

1 [Approval of Construction of Structures in Union Square Park for Central Subway Project]

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3 **Resolution approving, under Charter Section 4.113, construction of surface and**  
4 **subsurface structures in Union Square Park for the Central Subway Project's Union**  
5 **Square Market Street Station.**  
6

7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (RPD) maintains and  
8 operates real property in the City and County of San Francisco (City) bounded by Geary,  
9 Powell, Post and Stockton Streets known as "Union Square Park"; and

10 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) is  
11 undertaking construction of the Central Subway Project (the Project), which is designed to  
12 address mobility and transit deficiencies in the northeastern part of San Francisco by  
13 improving connections from the northeastern part of the City to communities in the  
14 southeastern part for the City and improving reliability of transit services; and

15 WHEREAS, The Project will include the construction of three subway stations,  
16 including one with an entrance in Union Square Park, known as the Union Square Market  
17 Street (UMS) Station; and

18 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Planning Commission on August 7, 2008, certified the  
19 Final Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report (SEIS/SEIR) for the  
20 Project, and on August 19, 2008, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board  
21 of Directors approved the Project in Resolution No. 08-150, which can be found in Board of  
22 Supervisors file No. 081138, which resolution included findings under the California  
23 Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and

24 WHEREAS, The Planning Department staff has reviewed the current status of the  
25 Central Subway Project, including the UMS Station design, and in a memorandum to the file

1 dated September 12, 2012, which can be found in Board of Supervisors' File No. 120981,  
2 has confirmed that there have been no substantial changes proposed for the Project, and no  
3 substantial changes in Project circumstances, that would require major revisions to the  
4 SEIS/SEIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial  
5 increase in the severity of previously identified significant impacts; and that there is no new  
6 information of substantial importance that was not known and could not have been known at  
7 the time the SEIS/SEIR was certified, that shows significant environmental effects not  
8 discussed in the SEIS/SEIR, a substantial increase in the severity of previously examined  
9 significant effects, or that unadopted mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not  
10 to be feasible, would be feasible and capable of substantially reducing one or more of the  
11 significant effects of the Project; and

12 WHEREAS, SFMTA staff presented the Recreation and Park Commission with its final  
13 plans for the construction of structures required for the UMS Station in the southeastern  
14 corner of Union Square Park, consisting of an escalator, stairs, two elevators, emergency  
15 ventilation equipment, glass deck (public space) and ancillary components such as overhead  
16 doors to close off the station entrance, as shown in Exhibit 1 on file with the Clerk of the Board  
17 of Supervisors in File No. 120981, which is hereby declared to be a part of this motion as if set  
18 forth fully herein; and

19 WHEREAS, The SFMTA has designed the UMS Station Entrance, which is the only  
20 visible portion of the UMS Station in the Park, to be as compact as possible in both plan and  
21 elevation to preserve open space, and to blend in with its surroundings by mimicking the  
22 existing retaining walls and planter terraces and by incorporating existing treatments,  
23 materials and finishes; and

24 WHEREAS, Approximately 2,135 square feet of exterior park space, which is less than  
25 two percent of the 2.6-acre (113,256 square feet) Union Square Park, will be redesigned or

1 used in some respect for UMS Station facilities, and 1,410 square feet of that 2,135 square  
2 feet will continue to be some form of pedestrian open space or landscaped area; and

3 WHEREAS, Although the Union Square Station Entrance will displace approximately  
4 1,200 feet of terraced seating on the surface of the Park, the roof of the station entrance will  
5 incorporate approximately 950 square feet of a translucent glass walk-on roof deck, resulting  
6 in a net loss of only 250 square feet of the open space that was previously occupied by  
7 terraced seating; and

8 WHEREAS, At its meeting on September 20, 2012, the Recreation and Park  
9 Commission found that the construction of the surface and subsurface structures in Union  
10 Square Park for the UMS Station is consistent with and supportive of a recreational purpose  
11 as required by Charter Section 4.113 because the proposed use (1) will occupy an  
12 insubstantial portion of the surface area of the Park and impact less than 2 percent of the  
13 Park's total square footage; (2) will not substantially impair or interfere with the use and  
14 enjoyment of the Park for recreational purposes because of the location and dimension of the  
15 proposed structures, and the nature and existing use of the affected park area; and (3) will  
16 substantially improve public access to and from the Park, thereby enhancing the Park's use  
17 and enjoyment by the public; and

18 WHEREAS, Under Charter Section 4.113, the construction of buildings or structures in  
19 Union Square Park generally requires approval by a vote of two-thirds of the Board of  
20 Supervisors; and

21 WHEREAS, On September 20, 2012, the Recreation and Park Commission adopted  
22 Resolution No. 1209-005, in which it approved the construction of the surface and subsurface  
23 structures in Union Square Park for the UMS Station in substantially the same form as set  
24 forth in the aforementioned Exhibit 1 and recommended that the Board of Supervisors  
25 similarly approve such construction; now, therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors adopts and incorporates by reference  
2 herein the CEQA findings adopted in SFMTA Resolution No. 08-150, and further finds that  
3 that there have been no substantial changes proposed for the Project, including construction  
4 of the surface and subsurface structures for the UMS Station of the Project, and no  
5 substantial changes in Project circumstances, that would require major revisions to the  
6 SEIS/SEIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial  
7 increase in the severity of previously identified significant impacts; and that there is no new  
8 information of substantial importance that was not known and could not have been known at  
9 the time the SEIS/SEIR was certified, that shows significant environmental effects not  
10 discussed in the SEIS/SEIR, a substantial increase in the severity of previously examined  
11 significant effects, or that unadopted mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not  
12 to be feasible, would be feasible and capable of substantially reducing one or more of the  
13 significant effects of the Project; and be it

14           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors approves the construction of  
15 the surface and subsurface structures in Union Square Park for the UMS Station in  
16 substantially the same form as set forth in Exhibit 1.



**City and County of San Francisco**  
**Tails**  
**Resolution**

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

**File Number:** 120981

**Date Passed:** October 23, 2012

Resolution approving, under Charter Section 4.113, construction of surface and subsurface structures in Union Square Park for the Central Subway Project's Union Square Market Street Station.

October 15, 2012 Land Use and Economic Development Committee - RECOMMENDED

October 23, 2012 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Elsbernd, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Olague and Wiener

Excused: 1 - Chu

File No. 120981

I hereby certify that the foregoing  
Resolution was ADOPTED on 10/23/2012 by  
the Board of Supervisors of the City and  
County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

  
Mayor

Date Approved