

1 SAN FRANCISCO ELECTIONS COMMISSION

2 Resolution on Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgment

3 Adopted by the Elections Commission 6-0 on October 19, 2022.

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5 Resolution to recognize the Ramaytush Ohlone as Native Peoples via the permanent recitation of
6 a land acknowledgment at the opening of every general, special, and committee meeting held by
7 the San Francisco Elections Commission.
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9 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Elections Commission (“Commission”) acknowledges that the
10 Ramaytush Ohlone are the original peoples of the San Francisco Peninsula; and

11 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Elections Commission acknowledges that the area comprising
12 the City and County of San Francisco was originally inhabited by the Yelamu, an independent tribe of the
13 Ramaytush Ohlone peoples; and

14 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Elections Commission acknowledges that the Association of
15 Ramaytush Ohlone has actively worked to research, expand public awareness of, and preserve Ohlone
16 history and culture; and

17 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Elections Commission acknowledges that the City and County of
18 San Francisco was founded on unceded territory, and continues to participate in the erasure and
19 exclusion of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples; and

20 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Elections Commission acknowledges that the Ramaytush Ohlone
21 peoples have survived systematic disenfranchisement and other atrocities driven by local, federal, and
22 global governments; and

23 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Elections Commission acknowledges that the Ramaytush Ohlone
24 peoples are not a mythical population of the past, but an integral and active community in the present San
25 Francisco Bay Area region and beyond, whose ongoing exclusion and invisibility in the electorate
26 threaten the greater Native American community’s inclusion and respect in San Francisco; and

27 WHEREAS, To acknowledge the truth of a land’s history is a demonstration of honor for the
28 contributions and sacrifices of the ancestors and people that inhabited and cared for this land before us;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, The American Indian Cultural District, in partnership with the Ramaytush Ohlone
31 Association, submitted a list of demands in 2020 to the San Francisco Mayor, Human Rights
32 Commission, and Board of Supervisors, including a demand for the City to “Honor the First People of San
33 Francisco, The Ramaytush Ohlone, by recognizing them and their ancestral homelands prior to all City
34 meetings;” therefore be it

35 RESOLVED, From this date forward, at the beginning of each Elections Commission meeting, a
36 member of the Commission will state the following land acknowledgment, which was written in
37 collaboration with and approved by the Association of the Ramaytush Ohlone:

38 *The San Francisco Elections Commission acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral*
39 *homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As*
40 *the indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have*
41 *never ceded, lost, nor forgotten their responsibilities as caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples*
42 *who reside in their traditional territory. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on*
43 *their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the ancestors and relatives of*
44 *the Ramaytush Community and affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples; and, be it*

45 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Elections Commission’s land acknowledgement is
46 the first step in a broader effort to honor the land, culture, and contributions of the Ramaytush Ohlone
47 peoples throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.