

RESOLUTION NO. .

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

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE SAN MATEO COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT'S FEE SCHEDULE BY (I) ELIMINATING GROUP TOUR RESERVATION FEES AT FITZGERALD MARINE RESERVE AND (II) ADJUSTING ONLINE, TELEPHONE, AND IN-PERSON RESERVATION SERVICE FEES TO A CONSISTENT FEE OF \$7 PER RESERVATION

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 2.63 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code, this Board shall establish the fees to be charged for use of County parks and recreation areas, as informed by recommendations from the County Parks Department ("Department") and the Parks and Recreation Commission ("Parks Commission"); and

WHEREAS, the Department intends to conduct a comprehensive assessment of its fee schedule in Fiscal Year 2021-22 with a focus on both cost recovery and equity to determine what, if any, changes should be made to the fee schedule; and

WHEREAS, the James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve ("Fitzgerald Marine Reserve") was established in 1969 to protect marine species and serve as an educational resource for the public, and in 1999 the State of California designated the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve as part of the Montara State Marine Reserve and a Marine Protected Area; and

WHEREAS, the Department has an established history of collaborating with the Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, a nonprofit organization of volunteers who provide tours of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve's tidepools and other educational

experiences that are centered on marine wildlife, with tour reservations required for groups of 10 or more individuals (such as school field trips) to minimize impacts to tidepools; and

WHEREAS, the Department recognizes that the costs of off-campus educational field trips, including to the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, can be a barrier to learning experiences for many schools with limited resources; and

WHEREAS, the Department recommends eliminating the group reservation fee at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve to make the reserve more accessible to all members of the public, especially students from schools that receive funding from Title I; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Resolution No. 069361 (adopted April 22, 2008) and Resolution No. 070578 (adopted December 15, 2009), the Department charges an administrative service fee of \$7 for all reservations made online and \$10 for all reservations made by phone; and

WHEREAS, the Department has not previously recommended, nor has the Board previously approved, an administrative service fee for reservations made in person at the Department's offices at County Center; and

WHEREAS, as a result, the current reservation service fee structure is inconsistent, difficult to understand, and not equitable to members of the public that do not have access to the internet or a computer or who cannot take time off of work to make a reservation in person; and

WHEREAS, the Department therefore recommends that this Board amend the reservation service fee schedule to a consistent fee of \$7 per reservation regardless of

whether the reservation is made online, by phone, or in-person, to account for the Department's cost of providing park reservation services; and

WHEREAS, at its August 5, 2021 meeting, the Parks Commission voted unanimously to recommend to this Board that the San Mateo County Parks Department fee schedule be amended as referenced herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors authorizes an amendment to the San Mateo County Parks Department's Fee Schedule to (i) eliminate the group tour reservation fee at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and (ii) adjust the online, telephone, and in-person reservation service fees to a consistent fee of \$7 per reservation.

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