

FILE NO.

RESOLUTION NO. 040294

1 [Urging the California Public Utilities Commission and the Federal Railroad Administration to
2 adopt regulations to ensure that the safety of the citizens of the city and county of San
3 Francisco is not at risk due to the use of remote control locomotives.]

4 **Resolution urging the California Public Utilities Commission and the Federal Railroad**
5 **Administration to adopt regulations to ensure that the safety of the citizens of the city**
6 **and county of San Francisco is not at risk due to the use of remote control**
7 **locomotives.**

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9 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors has a duty to provide for the
10 public safety of its Citizens; and

11 WHEREAS, the city and county of San Francisco has received information that a pilot
12 program has been initiated relating to the use of remote control locomotives across the nation
13 including cities in California; and,

14 WHEREAS, operation of a railroad is traditionally conducted with the use of
15 locomotives manned by experienced, highly trained individuals who are required to be
16 certified prior to operating the locomotive; and,

17 WHEREAS, railroads have been granted permission from the Federal Railroad
18 Administration (FRA) to operate remote controlled locomotives by less trained, tested, and
19 qualified individuals; and,

20 WHEREAS, Freight hauling railroads doing business within the city and county of San
21 Francisco operate on tracks adjacent to and connecting with tracks carrying commuter
22 passenger trains; and,

23 WHEREAS, Freight hauling railroads doing business within the city and county of San
24 Francisco operate through high-density urban areas, over numerous public and private
25 crossings accessible to persons of all ages and abilities; and,

Supervisors Maxwell
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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1 WHEREAS, the use of remote control locomotives is known to present significant
2 dangers to persons and property from the possibility of collisions, derailments, and release of
3 hazardous materials due to the lack of a trained employee on the leading end of the train;
4 and,

5 WHEREAS, the United States government has issued a safety alert with respect to
6 vandalism and terrorist threats against railroads; and,

7 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors believes that it is not in the best
8 interest of our Citizens to see this technology put into place without thorough and
9 comprehensive regulations; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the California Public
11 Utilities Commission and the Federal Railroad Administration to adopt regulations to ensure
12 that the safety of the citizens of the city and county of San Francisco is not at risk due to the
13 use of remote control locomotives.

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Adopted 3-16-04 by Supervisors