Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to make GoSolarSF a permanent program, to require solar installation on all new construction or substantial retrofits in the City, establishing Solar Vision goals for 2020, and establishing an overall megawatt solar energy goal for the City.

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco, under Ordinance 81-08, endorsed a goal for the City to have a greenhouse gas-free electric system by 2030 and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions citywide to 40% below 1990 levels by 2015 and 80% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, Energy consumption in buildings is responsible for 52 percent of all carbon emissions in the City; and

WHEREAS, Locally produced renewable energy benefits the health, welfare and resiliency of San Francisco and its residents and reduces carbon emissions associated with energy consumption in buildings; and

WHEREAS, Rooftops are underutilized valuable real estate with multiple potential uses, including solar installations and rooftop gardens, which can play a key role in reaching San Francisco’s greenhouse gas and sustainability goals; and

WHEREAS, Increasing solar installation in San Francisco promotes environmental justice regionally and statewide by helping to eliminate polluting fossil fuel power plants often located in low-income communities of color; and

WHEREAS, Solar helps increase housing affordability by decreasing energy costs to occupants of solarized homes and apartments in the form of reduced energy bills; and
WHEREAS, Solar installations significantly increase property values and it has been estimated that property values increase by $20,000 for every $1,000 saved by solar annually; and

WHEREAS, Solar creates good-paying clean energy jobs that benefit San Francisco’s workforce and the local installation community; and

WHEREAS, The last United States solar jobs census done by the Solar Foundation in 2013 showed that there are nearly 4,000 solar jobs in San Francisco alone; and

WHEREAS, The census showed a diverse array of more than 50,000 people working in solar in California - 20% of the jobs are held by Latinos, 22.5% are held by women, 11.7% are held by Asian-American/Pacific Islanders and 4% are held by African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has established its own groundbreaking clean energy initiatives, such as the landmark Solar Energy Incentive Program (“GoSolarSF”), the Solar@Work and SF SunShares group purchasing programs, and the newly re-launched GreenFinanceSF Residential Property Assessed Clean Energy program, that helps reduce the cost of solar installations; and

WHEREAS, The Solar Energy Incentive Program (“GoSolarSF”) began its seventh year on July 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), and the San Francisco Department of Environment are dedicated to installing solar energy systems that will reduce the City’s business and residential reliance on energy created by fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) has constructed and operates 16 municipal solar projects located at facilities such as the Moscone Convention Center, Southeast Treatment Plant, Pier 96, Chinatown Public Health Center, Maxine Hall Medical Center, City Distribution Division Warehouse, North Point Treatment Plant, the
San Francisco International Airport, Alvarado Elementary School, and Davies Symphony Hall, and is constructing additional municipal solar projects located at Thurgood Marshall High School, Cesar Chavez Elementary School, and Downtown High School; and

WHEREAS, The SFPUC has identified over 15 MW of municipal solar projects that could be installed on school rooftops, covered water reservoirs, and other municipal facilities; and

WHEREAS, GoSolarSF has achieved many of its objectives, including lowering the cost of solar by 40-50% compared to when the program was started in 2008 and making it more affordable for residents to install solar; and

WHEREAS, GoSolarSF has been successful in providing solar incentive payments for more than 3,000 San Francisco homes, business and nonprofit organizations, collectively producing more than 10 megawatts (MWs) of solar power, through June 2014, with approximately 8 MWs expected to be installed over the next two years; and

WHEREAS, GoSolarSF has boosted the local San Francisco economy, driving $65 million in total economic investment and 121 direct solar job placements for San Francisco residents who otherwise face barriers to employment through June 2014; and

WHEREAS, GoSolarSF has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by more than 172,631,800 pounds over the lifetime of installed systems, helping to meet the City’s climate action goals; and

WHEREAS, GoSolarSF faces termination under Environment Code, Section 18.1(K) ten years after its commencement since fiscal year 2008-2009; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco desires to re-establish itself as the leader for solar in the Bay Area by 2020 after falling behind due to GoSolarSF budget cuts and funding inconsistencies in recent years; and
WHEREAS, Across the state of California, incentives are lacking for installing solar on
tenant-occupied residences, and designing programs for multifamily housing units is critical; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Environment’s Solar Task Force has
developed recommendations to support local solar market development, including the
creation of GoSolarSF; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Environment Commission passed a resolution on July
22, 2014, that supports the requirement of solar installations on all new construction in San
Francisco, including the housing currently eligible for California Solar Initiative’s New Solar
Homes Partnership Incentives; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Edwin Lee and the Board of Supervisors fully funded GoSolarSF at
$5 million annually for FYs 2014-2015 and 2016-2017, and full funding is necessary to meet
the City’s in-city solar generation, greenhouse gas reduction, and green job creation goals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports GoSolarSF as a permanent
program that has and will continue to create a robust solar market in San Francisco, with a full
funding level of $5 million annually after the 2018 sunset date of the existing pilot program; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors support the requirement of
solar installations and/or rooftop gardens on all new construction or substantial retrofits in San
Francisco where feasible, and urges the Department of the Environment to convene
stakeholders to propose how this requirement be implemented; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors establish a 50 MW solar energy
goal for San Francisco to be achieved by 2020, including a 2 MW goal for existing tenant-
occupied residences annually, with this goal supported by GoSolarSF, CleanPowerSF,
Solar@Work, GreenFinanceSF, and other programs that support the development of in-city solar on existing buildings and new construction.
Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to make GoSolarSF a permanent program, to require solar installation on all new construction or substantial retrofits in the City, establishing Solar Vision goals for 2020, and establishing an overall megawatt solar energy goal for the City.

October 28, 2014 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 10/28/2014 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board