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[Removal of MTBE]

**URGING GOVERNOR GRAY DAVIS TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE ACTION TO ENSURE THAT MTBE IS REMOVED IMMEDIATELY FROM GASOLINE IN ALL AREAS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NOT REQUIRED BY THE FEDERAL CLEAN AIR ACT TO USE A FUEL OXYENATE, INCLUDING THE ENTIRE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA.**

WHEREAS, Methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) is a gasoline additive used to boost octane and to meet a federal Clean Air Act requirement to add an oxygenate to gasoline in areas classified with severe or extreme ozone (smog) pollution; and

WHEREAS, The California Department of Health Services reports detection of MTBE in dozens of California drinking water wells and surface water reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, A June 1998 report by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory estimated that there were a minimum of 10,000 California groundwater sites impacted by MTBE; and

WHEREAS, MTBE has been found by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to be a possible carcinogen; and

WHEREAS, Health effects have been reported for inhalation of MTBE, including headaches, dizziness, irritated eyes, burning of the nose and throat, coughing, disorientation, and nausea; and

WHEREAS, Even a very small amount of MTBE can contaminate a drinking water supply with the detectable taste and odor of turpentine; and

WHEREAS, MTBE contaminates water supplies from leaking underground storage tanks, from gasoline releases from routine use of motor boat or personal watercraft engines, or from gas tanks after car accidents; and

1           WHEREAS, Once MTBE contaminates drinking water, it moves through that water  
2 approximately 50 times further and faster than other dangerous components of gasoline such  
3 as benzene, toluene and xylene; and

4           WHEREAS, MTBE resists degradation and treatment once in water, and is more  
5 difficult and expensive to clean up than other components of gasoline; and

6           WHEREAS, Governor Gray Davis issued an Executive Order on March 25, 1999 to  
7 remove MTBE from gasoline at the earliest possible date, but not later than December 31,  
8 2002; and

9           WHEREAS, The California Air Resources Board codified the Governor's order for an  
10 MTBE ban at Title XIII of the California Code, Regulatory Codes Sections 2260-2272; and

11           WHEREAS, California Energy Commission data for the first and second quarters of  
12 2000 show that MTBE use is increasing in California; and

13           WHEREAS, Several Northern California oil refiners have stated that they intend to  
14 discontinue using MTBE if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grants California's  
15 request for a waiver of the oxygenate requirement; and

16           WHEREAS, Oil refiners in Northern California supply gasoline almost exclusively to  
17 Northern California; and

18           WHEREAS, There are only three areas in California that are currently required to add  
19 oxygenates to gasoline: the Sacramento Metropolitan area, Los Angeles, and Southern  
20 California; and

21           WHEREAS, The remainder of California counties, including the five county San  
22 Francisco metropolitan area, are not subject to the federal oxygenate requirement; therefore,  
23 any waiver provided by the U.S. EPA will be meaningless for elimination of MTBE in these  
24 areas; and

25           WHEREAS, According to calculations by the San Francisco-based environmental group  
Bluewater Network, approximately 80 percent of the MTBE added to gasoline, or 383 million

1 gallons per year, in Northern California is used outside of the Sacramento area, and therefore  
2 in areas where there is no legal requirement to add an oxygenate to gasoline; and

3 WHEREAS, Should cities and counties such as San Francisco, which are not subject to  
4 the oxygenate requirement, choose voluntarily to include oxygenates, nationwide availability of  
5 ethanol can easily provide additional supply of environmentally preferred vehicle fuels; and

6 WHEREAS, The California Energy Commission has determined that sufficient  
7 feedstocks exist in California to produce as much as three million gallons per year of biomass  
8 ethanol, which is more than four times the volume needed to replace the oxygenate benefits of  
9 MTBE; and

10 WHEREAS, The elimination of MTBE will provide substantial opportunities for the  
11 development of biomass ethanol industry in California, providing rural economic opportunities,  
12 reduction of agricultural and municipal waste, and decreased global warming emissions; now,  
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the Governor Gray  
15 Davis to take all possible action to ensure that MTBE is removed immediately from gasoline in  
16 all areas of Northern California not required by the federal Clean Air Act to add an oxygenate,  
17 including the entire San Francisco Bay Area.

18 **SUPERVISOR AMMIANO**



# City and County of San Francisco

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

## Tails

## Resolution

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**File Number:** 001769

**Date Passed:**

Resolution urging Governor Gray Davis to take all possible action to ensure that MTBE is removed immediately from gasoline in all areas of Northern California not required by the Federal Clean Air Act to use a fuel oxygenate, including the entire San Francisco Bay Area.

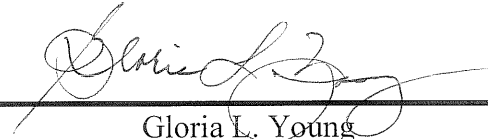
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October 16, 2000 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki, Yee

File No. 001769

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on October 16, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



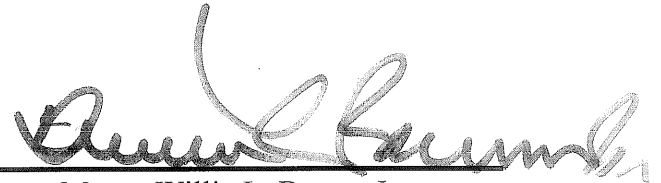
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Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

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OCT 27 2000

Date Approved



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Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.