

1 [Resolution is intended to formally acknowledge that oil depletion, commonly referred to as
2 Peak Oil, is a real and serious problem for which the City of San Francisco must prepare in
3 advance. Resolution is further intended to articulate the city’s position regarding international
4 responses to Peak Oil, and to begin a process of local assessment and mitigation.]

5 **Resolution acknowledging the challenge of Peak Oil and the need for San Francisco to**
6 **prepare a plan of response and preparation.**

7 WHEREAS, World oil production is nearing its point of maximum production
8 (“Peak Oil”) and will enter a prolonged period of irreversible decline leading to ever-increasing
9 prices; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States has only 2 percent of the world's oil reserves, produces
11 8 percent of the world's oil and consumes 25 percent of the world's oil, of which nearly 60
12 percent is imported from foreign countries; and,

13 WHEREAS, The decline in global oil production threatens to increase resource
14 competition, geopolitical instability, and lead to greater impoverishment; and,

15 WHEREAS, National oil companies own 72% of remaining oil reserves and 55% of
16 remaining gas reservesⁱ, and resource nationalism is increasingly dominating decisions of oil
17 and gas development and trade relationships; and,

18 WHEREAS, The availability of affordable petroleum is critical to the functioning of our
19 transportation system, the production of our food and of petrochemical-based consumer
20 goods; the paving of roads, the lubrication of all machinery, and myriad other parts of the
21 economy; and,

22 WHEREAS, San Francisco is entirely dependent on external supplies of petroleum,
23 including the crude oil processed in Bay Area refineries; and,

24
25
Name of Supervisor/Committee/Department

1 WHEREAS: Price signals of petroleum scarcity are likely to come too late to trigger
2 effective mitigation efforts in the private sector, and governmental intervention at all levels of
3 government will be required to avert social and economic chaos; and,

4 WHEREAS, The Department of Energy-sponsored studyⁱⁱ on mitigation of Peak Oil
5 demonstrated that a 20-year lead time is required for effective mitigation, while current
6 measures supported by the federal government will replace only 3-weeks worth of gasoline
7 consumption by 2012ⁱⁱⁱ; and,

8 WHEREAS, Alternative sources of transport fuels from coal and natural gas both
9 require high energy inputs and increase total carbon emissions, and biomass-based fuels
10 compete with soil fertility, impacting agricultural sustainability^{iv}; and,

11 WHEREAS, Substitution of petroleum with other fossil fuels threatens even greater
12 damage to water, air, soil, and species diversity through their extraction and combustion; and,

13 WHEREAS, North American production of natural gas has already peaked, and 46% of
14 California's electricity supply is generated from natural gas; and

15 WHEREAS, San Francisco has demonstrated leadership in confronting challenges of
16 environmental quality and energy security, promoting environmental and economic equity,
17 and has a rich diversity of citizens committed to maintaining San Francisco's long-term
18 viability; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City of San Francisco acknowledges
20 the unprecedented challenges of Peak Oil; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports the adoption of a
22 global Oil Depletion Protocol to provide transparency in oil markets, control price swings,
23 address issues of equity in access to remaining oil resources and provide a framework of
24 predictability within which municipal governments can adjust to increasing oil scarcity; and, be
25 it

Name of Supervisor/Committee/Department

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports the undertaking of a
2 city-wide assessment study in order to inventory city activities and their corollary resource
3 requirements, evaluating the impact in each area to a decline in petroleum availability and to
4 higher prices, with the aim of developing a comprehensive city plan of action and response to
5 Peak Oil; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to provide
7 funding and direction to city departments for the development of a response plan.

8 ⁱ “The Role of the National Oil Companies in a Changing World: Economic and
9 Energy Relations”, OPEC, 2004, at <http://www.saudinf.com/main/y7480.htm>

10 ⁱⁱ Robert L. Hirsch, R. Bezdek, R.Wendling, Peaking Of World Oil Production:
11 Impacts, Mitigation, & Risk Management, February 2005, online at
http://www.mnforsustain.org/oil_peaking_of_world_oil_production_study_hirsch.htm3

12 ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.eia.doe.gov/neic/brochure/renew05/renewable.html>

13 ^{iv} 4 L. Reijnders, “Conditions for the sustainability of biomass based fuel
14 use”, Energy Policy 34 (2006) 863–876