

1 **[Motion to Support San Francisco Department of Environment’s Budget Request**
2 **of \$5.03M for the Fiscal Years of 2023-2024 and 2024-2025]**

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4 **Supplemental Information:**

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6 See attached document [Letter of Support]

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Youth Commission
City Hall ~ Room 345
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place



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May 1st, 2023
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Mayor London Breed
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 200
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Support the Department of Environment's Budget Request of \$5.03M for the Fiscal Years of 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Dear Mayor and Board of Supervisors,

The San Francisco Youth Commission supports the Department of Environment's \$5.03M budget request from the City and County of San Francisco for Fiscal Years of 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Through an amendment to the City Charter in 1995, the Youth Commission was created to advise the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on policies and laws related to young people. The Youth Commission is a body of 17 diverse youth between the ages of 12 and 23 who represent all youth in San Francisco. The Youth Commission is also charged with providing comments and recommendations on all proposed laws that primarily affect youth before the Board takes final action.

The Youth Commission is driven to make San Francisco an equitable and sustainable city in which all youth can thrive. Specifically, we have been concerned with the worsening climate crisis. Youth are currently seeing and experiencing the harmful effects of climate change, and will continue to have to bear with these harmful impacts in many decades to come. Additionally, as an urban city, we believe San Francisco has a greater responsibility to address these climate impacts and provide creative and innovative solutions.

As a result, our Housing, Recreation, and Transit Committee has worked on initiatives to make San Francisco more walkable, livable, and public transit-friendly such as permanent Slow Streets, the closure of the Great Highway to cars, and Free Muni for all Youth. We greatly value and appreciate the work of the San Francisco Department of



Environment on this issue. Specifically, we believe in funding and implementing the Climate Action Plan.

The Climate Action Plan was first released in 2004, and updated in 2013 with a summary on the City's progress, its successful policies and programs, and necessary further action. In 2019, the city achieved a 41% reduction in emissions from 1990. However, since these plans have been released, the city has been experiencing a worsening climate crisis with disproportionate impacts on marginalized communities. This crisis drove the development of the 2021 Climate Action Plan. The 2021 Climate Action Plan provides a general road map for the city to reach net-zero emissions by 2040.

For the Fiscal Years of 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, the Department of Environment is requesting \$1.53M to retain staff and prevent cuts, and \$3.5M to secure existing and new budget requests for the Climate Action Plan. Current staffing is necessary for the department to secure federal grants. There is more federal money available now than ever before and keeping existing staff levels will maintain capacity to seek federal grant dollars and implement Climate Action Plan goals. It will also ensure the department can collaborate with other city departments on unified goals. The Climate Action Plan is a large initiative that demands funding to achieve its current vision and also advance forward meaningfully.

San Francisco needs to take immediate action to address the climate crisis. The climate crisis is an issue that affects everyone in the city, but it will especially affect youth who will bear all of the potential future consequences. The Mayor and Board of Supervisors must consistently invest in bold climate action by funding the Department of Environment and granting the total ask of \$5.03M. The Department of Environment's work is necessary to create a more livable, sustainable, and equitable city for youth.

Sincerely,

Emily Nguyen, Chair
Adopted on 5/1/2023 2022-2023
San Francisco Youth Commission