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Resolution Opposing Privatization of Water & Waste Treatment Facilities

WHEREAS: Access to affordable clean water and effective sanitary waste removal are essential to healthy communities; and

WHEREAS: California's publicly constructed and operated water treatment and waste water treatment facilities have proven their capacity to carry out these tasks; and

WHEREAS: These facilities have been publicly funded and have been constructed under California laws requiring competitive public bidding and the payment of prevailing wages; and

WHEREAS: Three multi-national firms, Veolia and Suez, both French firms along with Thames Water of England, have embarked on a global effort to privatize water and waste water treatment facilities, including those in California, promising financially strapped public agencies lower costs and better service; and

WHEREAS: Experience shows that where these vital facilities have been privatized, the cost of water and wastewater treatment for consumers has increased while the quality of treated water, the effectiveness of waste water treatment, consumer service and investment in water infrastructure have all declined; and further,

WHEREAS: The privatization of these facilities in California eliminates the requirement for public bidding and the payment of prevailing wages for their construction, renovation and expansion, resulting in decreased work opportunities for our members,

WHEREAS: Studies have shown that tap water, which required to be tested 300 times per day, is safer than most bottled water. Bottled water has minimal requirements for testing, is costly, packaged in plastic bottles that tend to leach and uses enormous amounts of oil to produce,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the San Francisco Labor Council go on record opposing the privatization of water and waste water treatment facilities and related infrastructure, and work to eliminate the sale and production of bottled water and further commits to actively work with like-minded consumer, labor and environmental organizations, as well as public officials and the State Legislature to this end; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the San Francisco Labor Council Executive Board allocates adequate resources to support this effort.

Submitted by Denis D'Anne, SEIU 1021, and adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on November 24, 2008.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Paulson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning and a trailing flourish at the end.

Tim Paulson
Executive Director