FIRE COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco
Gavin Newsom, Mayor

Victor Makras, President
Stephen A. Nakajo, Vice President
George Lau, Commissioner
Andrea Evans, Commissioner

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 2010-01

ENCOURAGING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PURSUE GRANT FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF $9.785 MILLION FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO EXPAND THE DEPARTMENT'S PORTABLE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, The uniformed employees of the San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD) respond to approximately 100,000 incidents a year; and,

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the SFFD and its members to protect the lives and property of the citizens of San Francisco from the effects of natural disasters; and,

WHEREAS, The United States Geological Survey has issued increasingly frequent warnings of the high probability of a potentially catastrophic earthquake in the San Francisco Bay Area during the next thirty years; and,

WHEREAS, World renowned scientists, whose area of expertise is the modeling of the destructive effects of earthquakes on underground infrastructure, have identified the domestic water system of San Francisco as highly vulnerable to catastrophic failure in the event of a major Bay Area earthquake; and,

WHEREAS, World renowned scientists, whose area of expertise is the modeling of the spread of fire following earthquakes in modern urban settings, have predicted that there is a high likelihood that San Francisco will be subject to multiple simultaneous conflagrations following a major Bay Area earthquake; and,

WHEREAS, The assessed value of the real estate in San Francisco subject to property taxation exceeds $100 billion; and,

WHEREAS, The spread of fire following earthquakes in a modern urban setting typically is responsible for as much as 75% of the total dollar loss that results; and,

WHEREAS, Loss of life following an earthquake in a modern urban setting is greatly exacerbated by the effects of resultant fires in buildings where occupants have been trapped by structural collapse; and,

WHEREAS, The Auxiliary Water Supply System does not cover the entire geographic areas of the City and County of San Francisco; and,
WHEREAS, The SFFD's Portable Water Supply System has been proven effective in the above-ground transmission of water for fire fighting purposes; and,

WHEREAS, The Portable Water Supply System works in conjunction with and can supplement the existing Auxiliary Water Supply System, and therefore the Portable Water Supply System is capable of partially mitigating the possible lack of domestic water system availability following a major earthquake; and,

WHEREAS, the number of units currently comprising the SFFD's existing Portable Water Supply System is not adequate to supply all areas of San Francisco where the Auxiliary Water Supply System does not extend; and

WHEREAS, the proposed design for expanding the Portable Water Supply System has been shown to be a highly cost effective and functionally adaptable method of providing the means by which firefighters can attack multiple conflagrations simultaneously;

WHEREAS, the SFFD is working with Senator Dianne Feinstein and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi in seeking these grant funds, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Fire Commission encourages the Fire Department to actively pursue grant funds in the amount of $9.785 million from the Federal government, to expand the Portable Water Supply System and train SFFD uniformed members, the Fire Reserve, and other members of the community who may assist the SFFD in times of disaster.


Ayes: 4 (Makras, Nakajo, Lau, Evans)
Nays: 0

Monica Quattrin, Commission Secretary