[Declaring the Intent to Waive Fee for Major Encroachment Permit - Seal Rock Inn Restaurant]

Resolution of intent to waive the Major Encroachment Permit fees and related ongoing fees, including the annual occupancy assessment fee, for the Seal Rock Inn Restaurant.

WHEREAS, The Seal Rock Inn is located at 545 Point Lobos Avenue next to the quiet, scenic surrounding of Sutro Heights Park; and

WHEREAS, Sutro Heights Park is located above the Cliff House, in the Lands' End Area of the San Francisco Richmond District, with views of Ocean Beach, Seal Rock, the Pacific Ocean, and the Farallon Islands; and

WHEREAS, Visitors from all over the Bay Area, California, the United States, and the world come to explore the rocky cliffs above the ocean, and to witness the spectacular views of the shore, the Marin Headlands, and the Golden Gate; and

WHEREAS, Sutro Heights and the Cliff House was purchased and became the residence of Mayor Adolph Sutro in 1881; after the first cliff house burned down in 1894, Adolph Sutro built the second Cliff House into a seven story Victorian chateau; and

WHEREAS, As documented in the book entitled "The Separate World of Sutro Heights" by Barbara Elam, Sutro Heights was a part of a 21-acre parcel of land purchased by Adolph Sutro who constructed an elegant garden which depicts his travels around the world; and

WHEREAS, Sutro Heights, Park, the land adjacent to the Cliff House, was created in 1885 by Mayor Sutro to be an elegant formal public garden; and

WHEREAS, The Cliff House and Sutro Heights Park were gifted to the Golden Gate National Recreational Area in 1977, and is now operated by the National Park; and

Supervisor Chan
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WHEREAS, The Seal Rock Inn is near the legendary Louis' Restaurant, which served the area for 83 years before its closure and is known for practically hanging over the cliffs above the Sutro baths; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1974, the Seal Rock Inn and Restaurant offers a welcoming, family friendly environment, great food and spectacular views; and

WHEREAS, The restaurant at the Seal Rock Inn has been a major economic driver to the Sutro Heights area, providing a comfortable space to neighbors and visitors; and

WHEREAS, The Seal Rock Inn has been family owned and operated by native San Franciscans for over five decades, and passed through multiple generations of families; and

WHEREAS, During in the pandemic, the restaurant at the Seal Rock Inn shutdown due to a lack of patronage; and

WHEREAS, Without the restaurant at Seal Rock Inn, the area is empty and desolate, re-opening the restaurant will be essential to bringing the Sutro Heights area back to life, and attracting new visitors; and

WHEREAS, Since 1974, The Seal Rock Inn has maintained the same footprint including a long-established patio; and

WHEREAS While the restaurant was closed, Public Works determined that the restaurant was encroaching on the public right of way, and assessed a fine of $8,000 against the Seal rock Inn; and

WHEREAS, The assessed fine and costs associated with legalizing the encroachment of the restaurant inhibits the ability for Seal Rock Inn to find a new restaurant tenant; and

WHEREAS, Re-opening the Seal Rock Inn restaurant is critical to bringing the Sutro Heights area back to life; and

WHEREAS, Seal Rock Inn will submit an application for a Major Encroachment Permit to install the project; and
WHEREAS, Pursuant to Public Works Code, Section 786, the Board of Supervisors must approve the proposed Major Encroachment Permit; and

WHEREAS, The Seal Rock Inn has the potential to once again be a neighborhood staple, serving delicious foods and offering a friendly environment to neighbors and tourists alike: now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That in order to facilitate this revitalization of this valuable City destination, the Board of Supervisors intends to waive the Major encroachment Permit fees and related ongoing fees, including the annual occupancy assessment, as part of its decision regarding the Encroachment Permit; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors also intends to make the Major Encroachment Permit fee waiver retroactive to the date of the permit application submission and waive any previously assessed charges or penalties related to the encroachment; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges Public Works to review the Seal Rock Inn.
Resolution of intent to waive the Major Encroachment Permit fees and related ongoing fees, including the annual occupancy assessment fee, for the Seal Rock Inn Restaurant.

February 28, 2023 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 2/28/2023 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

London N. Breed
Mayor

Date Approved: 3/10/23