

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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**RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING EMPLOYERS TO OFFER ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES
IN SAN MATEO COUNTY THE OPTION TO TELECOMMUTE TO PROTECT AND
ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL AIR QUALITY AND EASE TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN
SAN MATEO COUNTY**

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, where telecommuting is defined as working from home, making use of internet, email, and telephone; and

WHEREAS, in the United States of America, the majority of workers have been instructed to work from home by employers and government officials to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, telecommuting has been found to increase environmental quality of cities and towns as greenhouse gas emissions from transportation are reduced; and

WHEREAS, in San Mateo County and in the San Francisco Bay Area, Ozone and fine particle pollution, or PM 2.5, are the major regional air pollutants of concern in San Francisco, especially during the summer and winter; and

WHEREAS, The American Lung Association has found that more than 40 percent of Americans live in areas with unhealthy air, and San Mateo County residents are among them; and

WHEREAS, The County of San Mateo has been given the grade of “C” for high ozone days and a grade of “D” in particle pollution by The American Lung Association; and

WHEREAS, in San Mateo County, the majority of air pollutants have been due to the high concentration of vehicle emissions on Highway 101; and

WHEREAS, on a given work day, over 400,000 workers commute into, out of, and within San Mateo County, contributing to daily traffic congestion: and

WHEREAS, air quality has exhibited significant improvements in the Bay Area, as the majority of workers telecommute COVID-19 shelter in place order; and

WHEREAS, in the Bay Area, the majority of workplaces are now permanently remote as due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Facebook, the largest employer in San Mateo County has implemented plans for permanent remote work; and

WHEREAS, the majority of workplaces have found telecommuting to be successful during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, it is our imperative duty to improve environmental quality and air quality in the County of San Mateo to protect all residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo encourages all employers within San Mateo County to implement a telecommuting option for their employees if feasible.