

DISCUSSION DRAFT

**Resolution requesting the Public Utilities Commission, the Mayor,
and the Recreation and Park Commission to set aside
Chapter 6.1 of the Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Plan
subject to review by various community agencies**

WHEREAS, In June 2002 the Recreation and Parks Department's Natural Areas Program published a Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, In the intervening two-and-one-half years there has been extensive discussion and debate regarding this plan without achieving community consensus as to its terms; and

WHEREAS, The Public Utilities Commission conferred upon the Park and Recreation Commission "the right to occupy, use and improve, for park and recreational purposes, all of the area in the Lake Merced Tract (PUC Resolution No. 10,435); and

WHEREAS, The proposed Natural Areas Program for Lake Merced has not been integrated with other plans intended to support this first use of the Lake Merced Tract; and

WHEREAS, The Public Utilities Commission further limited "the authority to use the surface of the Lake Merced tract for recreational use," (PUC Resolution No. 95-0082), and

WHEREAS, The Natural Areas Program, in Chapter 6 of its plan, proposes to control and manage use of the water in Lake Merced as well as its surface without notification or holding discussions with the Recreation Committee of the Lake Merced Task Force, and that there is no proposed recreational master plan to support this control; and

WHEREAS, Several proposals contained in this plan are based upon the existence of a red-legged frog at Lake Merced; and

WHEREAS, This report states "A small population of California red-legged frog can be found in Impound Lake;" and

WHEREAS, According to this same report, "no red-legged frogs were observed during the protocol surveys;" and

WHEREAS, More recently, "Additional protocol surveys have been conducted and failed to identify California red-legged frog at the Impound Lake and at Lake Merced in general. Therefore, the potential for occurrence is low." (EDAW, May 2004); and

WHEREAS, The Natural Areas Plan for Lake Merced contains several proposals that have developed broad community opposition, including but not limited to:

- **To prevent native turtles from being disturbed, restrict public access in some areas (especially those that may be used for nesting) by designing and installing a barrier between North and East Lakes. This barrier could be as simple as a floating log boom that would prevent boat access to East Lake,**
- **Periodically remove all bullfrogs from Impound Lake. Bullfrogs are voracious predators whose prey includes other frogs.**
- **Remove pine and cypress between Sunset Circle and the Mesa, and replant with native oaks. Remove or thin pine and cypress below Brotherhood Way.**
- **Install a permanent barrier between South Lake and Impound Lake to prevent the further incursion of predatory fish into Impound Lake. This would prevent more fish from entering Impound Lake and, over time, reduce the predation pressure on red-legged frogs that may be reproducing in Impound Lake.**

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Lake Merced Task Force requests the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission set aside Chapter 6.1 of the Significant Natural Areas Resource Management Plan, and arrange for the development of new proposals that better reflect the intent of the Public Utilities Commission, the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to develop the Lake Merced tract as a recreational facility, and that gain broad community support.