

1 [Transfer of Street Tree Maintenance Responsibility to Private Property Owners]

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3 The Urban Forestry Council urges the Board of Supervisors and the Director of the  
4 Department of Public Works to defer transferring maintenance responsibility of street  
5 trees and retain the present level of funding for the Department of Public Works Urban  
6 Forest programs and to provide for the identification and development of long-term,  
7 sustainable funding alternatives.

8 WHEREAS, The United Nations passed Resolution 61/193, declaring 2011 the  
9 International Year of the Forests and is convinced that concerted efforts should focus on  
10 raising awareness at all levels to strengthen the sustainable management, conservation  
11 and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future  
12 generations<sup>1</sup>; and

13 WHEREAS, The Commission on the Environment passed Resolution No. 003-  
14 00-COE urging the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
15 Francisco to adopt as a high priority a long-term policy of commitment to restore,  
16 replenish, expand, and maintain the urban forest of San Francisco; call for the  
17 establishment of a unified urban forestry plan with central coordination and  
18 accountability; and to support and fund urban forestry programs; and

19 WHEREAS, The Commission on the Environment passed Resolution No. 004-  
20 09-COE urging the San Francisco Planning Department to prioritize the completion of  
21 the Urban Forest Plan and identify and expedite funding for key portions of the plan.

22 WHEREAS, City trees are viewed as a best management practice to control  
23 storm water, and urban-heat-island mitigation measure for cleaner air, and a CO2-  
24 reduction option to offset emissions<sup>2</sup>, and address climate change; and

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<sup>1</sup> International Year of Forests  
[<http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/resolution.shtml>]

<sup>2</sup> Municipal Forest Benefits and Costs in Five US Cities, Journal of Forestry  
[[http://www.fs.fed.us/ccrc/topics/urban-forests/docs/jof\\_Dec\\_2005.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/ccrc/topics/urban-forests/docs/jof_Dec_2005.pdf)]

1           WHEREAS, All residents of San Francisco realize the social, economic, and  
2 ecological benefits of our urban forest and associated sidewalk landscaping as vital city  
3 infrastructure; and

4           WHEREAS, There is a direct correspondence between the health and safety of  
5 the trees and the benefits realized; and

6           WHEREAS, Street trees are invaluable as green infrastructure, and further, add  
7 to property values in the City and County of San Francisco; and

8           WHEREAS, The Commission on the Environment passed Resolution No. 004-  
9 09-COE urging the Planning Department and other agencies to do the necessary  
10 economic analysis of having one agency take over the maintenance of all publicly  
11 owned trees; now, therefore be it

12           RESOLVED, That the Urban Forestry Council finds the transfer of street tree  
13 maintenance harmful to the long-term viability of the City and County of San Francisco  
14 and its environment and deplores such action; and be it

15           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Urban Forestry Council urges the Mayor and  
16 the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco, and the Director of  
17 Public Works to maintain the staff and funding necessary to provide maintenance for the  
18 trees under the Department of Public Work's care; and be it

19           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Urban Forestry Council work with city staff,  
20 Friends of the Urban Forest, concerned community groups, and the public to identify  
21 and/or develop long-term, sustainable funding options such as Landscape Assessment  
22 Districts, or Parcel Taxes, to support Urban Forestry Programs, which can be brought to  
23 the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors for consideration and adoption.

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1 I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Urban Forestry Council's  
2 Regular Meeting on June 28, 2011.

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5 Mei Ling Hui, Council Coordinator

6 VOTE: Approved 10-0; 1 Abstained

7 AYES: Council Members D'Agostino, Hillson, Costello, Flanagan, Hillan, Sherwin,  
8 Sider, Sullivan, Sutherland and Vargas

9 ABSTAINED: Council Member Buck

10 NOES: None

11 ABSENT: None

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