

WHEREAS the week of June 12 – 16 has been designated as a National Week of Solidarity to support the Citizens for a Strong New Orleans East in their effort to save New Orleans East for the communities of color that have historically resided there by closing the operation of a landfill intended to store environmentally toxic debris resulting from Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS the City of New Orleans and Waste Management Inc. have decided to create and operate a landfill for Hurricane Katrina debris at 16600 Chef Menteur Highway, proximate to the communities of New Orleans East, all of which were displaced by Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS the Hurricane Katrina debris contains vast amounts of environmental toxins, including building materials containing asbestos and nearly 5 millions gallons of toxic household waste including paint, chlorine bleach, drain cleaner and the like; and

WHEREAS this landfill is not appropriately safeguarded against incoming groundwater seepage, which will mix with environmental toxins from the Katrina debris and will be pumped into an adjacent canal that flows directly into the a largely Vietnamese community in New Orleans East and, as a result, will result in the permanent displacement of this community that has only now begun to rebuild; and

WHEREAS this landfill is also approximately 80ft away from Bayou Sauvage, the largest urban wildlife refuge in the country and will likely contaminate and destroy this delicately balanced ecosystem; and

WHEREAS there are other nearby landfill sites that are readily available and protected against groundwater seepage so are more appropriate sites to store Katrina debris that are not being used in order to save costs for the City of New Orleans, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, and Waste Management Inc., the company contracted to haul the debris and operate the site; and

WHEREAS the City and County of San Francisco believes that cost savings and profit should not be prioritized over the communities and people living in those communities:

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports the Citizens for a Strong New Orleans East in their effort to close the operation of the Chef Menteur landfill and preserve New Orleans for the communities of color that have traditionally resided there; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the City of New Orleans, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, and Waste Management Inc. to discontinue the operation of the landfill at 16600 Chef Menteur Highway in favor of landfills in the surrounding vicinity that are more appropriately suited to store toxic debris resulting from Hurricane Katrina; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that the Clerk of the Board send copies of this resolution to City of New Orleans, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Waste Management Inc., US Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara

Boxer, US Representative Nanci Pelosi, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.