CONSIDER ADOPTING A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO AND RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PORT TO THE SAN FRANCISCO WATERFRONT, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND TO THE ECONOMIC VITALITY OF THE STATE AND NATION

The Port of San Francisco (Port) will celebrate its 150th Anniversary on April 24, 2013. On this day in 1863, the Port was established with the Legislature’s creation of the State Harbor Commission, which oversaw the development of the Port.

The Port lies on the western edge of the San Francisco Bay near the Golden Gate. It has been called one of the three great natural harbors in the world. The Port’s larger waterfront area extends from the anchorage of the Golden Gate Bridge, along the Marina district, all the way around the north and east shores of the city of San Francisco including Fisherman's Wharf and the Embarcadero, and southward to the city line just beyond Candlestick Point.

The Port’s property consists of seven and one-half miles of public tidelands, which are held in trust for the people of California, pursuant to the Burton Act (Chapter 1333, Statutes of 1968, as amended). As a trustee of granted public trust lands, the Port promotes maritime commerce, navigation and fisheries, as well as protects natural resources and enhances the public’s use and enjoyment of the waterfront through increased public access.

The Port has one of the most diverse maritime portfolios of any port in California and features a key stopping point for cruise vessels along the West Coast, ferry service across the Bay, ship repair in the largest floating drydock on the west coast of the Americas, and in its Southern Waterfront, significant breakbulk and bulk shipping terminals and sand and gravel processing.

The Port has completed several landmark projects, in collaboration with the State Lands Commission, which have invigorated the region’s waterfront and economy and provided new recreational opportunities that connect the public with its waterfront, including AT&T Park, the renovation of the Ferry Building, Pier 1, Piers 1 ½ - 3 – 5 Historic Rehabilitation Project, and Pier 14 Public Access. The Port has also begun several
additional projects that will further revitalize the region’s waterfront and bring people to the waterfront, including but not limited to the Pier 27 Cruise Terminal Project, the Exploratorium at Piers 15 – 17, the Brannon Street Wharf, and Pier 70.

The Port is a vibrant and active industrial, cargo, recreational boating, and commercial fishing port. It is also a people port that ranks as California’s most active passenger port, seeing to the safe passage of over 6 million commuter ferry, excursion, and cruise passengers each year. Additionally, the Port provides many public access areas where the public can enjoy views of the beautiful Bay, including a unique mix of visitor-serving attractions that promote enjoyment of the waterfront.

EXHIBIT:
   A. Port of San Francisco Resolution

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Commission:

1. Adopt the resolution acknowledging the 150th sesquicentennial anniversary of the Port of San Francisco attached hereto being Exhibit A.

WHEREAS, the Port of San Francisco resides on the western edge of the San Francisco Bay near the Golden Gate Bridge and has been called one of the three great natural harbors in the world; and,

WHEREAS San Francisco’s larger waterfront area extends from the anchorage of the Golden Gate Bridge, along the Marina District, all the way around the north and east shores of the city of San Francisco including Fisherman’s Wharf and the Embarcadero, and southward to the city line just beyond Candlestick Point; and,

WHEREAS, San Francisco waterfront can trace its origins and importance back to the era of Native Americans occupation and use and later Spanish and Mexican control of California; and,

WHEREAS, the Port of San Francisco was officially created by an act of the California Legislature in 1863 and transferred to the City of San Francisco in 1968 by a statutory trust grant of State-owned public trust lands; and,

WHEREAS, the grant of these lands is intended to ensure that the Port’s lands and assets are managed for public trust purposes for the benefit of all Californians, pursuant to the common law Public Trust Doctrine, the California Constitution, and the statutory grant; and,

WHEREAS, the Port of San Francisco has one of the most diverse maritime portfolios of any port in California and features a key stopping point for cruise vessels along the West Coast, ferry service across the Bay, ship repair in the largest floating drydock on the west coast of the Americas, and in its Southern Waterfront, significant breakbulk and bulk shipping terminals and sand and gravel processing; and,

WHEREAS, the Port of San Francisco’s Waterfront Land Use Plan sets forth a vision for reconnecting the City with the Bay, calling for adaptive reuse of the Port’s historic finger piers and other structures, with a lively mix of commercial and maritime uses, connected by a series of waterfront open spaces and scenic views of the Bay; and,

WHEREAS, the Port of San Francisco has completed several landmark projects which have invigorated the region’s waterfront and economy and provided new recreational opportunities that connect the public with its waterfront, including AT&T Park, the renovation of the Ferry Building, Pier 1, Piers 1 ½ - 3 – 5 Historic Rehabilitation Project, Pier 14 Public Access, and Rincon Park; and,
WHEREAS, the Port of San Francisco has several additional projects underway that will further revitalize the waterfront and bring people to the Bay, including the Pier 27 Cruise Terminal Project, the Exploratorium at Piers 15 – 17, the Brannon Street Wharf, and Pier 70; and,

WHEREAS, the Port of San Francisco has worked collaboratively and productively with the State Lands Commission in developing its waterfront and putting finger piers to adaptive reuse, ensuring consistency with public trust principles; and,

WHEREAS, the Port of San Francisco has demonstrated environmental leadership that has benefited the public trust lands under its stewardship by becoming the first California port, and one of only a handful of ports in the world, to provide shoreside electrical power for cruise ships while at berth; and,

WHEREAS, the Port of San Francisco has further demonstrated environmental stewardship by approving a landmark policy for zero waste during events and activities on port property where attendance of 5,000 or more people is expected, including restricting the sale, use and distribution of certain plastic bags, plastic bottles, plastic food ware and the release of balloons; and,

WHEREAS, the Port of San Francisco is an invaluable public trust asset, a vibrant and world renowned tourist destination, and a vital component of the local, state and national economies; and,

WHEREAS, in honor of the Port of San Francisco’s 150th anniversary and sesquicentennial birthday on April 24th, 2013, now; therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION that it acknowledges the 150th anniversary of the Port of San Francisco and congratulates the Port on the rich and diverse contributions it has made to the People of California and to the City, State and Nation.