Resolution reaffirming the Board of Supervisors’ support for public access to clean
drinking water, and for increasing the availability of hydration stations in City-owned
buildings and public spaces in San Francisco.

WHEREAS, High quality drinking water, particularly in lieu of sugar-sweetened
beverages (SSBs) such as sodas, sports drinks, and fruit flavored beverages, can help
prevent obesity and dental cavities, and boost hydration that is essential for overall health and
cognition; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco’s tap water confers benefits over bottled water - it contains
fluoride that can help prevent caries, is tested more regularly, is more affordable, and leaves a
smaller environmental footprint than bottled water; and

WHEREAS, Despite the benefits of tap water, higher consumption of SSBs in
communities of color and low-income communities have been associated with health
disparities in obesity, diabetes, dental cavities and other cardio metabolic diseases; and

WHEREAS, Purchases of bottled water can also adversely affect health by shifting
finite household resources from healthcare, education, or other essential household needs;
and

WHEREAS, Studies, primarily from school settings, suggest that provision of appealing
and safe tap water through reusable water bottles or water dispensers with culturally
competent promotion, can increase intake of water, decrease intake of SSBs, and reduce
obesity; and
WHEREAS, Observations of parks in San Francisco demonstrate that only five percent of park visitors use water fountains and that fountains have lower odds of being used if they are dirty or have obstructions that block access; and

WHEREAS, Defects in a site’s plumbing can compromise the excellent water quality provided by the SFPUC Water System by introducing contaminants into tap water; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, the City approved the Drink Tap Ordinance, Chapter 23 of the Environment Code, which requires that for new construction of City-owned or privately-owned buildings that provide one or more drinking fountains, such drinking fountains must be accompanied by a drink tap station (i.e., water bottle filler); and

WHEREAS, In 2014, the City approved the Bottled Water Ordinance, Chapter 24 of the Environment Code, which restricts the sale or distribution on City property of drinking water in plastic bottles of 21 ounces or less, and set City policy to increase the availability of drinking water in public areas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco finds that access to clean drinking water is essential to the health and well-being of all San Franciscans; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors finds publicly accessible hydration stations, which provide both water bottle filling stations and drinking fountains, are an effective way to encourage people to drink water; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That hydrations stations should be located conveniently in publicly-accessible places throughout the City; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors designates the City Administrator to convene a steering committee of City departments, including, but not limited to, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), the Department of Public Health, Recreation and Park Department, and the Port of San Francisco (“Steering Committee”), in an
effort to develop strategies to promote the installation of hydration stations in City-owned or
operated publicly-accessible buildings, and City Property such as parks, plazas and streets;
and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Steering Committee, should develop
recommendations on best practices and standards for the design of publicly accessible
hydration stations, including signage; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board urges the SFPUC to develop a program to test
tap water at publicly accessible hydration stations and drinking fountains in locations where
such contamination is suspected, and if contamination is found, the City agency responsible
for the facility shall fix the defective plumbing; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That culturally competent educational and public awareness
campaigns about the health benefits of drinking water, and about the exceptional purity of San
Francisco’s tap water, complement City efforts to provide hydration stations, and that the
SFPUC is urged to lead City efforts towards developing and sustaining such robust and
effective education and public awareness campaigns; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that the Steering
Committee develop a strategy, standards, and metrics for a hydration station program which
fulfills the goals of this resolution, develop guidelines, protocols, and best practices for
maintenance standards and that the development of these goals involve subject-matter
experts, community groups, other stakeholders, and the general public; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Steering Committee, if convened, is requested to
present the strategy, standards, and metrics for a City hydration station program to the Board
of Supervisors no later than December 31, 2020.
Resolution reaffirming the Board of Supervisors' support for public access to clean drinking water, and for increasing the availability of hydration stations in City-owned buildings and public spaces in San Francisco.

June 09, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 6/9/2020 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 her 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

06/19/2020
Date Approved