

Meeting Date: May 20, 2024

To: Sanitation and Streets Commission

Through: Carla Short, Public Works Director

From: Bob Fuller, Commission Secretary

Subject: Sanitation and Streets Commission Land Acknowledgement Statement – Adoption

Secretary’s Recommendation: Adopt the proposed land acknowledgement statement.

Executive Summary: The adoption of a land acknowledgement statement has been a goal of the Sanitation and Streets Commission since its founding in July 2022. In November 2022, the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone presented the concept of a land acknowledgement statement to the Commission and outlined a suggested process for creating one that is particular to this public body. The Commission drafted their land acknowledgement statement with ongoing consultation with the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone and Public Works Department staff. The draft statement was presented at the April 15, 2024 meeting of the Sanitation and Streets Commission and hear public comment on the draft. Below and included in the attached resolution is the land acknowledgement statement. If approved by Commission, it will be posted on the Commission’s website, included in its meeting agenda, and will be regularly read at Commission meetings.

Proposed Sanitation and Streets Commission Land Acknowledgement Statement:

The San Francisco Sanitation and Streets Commission acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone, the original inhabitants of what is now the San Francisco Peninsula. We recognize that the Ramaytush Ohlone understand the interconnectedness of all things and have maintained harmony with nature for millennia. We honor the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples for their enduring commitment to Mother Earth. And as part of San Francisco Public Works, we affirm our responsibility in maintaining our public spaces as stewards of the public right of way by cleaning and greening throughout the City in collaboration with our communities, so as to respect the land on which we now reside. Indigenous peoples from many nations make their home in this region today. We commit to prioritizing policies and programs to equitably benefit marginalized members of the community, including American Indians, while also striving for environmental sustainability.

Attachments:

- Sanitation and Streets Commission Resolution

**SANITATION AND STREETS COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Sanitation and Streets Commission seeks to be an inclusive and accessible public body; and,

WHEREAS, That the Commission drafted a land acknowledgement statement in pursuit of the Department of Public Works's and City's racial equity goals; and

WHEREAS, Commissioners researched multiple land acknowledgement statements of peer public bodies and cultural organizations; and

WHEREAS, Commissioners consulted with representatives from the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone to have a meaningful process and create a powerful text; and

WHEREAS, Commissioners drafted this land acknowledgement with the advice of Public Works staff to align the statement with the Department's mission of stewardship for the public right of way and public spaces in all neighborhoods of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The Commission created the following text in quotations as its land acknowledgement statement; and

WHEREAS, "The San Francisco Sanitation and Streets Commission acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone, the original inhabitants of what is now the San Francisco Peninsula," and

WHEREAS, "We recognize that the Ramaytush Ohlone understand the interconnectedness of all things and have maintained harmony with nature for millennia," and

WHEREAS, "We honor the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples for their enduring commitment to Mother Earth," and

WHEREAS, "And as part of San Francisco Public Works, we affirm our responsibility in maintaining our public spaces as stewards of the public right of way by cleaning and greening throughout the City in collaboration with our communities, so as to respect the land on which we now reside," and

WHEREAS, "Indigenous peoples from many nations make their home in this region today," and

WHEREAS, "We commit to prioritizing policies and programs to equitably benefit marginalized members of the community, including American Indians, while also striving for environmental sustainability;" now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Sanitation and Streets Commission adopts its land acknowledgement statement as shown in the version on file with the Commission Affairs Manager and incorporated by reference herein; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission's land acknowledgement statement will be included in the Commission's meeting agendas, displayed on its website and will be read regularly at the beginning of Commission meetings.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Sanitation and Streets Commission at its meeting of _____.

Commission Affairs Manager
Sanitation and Streets Commission