MUNICIPAL WET CLEANING RESULUTION

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RECOMMENDING THAT UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY AND/OR COUNTY OF _____ HOME LAUNDER OR PROFESSIONALLY WET CLEAN THEIR UNIFORMS, IF POSSIBLE.

WHEREAS, perchloroethylene (perc or PCE) has been identified as a toxic air contaminant and a possible human carcinogen by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) 1; and

WHEREAS, perchloroethylene is the solvent most commonly used by the dry cleaning industry to clean clothes or other materials 2; and

WHEREAS, perc is emitted to the air from dry cleaning operations 3 and from freshly dry-cleaned clothes 4, and these emissions contribute to the public's exposure to perc (although the health impact of intermittent, low exposure to perc from clothing off-gassing is unknown); and

WHEREAS, the primary source of perc pollution in the Bay Area is the dry cleaning industry 5; and

WHEREAS, perc has been detected in the Bay Area air 6; and

WHEREAS, pollution prevention in the dry cleaning industry is good for the environment because it results in safer working and living conditions 7; and

WHEREAS, pollution prevention is recognized as the most effective waste management strategy 8; and

WHEREAS, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the US Environmental Protection Agency, industry and environmental groups have agreed upon the need to reduce perc in the environment 9; and

WHEREAS, on-the-job perc exposure has a disproportionate impact on low-income and minority communities 10; and

WHEREAS, adverse health effects from perc exposure can be reduced through spending decisions that lower the demand for perc-based dry cleaning 11; and

WHEREAS, the City/County of _____ support sustainable business development and dry cleaners using some non-perc fabricare technologies and solvents, such as wet cleaning, may be characterized as such 12; and

WHEREAS, many garments labeled “dry clean only” can be laundered using professional wet cleaning or non-perc solvents 13.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the City/County of _____, that all uniformed employees of the City/County of _____ shall, if at all possible, home launder or professionally wet clean their uniforms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the City/County of _____ intends by this resolution to encourage reduced perc usage wherever possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the City/County of _____ that the City/County staff is hereby authorized to identify and publicize the location of dry cleaners offering safer fabricare alternatives to perc to all uniformed employees in the City/County of _____.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the City/County of _____ that City staff are hereby authorized to recommend to the Board of Supervisors additional ways that the City/County can reduce perc pollution, such as requiring employees to purchase uniforms that do not require perc-based dry cleaning, when their uniforms need to be replaced.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the City/County of _____ that it is committed to protecting local dry cleaning businesses and the jobs they provide and therefore will pursue perc reduction practices that do not cause workers to become unemployed and/or dry cleaning shops to go out of businesses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the City/County of _____ encourages other municipalities in the U.S. to adopt a similar resolution.

Resolution Citations:

1. "Technical Support Document to the Staff Report Proposed Airborne Toxic Control Measure and Proposed Environmental Training Program for Perchloroethylene Dry Cleaning Operations", (published by the California Environmental Protection Agency, Air Resources Board, August 27, 1993) hereafter cited as ARB Staff Report.
2. Pollution Prevention in the Garment Care Industry: Assessing the Viability of Professional Wet Cleaning, Robert Gottlieb, Principal Investigator; Peter Sinsheimer, Senior Associate; Jessica Goodheart, Project Manger; Craig Tranby, Research Associate; Laura Bechtel, Research Associate, (published by the Pollution Prevention Education and Research Center, UCLA/Occidental College, December 11, 1977), p.1-3, hereafter cited as UCLA.
3. A Comparative Analysis of Perc Dry Cleaning and an Alternative Wet Cleaning Process, Authors: Catie Blackler, Richard Denbow, William Levine, Kathy Nemsick and Rugh Polk, Faculty Advisor: Dr. Gregory A. Keoleian, (published by the School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, April 18, 1995), pp. xiii, hereafter cited as U of Mich.
4. "Some perc can remain in garments after dry cleaning, resulting in human exposure." U of Mich. p. xiv.
5. Phone conversation with Scott Lutz of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, March 8, 1999.
6. Toxic Air Contaminant Annual Report, Vol. 2, 1997, (published by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District) includes records of perchloroethylene air pollution in the Bay Area.
   Also, "PCE has been documented in air, soil, and sediments and has been found in 771 out of 1,190 National Priorities List Sites (ATSDR, 1995)" Cleaner Technologies Substitutes Assessment for Professional Fabricare Processes, (published by Design for the Environment, US EPA, EPA 744-B-98-001, June 1998), p. ES-2, herein after referred to as CTSA.
7. UCLA, pp. 1-2 to 1-5 and CTSA, p. ES-1.
8. Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, US Congress.
9. CTSA, p. ES-1
10. UCLA, P. 1-3 to 1-4 which states that "By the late 1990s, Korean cleaners constituted a major segment of the industry…" and ARB Staff Report, p. 4
11. CTSA.
12. The Sustainability Plan for the City of San Francisco (published by the City/County of San Francisco, Department of the Environment, 1997), chapter entitled "Hazardous Materials" pp. 47-53.
13. Wet Cleaning (published by the US Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, EPA 744-K-96-002, May 1997), p.3. "Cleaners using state-of-the-art wet cleaning technologies are able to clean at least 30 percent and up to 100 percent of all garments that are typically dry cleaned."