

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WHEREAS, San Francisco has demonstrated a decades-long commitment to supporting pollinator health through its Natural Areas Program, which manages the parks' grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and wetlands for native plant and animal diversity and abundance, including providing undisturbed spaces for nesting and overwintering native pollinators; and

WHEREAS, The City's Biodiversity Program has developed the San Francisco Plant Finder, a comprehensive website by which the public can create a customized list of native plant species to install in their home or community garden to create habitat and support native pollinators; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco's Integrated Pest Management Program has successfully reduced the use of environmentally disruptive pesticides on City properties over the past 20 years, including a 94% reduction in insecticides; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission sponsors the Our Water Our World program, which partners with retail gardening and hardware stores to provide public education on reducing pesticide use to improve water quality and promote less toxic alternatives for gardening products, which supports pollinator health; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 100 City staff from Public Works and the Recreation and Parks and Department have been trained in ReScape California's Bay Friendly Landscaping practices, which reduce and recycle waste, keep pollutants out of local creeks and the Bay, and provide healthy habitat; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco Department of the Environment is leading a Pollinator Protection Program to encourage residents and private gardening companies to adopt landscape management standards that increase the use of plants that support pollinators and reduce the use of systemic and other pesticides that harm pollinator health; and

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WHEREAS. The City of San Francisco partners with community and nonprofit organizations to engage city residents to conserve and restore habitat, including projects for the federally listed endangered Mission Blue butterfly and the locally threatened Green Hairstreak butterfly, which fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions among community stewards and stakeholders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco accepts the Bee City USA designation and agrees to meet the commitments required of Bee City USA: and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Department of the Environment will facilitate Bee City USA programming as the Bee City USA liaison, including encouraging and coordinating local pollinator habitat and awareness activities; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco designates the Commission on the Environment as the Bee City USA sponsor, including responsibility for annual recommitment as a Bee City USA; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Department of the Environment, working in collaboration with other city departments, scientific and educational institutions, and community-based organizations, be urged to conduct education and outreach to foster knowledge and appreciation of San Francisco's pollinators and their interconnected role in the City's natural ecosystems.

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City and County of San Francisco Tails

City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Resolution

File Number:

160994

Date Passed: September 20, 2016

Resolution designating San Francisco a Bee City USA to promote healthy, sustainable habitats and communities for bees and other pollinators.

September 20, 2016 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin, Tang, Wiener and Yee

File No. 160994

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/20/2016 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.