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Resolution Supporting a Measured Increase in the Jobs Housing Linkage Fee

WHEREAS, we as the San Francisco Labor Council have the responsibility to advocate for the current and continued work for our sisters, brothers and siblings; and

WHEREAS, the Jobs Housing Linkage Fee, first instituted in 1996, requires projects constructing new or expanded non-residential buildings of more than 25,000 square feet of development to offset the demand for new affordable housing created by those projects; and

WHEREAS, Supervisor Haney, the author of the proposed increase in the Jobs Housing Linkage Fee, is trying to strike a balance between an increased fee to fulfill the policy goal of more funds to build affordable housing and the need for economically feasible projects; and

WHEREAS, developers who have not yet financed or entitled projects can now anticipate this higher fee; and

WHEREAS, there are several developments, including key sites in the Central SOMA Plan and the Southeast waterfront, which represent over 6 million square feet of office either entitled or nearly entitled; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned key sites will be built with all union construction and further, once built will create a pathway to local employment in property management positions. The Members of the Central SOMA Alliance have joined with experienced community organizations and civic agencies to design, plan, and implement a "Best Practices" training and employment program for the always-important Property Management work for their existing and future commercial office properties in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, the Jobs Housing Linkage Fee will provide affordable housing units built by workers earning an honest day's wage for an honest day's work; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Labor Community has been assured that the Sponsors of this update to the Jobs Housing Linkage Fee will bring forward legislation to address wage theft in the construction industry,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the San Francisco Labor Council supports the update to the Jobs Housing Linkage Fee, as amended, given its balanced approach to both affordable housing and future work opportunities.

Adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on October 28, 2019.

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