

Resolution regarding:

Policy Regarding Francisco Reservoir

Approved by the Full CAC at the June 26, 2012 meeting

WHEREAS, Francisco Reservoir and the land on which it is located was purchased by the City and County of San Francisco as part of its purchase of the Spring Valley Water Company and is under the administrative jurisdiction of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and is managed by the SFPUC; and

WHEREAS, the Francisco Reservoir has not been in active use as part of the City system for storage and transmission of water since the 1940s; and

WHEREAS, there is significant interest within the surrounding community and the neighborhood groups active in the community in seeing that the Francisco Reservoir parcel and the surrounding lands not be developed for private uses and remain accessible to the public, and

WHEREAS, the surrounding community and the neighborhood groups active in the community believe that the reservoir site has great value as a park and public open space for the City, and especially for the northern areas of the City; and

WHEREAS, the SFPUC adopted a Stewardship Policy in 2006 that states that “properties in urban surroundings and under SFPUC management will be managed in a manner that protects and restores habitat value where available, and encourages community participation in decisions that significantly interrupt or alter current land use in these parcels”; and

WHEREAS, the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance designates the Francisco Reservoir property and the property immediately north of the parcel as public open space, a designation that does not allow for development for private uses not providing public access; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco General Plan Recreation and Open Space Element includes the following policies with respect to lands that are presently open space:

Policy 1.2: Make open space lands already in public ownership accessible to the public for compatible recreational uses.

“If San Francisco Water Department property becomes surplus, appropriate land areas should be dedicated for use as public open space.”

Policy 2.2: Preserve existing public open space.

“In cases where the land declared surplus is designated as open space in this plan, the policy is clear: open space should take priority over other public uses.”

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2008, the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 502-08 recognizing that the Francisco Reservoir property serves acute open space and recreational needs and resolving that it will be the policy of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors that the Francisco Reservoir property remain as public open space; and

WHEREAS, on October 20, 2008, the SFPUC CAC passed a Resolution recognizing that the Francisco Reservoir property is a major open space amenity and recommending that the General Manager of the SFPUC and the Commission review and develop comprehensive criteria for declaring land surplus, incorporating the Stewardship Policy into these criteria and ensuring the protection of properties providing public benefit; and

WHEREAS, the SFPUC has concerns about the costs to the SFPUC of continuing to maintain the property as open space for neighborhood use, and the SFPUC has expressed the desire to receive appropriate compensation if the parcel is transferred to another City department for maintenance and improvement for open space uses; and

WHEREAS, the SFPUC has also articulated a desire to continue to work with the community to advance an appropriate resolution of the Francisco Reservoir property that would allow the SFPUC to divest itself of ownership of the parcel.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CAC urges that before any further actions are taken with respect to the Francisco Reservoir property, the SFPUC establish a comprehensive and thoughtful process to seek and obtain meaningful community participation and input on future uses of the Francisco Reservoir property.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CAC urges the SFPUC to cooperate with the community on its efforts to maintain the recreational and open space value of the Francisco Reservoir property as set forth in the General Plan; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CAC urges that when the SFPUC takes any further action with respect to the Francisco Reservoir property that its actions be consistent with the recognition in State law of the need to address the deficiency in lands available for recreations purposes and with the SFPUC Environmental Stewardship Policy of 2006, and the General Plan designation of the property, and the Board of Supervisors Resolution 502-08.