

1 [Urban Forestry Council Membership]

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3 **Resolution replying to the proposed amendment to reduce the membership of the**
4 **Urban Forestry Council from fifteen to five members.**

5 WHEREAS, The Urban Forestry Council is charged, by Ordinance, with many duties,
6 including advising the Board of Supervisors about the state of and future outlook of San
7 Francisco's urban forest with an annual Urban Forest Report; and,

8 WHEREAS, The purpose for creating the Urban Forestry Council was to address the
9 fragmentation of urban forest management in San Francisco and to enable all parties to work
10 together through a formal structure towards improved care of San Francisco's trees; and,

11 WHEREAS, The mission of the Council to devise an Urban Forest Plan, city-wide
12 pruning guidelines and a street tree species list could not have happened without the
13 expertise of the several Departments included in its membership and,

14 WHEREAS, The Urban Forestry Council Ordinance recognizes that San Francisco's
15 urban forest comprises all trees without regard for who is responsible for management; and,

16 WHEREAS, Integrating the Council's Urban Forest Plan, ratified by the Board of
17 Supervisors, into the City's General Plan by the Planning Department is yet to be
18 accomplished; and,

19 WHEREAS, At a time of increased awareness and concern about global climate
20 change, it would be unfortunate for a progressive city like San Francisco to take steps
21 reducing the effectiveness and capability of an advisory body whose mission is to enhance
22 the urban forest of a major metropolitan city; and,

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1 WHEREAS, The creation of an urban forest activity baseline and a public outreach
2 campaign to heighten awareness of the public's role in relation to the urban forest will be work
3 force intensive; and,

4 WHEREAS, The goals and objectives of the Council are accomplished by its
5 membership representing a diversity of stakeholders and the diversity of San Francisco's
6 neighborhoods; and,

7 WHEREAS, City Department representatives provide essential professional expertise
8 and institutional insight; and,

9 WHEREAS, The budget of the Council is structured so that the Departments which
10 have members of the Council contribute an annual amount to its operation; and,

11 WHEREAS, Without the membership that now exists, the Council would not have
12 enough people to have committees to review landmark tree nominations and accomplish its
13 other objectives; and

14 WHEREAS, In order to further its goals, the Council needs to have a close connection
15 to the Departments that are in the field and will be implementing the plans and programs of
16 the Urban Forestry Council; and,

17 WHEREAS, Removing representatives from government agencies from the Urban
18 Forestry Council leaves San Francisco with no other public body to ensure that San
19 Franciscans derive the highest benefit from our urban forest; and,

20 WHEREAS, Until San Francisco follows the lead of other cities in bringing tree planting
21 and care functions in public space together in a single agency, the Urban Forestry Council
22 provides the only opportunity for collective tree management in San Francisco; and,

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1 WHEREAS, Combining public and private sector representatives in a single body is
2 essential for a productive discussion and resolution of management challenges for the entire
3 urban forest; now, therefore be it,

4 RESOLVED, The Urban Forestry Council does not support the proposed amendment
5 to reduce the membership of the Council to five and recommends that the Board of
6 Supervisors reject this amendment.

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8 I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Urban Forestry Council at its
9 meeting on March 28, 2008.

10 Monica Fish

11 Monica Fish, Council Secretary

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13 VOTE: Adopted (8-0) (7 Absent)

14 AYES: Chair Milne, Members Blair, Boss, Griswold, Hillan, Marks, Sherk, and Short

15 NOES: None

16 ABSENT: Vice-Chair Quirke, Members Cohen, Habert, Nervo, Miller, Rodgers and Sustarich

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