

1 [Precautionary Principle.]  
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3 **Resolution supporting the precautionary principle and requesting the Department of**  
4 **the Environment to prepare and submit legislation proposing the adoption of the**  
5 **precautionary principle as a general City policy and integrating a precautionary**  
6 **principle approach into the City's existing process for the purchase of commodities for**  
7 **the Board of Supervisor's consideration.**

8 WHEREAS, the Precautionary Principle dictates that where threats of serious or  
9 irreversible damage to people or natural systems exist, lack of full scientific certainty relating  
10 to cause and effect shall not be viewed as sufficient reason to postpone measures to prevent  
11 the degradation of the environment or protect human health. The precautionary principle  
12 requires a careful analysis of available alternatives using the best science and selection of the  
13 alternative presenting the least potential threat to human health and natural systems; and  
14 selecting the alternatives that minimize human impacts to human health and the environment  
15 often results in long-term cost savings; and

16 WHEREAS, the United States has endorsed the Precautionary Principle in international  
17 and other statements such as the Rio Declaration of the 1992 United Nations Conference on  
18 the Environment and the Persistent Organic Pollutant Treaty; and

19 WHEREAS, the city of San Francisco has adopted a number of successful  
20 environmental ordinances applying a precautionary principle approach to specific City  
21 purchases and activities including the Integrated Pest Management Ordinance, the Resource  
22 Efficient Building Ordinance, the Healthy Air Ordinance, and the Environmentally Preferable  
23 Purchasing Ordinance; and  
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25

1           WHEREAS, the Precautionary Principle mandates full disclosure by manufacturers and  
2 suppliers so that the most protective standard can be applied in the comparison of potential  
3 alternatives allowing the City to make informed and protective decisions; and

4           WHEREAS, utilizing the Precautionary Principle to select products and services that  
5 minimize negative impacts to human health and the environment, will use San Francisco's  
6 significant purchasing power to create markets for alternative products thereby driving  
7 manufacturers to engage in research and development towards the production of additional  
8 innovative alternative products; and

9           WHEREAS, adopting the Precautionary Principle in purchasing practices will enable  
10 the City/County of San Francisco to lead by example and to demonstrate to residents and  
11 commercial entities that adopting similar practices will achieve significant protection of local  
12 natural resources; and

13           WHEREAS, In January 2002, the Commission on the Environment formed an Ad Hoc  
14 Precautionary Principle Committee to consider and develop recommendations for the full  
15 Commission, Board of Supervisors and the Mayor on whether and how the City should  
16 endorse and implement the precautionary principle; and

17           WHEREAS, the Commission on the Environment's Ad Hoc Committee has held regular  
18 meetings and has received hundreds of letters and comments supporting the precautionary  
19 principle; now, therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors supports the precautionary principle as a  
21 City-wide policy; and be it

22           FURTHER RESOLVED, That specific integration of a Precautionary Principle  
23 approach to the purchase of all commodities by the City is an appropriate first step to  
24 implementing the precautionary principle in San Francisco due to the City's annual purchasing  
25

1 power of over \$600 million and the tangible results that can be achieved through changes in  
2 the City's purchasing decisions; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests that the Department of the  
4 Environment work with the Commission on the Environment, other City departments and  
5 commissions, the public, City vendors and industry representatives to consider and evaluate  
6 the benefits, costs and feasibility of implementing the precautionary principle in San Francisco  
7 as described above; and be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests that, consistent with this process, the  
9 Department draft and submit for the Board's consideration proposed legislation (1) adopting  
10 the precautionary principle as a general City policy, including a definition of the policy as  
11 applied to the City; and (2) enacting a specific integration plan to apply the precautionary  
12 principle to the City's purchase of commodities which complements existing City purchasing  
13 requirements and policies; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board urges the Department of the Environment to  
15 report to the Board on possible integration of the precautionary principle to other specific City  
16 activities.



# City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

## Tails Resolution

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**File Number:** 021859

**Date Passed:**

Resolution supporting the precautionary principle and requesting the Department of the Environment to prepare and submit legislation proposing the adoption of the precautionary principle as a general City policy and integrating a precautionary principle approach into the City's existing process for the purchase of commodities for the Board of Supervisors' consideration.

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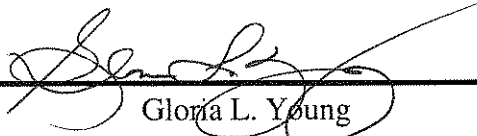
March 4, 2003 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Gonzalez, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Newsom,  
Peskin, Sandoval

Noes: 1 - Hall

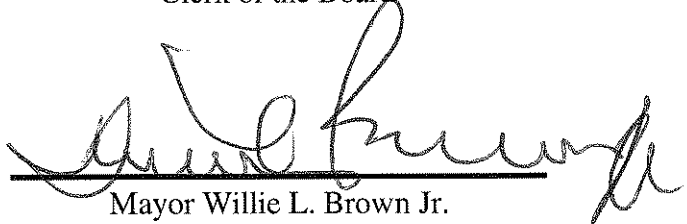
File No. 021859

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on March 4, 2003 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

MAR 13 2003

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Date Approved

  
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Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.