

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

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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, included private property owners, and;

10 WHEREAS, Trees positively affect the mental and physical health<sup>1</sup> as well  
11 as the safety of urban residents<sup>2</sup>, and;

12 WHEREAS, trees can increase revenues in shopping district by as much as  
13 12%<sup>3</sup>, and;

14 WHEREAS, San Francisco's urban forest has a structural value of \$1.7  
15 billion<sup>4</sup>, and;

16 WHEREAS, San Francisco's urban forest annually provides the city with  
17 \$4.4 million in hydrological benefits<sup>5</sup>, \$1.3 million in removal of airborne  
18 pollutants, \$95K in carbon sequestration benefits, and \$3.6 million in total carbon  
19 storage<sup>6</sup>, and;

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<sup>1</sup> 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>]

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup> *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](http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/2/psw_cufr719_SFBay.pdf)]

<sup>6</sup> *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 an 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.

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14           \_\_\_\_\_  
*Monica Fish, Commission Secretary*

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

17           Ayes:

18           Noes:

19           Absent:

