

1 [Prioritize the Completion of the Urban Forest Master Plan]

2

3 **Approval of Resolution urging the San Francisco Planning Department to**
4 **Prioritize the Completion of the Urban Forest Plan and Identify and Expedite**
5 **Funding for Key Portions of the Plan.**

6 WHEREAS, San Francisco's urban forest is comprised of both publicly
7 owned and privately owned trees, and;

8 WHEREAS, Management of San Francisco's publicly owned trees is
9 divided among many stakeholders, including private property owners, and;

10 WHEREAS, Trees positively affect the mental and physical health¹ as well
11 as the safety of urban residents², and;

12 WHEREAS, Trees can increase revenues in shopping districts by as much
13 as 12%³, and;

14 WHEREAS, San Francisco's urban forest has a structural value of \$1.7
15 billion⁴, and;

16 WHEREAS, San Francisco's urban forest annually provides the city with
17 \$4.4 million in hydrological benefits⁵, \$1.3 million in removal of airborne
18 pollutants, \$95K in carbon sequestration benefits, and \$3.6 million in total carbon
19 storage⁶, and;

¹ Urban Nature Benefits: Psycho-Social Dimensions of People and Plants, *Center for Urban Horticulture, University of Washington*,
[<http://www.naturewithin.info/UF/PsychBens-FS1.pdf>]

² The Intersection of Trees and Safety, *Landscape Architecture*,
[<http://www.naturewithin.info/Roadside/Tree&Driver ITE.pdf>]

³ Trees are worth downtown's investment, *Downtown Idea Exchange*,
[<http://www.naturewithin.info/CityBiz/DowntownExchange.pdf>]

⁴ *San Francisco Urban Forest Effect Model, USDA Forest Service*,
[<http://www.sfenvironment.org/downloads/library/sfuforefinal.pdf>]

⁵ *San Francisco Bay Area State of the Urban Forest Report Final, Center for Urban Forest Research, USDA Forest Service*,
[http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/2/psw_cufr719_SFBay.pdf]

⁶ *San Francisco Urban Forest Effect Model, USDA Forest Service*,
[<http://www.sfenvironment.org/downloads/library/sfuforefinal.pdf>]

1 WHEREAS, The fragmented management of San Francisco's urban forest
2 has led to overall uncoordinated planning and inconsistent care and negligence,
3 and;

4 WHEREAS, The inconsistencies in urban forest management have led to
5 costly inefficiencies as well as negatively affecting the health of the city's trees
6 and the benefits derived from them, and;

7 WHEREAS, The Urban Forestry Council is charged with creating and
8 updating a city-wide urban forestry management plan, and;

9 WHEREAS, The Planning Department expressed interest to the Urban
10 Forestry Council in refining and further developing the existing Urban Forest
11 Plan, and;

12 WHEREAS, The Urban Forestry Council passed Resolution No. 006-07-
13 UFC supporting the Planning Department's efforts to create a unified Urban
14 Forest Plan to incorporate into the City's General Plan, and;

15 WHEREAS, The Planning Department accordingly gained permission
16 from the Board of Supervisors to dedicate \$200,000 from their agency budget to
17 hire a consultant team to complete the Urban Forest Master Plan, and;

18 WHEREAS, Work that began was subsequently halted due to unforeseen
19 budgetary constraints, and;

20 WHEREAS, The Commission on the Environment believes completion of
21 this work is vital to the long-term health and sustainability of not only the urban
22 forest, but also the overall urban health and sustainability of the City as a whole,
23 now therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, The Commission urges the Planning Department to place
25 the highest priority on the completion of the Urban Forest Plan; and be it further,

1 RESOLVED, The Commission urges the Planning Department to review
2 the work scope and identify key portions of the Plan that can be completed by
3 existing staff, and be it further,

4 RESOLVED, The Commission urges the Planning Department to expedite
5 the completion of key portions of the plan by dedicating staff time to the plan as
6 well as funding as it become available; and be it further,

7 RESOLVED, The Commission urges the Planning Department and other
8 agencies to do the necessary economic analysis of having one agency take over
9 the maintenance of all publicly owned trees, including street trees.

10 I hereby certify that this Resolution was approved at the Commission on
11 the Environment's Meeting on July 28, 2009.

12

13  _____

14 *Monica Fish, Commission Secretary*

15

16 Vote: Approved (5-0) (2 Absent)

17 Ayes: Vice-President Gravanis, Commissioners King, Martin, Mok, and Tuchow

18 Noes: None

19 Absent: President Pelosi Jr. and Commissioner Wald

