

1 [Wood Preservatives]

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3 **Resolution urging PG&E, Pacific Bell and manufacturers of non-wood utility poles to**
4 **conduct a feasibility study of alternatives to chemically treated wood utility poles and**
5 **urging all utility poll owners to take steps to protect public health and the environment**
6 **from wood preservatives in utility poles.**

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8 WHEREAS, In 1999, the City and County of San Francisco adopted an
9 Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Ordinance stating that it shall be the policy of the City
10 to aggressively pursue the goal of reducing the health and environmental impact of products
11 used in its operations; and,

12 WHEREAS, in 1996, the City and County of San Francisco adopted an Integrated Pest
13 Management Ordinance mandating that San Francisco minimize its pesticide use and reduce
14 the negative impact of pesticides on people and the environment; and,

15 WHEREAS, the Integrated Pest Management Ordinance does not currently include
16 any wood preservatives on the "Approved List of Reduced Risk Pesticides" for San Francisco;
17 and,

18 WHEREAS, the U.S. EPA estimates that nearly 700 million pounds of wood
19 preservatives are used annually in the United States; and,

20 WHEREAS, an analysis of EPA's Inventory of Sources of Dioxin in the United States
21 notes that treated wood is a large potential source of dioxin in the environment; and,

22 WHERAS the Commission on the Environment and the Board of Supervisors of the
23 City and County of San Francisco have adopted resolutions urging the elimination of dioxin
24 pollution; and,

1 WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco prohibits the use, requisition or
2 purchase, directly or indirectly, by any City or County department or agency, of any tropical
3 hardwoods or tropical hardwood wood products as well as virgin redwood or virgin redwood
4 wood products; and,

5 WHEREAS, the US EPA has classified Pentachlorophenol (Penta), the most
6 commonly used wood preservative, as a Group B2, probable human carcinogen, and,

7 WHEREAS, the contaminants of Penta, namely dioxins, furans, and
8 hexachlorobenzene (HCB) are all recognized as carcinogens, mutagens, teratogens, and
9 endocrine disruptors; and,

10 WHEREAS, Penta is banned in several countries outside of the United States due to
11 health or environmental risks; and,

12 WHEREAS, the US EPA has classified Creosote, another common wood preservative,
13 as a Group B1, probable human carcinogen; and,

14 WHEREAS, Creosote contains polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, which are classified
15 as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and are listed on the US EPA's Priority List of
16 hazardous substances; and,

17 WHEREAS, at least 314 Superfund or chemical waste sites in the United States have
18 been contaminated with Penta and 31 Superfund sites have been contaminated with
19 Creosote; and,

20 WHEREAS, another common wood preservative, Copper Chromium Arsenic (CCA),
21 contains inorganic arsenic which has been classified by the US EPA as a Group A, known
22 human carcinogen; and,

23 WHEREAS, CCA also contains chromium VI, which is listed as a chemical known to
24 cause cancer under California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act and has
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1 been classified by the US EPA as a Group A, known human carcinogen of high carcinogenic
2 hazard; and,

3 WHEREAS, other chemicals used to preserve wood utility poles may have adverse
4 impacts on human health and the environment; and,

5 WHEREAS, the handling of chemically treated wood utility poles and the retreatment
6 of existing chemically treated wood utility poles could expose the public to serious health
7 hazards; and,

8 WHEREAS, PG&E and Pacific Bell own the majority of the chemically treated wood
9 utility poles in San Francisco; and,

10 WHEREAS, PG&E and Pacific Bell have agreed to work with the Department of the
11 Environment to identify alternatives to chemically treated wood utility poles in a timely
12 manner; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
14 urges PG&E, Pacific Bell, and manufacturers of non-wood utility poles, including steel,
15 fiberglass, and concrete utility pole manufacturers, to conduct a feasibility study, within six
16 months of the passage of this resolution, of alternatives to chemically treated wood utility
17 poles, including an analysis of the effectiveness of wrapping chemically treated wood poles to
18 prevent leaching of chemicals into the environment, a plan for the safe disposal of chemically
19 treated wood poles, and an explanation as to why alternatives to chemically treated wood
20 poles cannot be used in particular situations; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors urges that utility pole owners,
22 as a precautionary measure, cover, within twelve months of the passage of this resolution,
23 the first five feet above ground level of all existing chemically treated wood poles owned by
24 them that are located within 100 feet of any elementary school or park and of all existing
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1 chemically treated wood poles owned by them that are located within 100 feet of any licensed
2 day care center, upon request of the day care center; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors urges that utility pole owners
4 present an annual report to the Commission on the Environment on the number and location
5 of poles that were replaced, including the types of replacement poles that were installed; and,
6 be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors urges utility pole owners not to
8 purchase utility poles made from old growth wood such as tropical hardwood or virgin
9 redwood; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors urges that all storage sites
11 within San Francisco of treated poles be covered from the elements of weather; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors urges the State of California to
13 conduct a feasibility study for wrapping chemically treated wood utility poles and to identify
14 and promote alternatives to chemically treated wood utility poles.

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City and County of San Francisco

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

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 011117

Date Passed:

Resolution urging PG&E, Pacific Bell and manufacturers of non-wood utility poles to conduct a feasibility study of alternatives to chemically treated wood utility poles and urging all utility pole owners to take steps to protect public health and the environment from wood preservatives in utility poles.

June 18, 2001 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

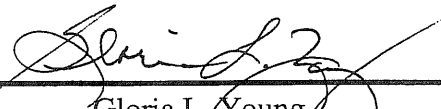
Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick,
Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval, Yee

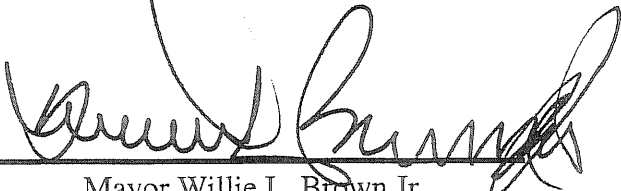
File No. 011117

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on June 18, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

JUN 29 2001

Date Approved


Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board


Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.