

URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

June 25, 2008

Board of Supervisors
Supervisor McGoldrick -- Chu -- Daly -- Elsbernd -- Mirkarimi
Budget and Finance Committee
City and County of San Francisco

Dear Supervisor:

I am writing to you as the Chair of the Urban Forestry Council about your budget considerations for San Francisco's urban forest. The Council urges you to maintain the proposed finance levels for tree maintenance and planting.

We believe that the ambitious tree planting program of the last few years should be continued. The successful momentum of greening San Francisco can be fulfilled by proper financial investment.

The health benefits to citizens of San Francisco, and the overall environmental benefits are necessities for the city. Compared to other cities, San Francisco has less "green cover," and continuing our urban forest programs will have a favorable effect.

In our role as an advisory council to the Board of Supervisors, one of our goals is No Net Loss of Trees in the city. Forestry programs must be maintained at a high level to accomplish this. Our Urban Forest Plan, which was passed by the Board a year ago, is now being integrated into the city's General Plan. The Planning Department's "Better Streets Program" is now in the neighborhoods. All of these need fiscal reinforcement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Terry Milne
Chair, Urban Forestry Council