

1 [Computer and Electronics Recycling.]

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3 **Resolution Urging the California State Legislature to introduce and support legislation**  
4 **requiring computer and electronics producers to take responsibility for reuse and**  
5 **recycling of their products.**

6  
7 WHEREAS, Electronic discards are an increasing problem, with more than 6,000  
8 computers becoming obsolete in California every day<sup>1</sup> and 3.2 million tons of electronic waste  
9 ending up in United States landfills in 1997<sup>2</sup>; and

10 WHEREAS, Electronics contain lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium,  
11 polyvinyl chloride, brominated flame retardant and other materials that can pose hazards to  
12 human health and the environment when handled improperly; and,

13 WHEREAS, Only 14% of personal computers that became obsolete in 1998 were  
14 recycled or refurbished<sup>3</sup>; and,

15 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has been a leader in electronics  
16 reuse and recycling, and implemented a number of programs costing millions of dollars to  
17 reduce illegal dumping and promote the proper disposition of these products; and,

18 WHEREAS, The State of California recently affirmed that discarded cathode ray tubes,  
19 such as those found in televisions and computer monitors, are prohibited from municipal  
20 landfill, increasing concerns regarding proper disposal, cost and liability; and,

21 WHEREAS, Extended producer responsibility principles, such as those being adopted  
22 by several countries and the European Union, and contained in the *Electronics Take It Back!*  
23 *Platform*, a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File

24  
25 <sup>1</sup> *Computers, E-Waste and Product Stewardship: Is California Ready for the Challenge?*, Global Futures, 2001.

<sup>2</sup> *Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in the United States*, U. S. EPA, 1998.

<sup>3</sup> *Electronic Product Recovery and Recycling Baseline Report*, National Safety Council, 1999.

\*\*Supervisor Maxwell \*\*, Leno, Newsom, Peskin

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 No. 011155, will foster the development of sustainable design and recovery of  
2 electronic equipment by shifting the defaulted burden of disposal responsibility from  
3 government, ratepayers and taxpayers back to the manufacturers, distributors and  
4 consumers of such products, where it properly belongs, in part by internalizing lifecycle costs  
5 in the price of such products; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
7 supports the aforementioned *Electronics Take It Back! Platform*; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
9 Francisco hereby urges its State Assembly Members and Senators, by letter and receipt of  
10 this resolution, to introduce and support legislation requiring computer and electronics  
11 producers to operate or fund comprehensive extended producer responsibility programs  
12 whereby products are sustainably designed and labeled, consumers receive a financial  
13 incentive for proper disposal, a convenient collection infrastructure yielding a high rate of  
14 recovery is created and environmentally sound reuse followed by recycling is maximized;  
15 and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That if no effective producer responsibility program is created  
17 by industry or enacted by the California Legislature and signed by the Governor by October  
18 15, 2002, the City and County of San Francisco will commence preparing a local ordinance to  
19 require sellers and manufacturers to take back computers and other electronic equipment at  
20 no additional charge or fully fund a free and convenient recovery system; and, be it,

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco, should industry  
22 and the Legislature and Governor fail to act, may additionally require a deposit or fee at the  
23 point of sale to provide incentives for consumers to properly dispose of such products and  
24 cover the costs to the City and County and others for proper management of such products.  
25



City and County of San Francisco

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

Tails  
Resolution

File Number: 011155

Date Passed:

Resolution urging the California State Legislature to introduce and support legislation requiring computer and electronics producers to take responsibility for reuse and recycling of their products.

June 25, 2001 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

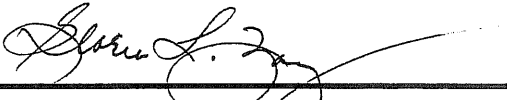
Ayes: 8 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Peskin

Absent: 3 - Newsom, Sandoval, Yee

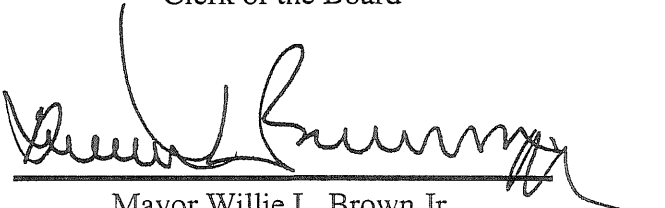
File No. 011155

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on June 25, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

JUL 06 2001

  
Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

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Date Approved

  
Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.