
From: Robert Hall <bilgepump100@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Friday, January 26, 2024 at 1:45 PM

To: Susan <bozo@saturn5.org>

Cc: Denise Louie <denise_louie_sf@yahoo.com>, Lozano, Jesus (ENV) <jesus.lozano@sfgov.org>, DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW) <urbanforestry@sfdpw.org>, Environment, ENV (ENV) <environment@sfgov.org>, Brastow, Peter (ENV) <peter.brastow@sfgov.org>, Brastow, Peter (ENV) <biodiversity@sfenvironment.org>

Subject: Re: Public Comments for the Urban Forestry Council

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Great comments

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 26, 2024, at 1:13 PM, Susan <bozo@saturn5.org> wrote:

Please see comments below from SF resident, Denise Louie.

I concur with Denise's comments.

Susan Karasoff
SF resident

Hi UFC President Lacan, Members of the Urban Forestry Council and Coordinator Lozano, Thank you for the opportunity for me to speak this morning to the Council about climate change impacts on trees and the Draft 2023 Urban Forest Report. While I recognize that a lot of work went into this Report, I urge you to expand on it.

I urge the Council to include wildfire risk in the Report. Cal Fire does not give San Francisco a fire hazard rating; it's up to us to figure out our risks. Do consider the risk to the City's housing

and homelessness crises.

The Report is heavily focused on planting 81,300 trees by 2040--5,000 street trees annually over the next 16 years--and on climate change storm impacts. I urge you to include the clear and present danger of existing plantations of eucalyptus with respect to climate change wildfire impacts. The City is not exempt from lightning strikes, which can ignite a fire in any of the City's dense stands of drought stressed trees.

Ironies abound. While professing respect for unceded Ramayatush Ohlone land, the plan is to plant many trees that are mostly not native to SF.

While professing to cover the condition of the urban forest and threats, the Report does not mention the large percentage of unhealthy trees in dense stands or wildfire risk. In 2018, then UFC President Dan Flanagan told the Rec and Park and Planning Commissions that, having surveyed Mt. Davidson Park with an expert from the Cal Academy, a large percentage of the trees were unhealthy. A few years ago, UCSF reported that at least one-fourth of the standing trees in its Open Space Reserve were either dead, dying or unhealthy; and the Reserve was infested with nine (9!) disease pathogens and bark beetles. The City has done nothing to its nearby patch on Mt. Sutro.

I heard it first at the UFC, that *all trees need to be managed*. Yet, the report does not expose the fact that a large majority of City-owned trees in open spaces are *unmanaged*.

The \$15.25 million ask--or recommendation--for tree planting is bold. The City does not even budget enough money to manage existing trees. I urge you to ensure that the goals and related funding are comprehensive and balanced to include planting, maintenance and removals. According to Antonio Guerra, RPD has only \$500,000 in its annual budget for dealing with troublesome trees.

Related to funding is Cal Fire's grants, which could be included in the Report. Refer to Tanner Mar's presentation to the Council in June 2023.

Thanks in advance for your attention,
Denise Louie
Volunteer, RPD

PS: I am looking for a tree expert to help lead a tour of the trees in Glen Canyon and Mt. Davidson Parks and on Mt. Sutro. I'd invite Mayor Breed's climate advisor and Cal Fire's Tanner Mar.

On Friday, January 26th, 2024 at 12:38 PM, Denise Louie <denise_louie_sf@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi,
Please forward my comments to all members of the Urban Forestry Council and Council Coordinator Jesus Lozano.

Thanks,
Denise

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