

[San Francisco Climate Action Plan]

Resolution in support of the San Francisco Department of the Environment's \$3.2 million fiscal year 2023 budget request from the City of San Francisco's general fund to begin to implement the Climate Action Plan.

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors formed the Urban Forestry Council to protect the community interest and ensure that San Francisco realizes the full range of tree benefits, and to guide the stewardship of San Francisco's trees by promoting a healthy and sustainable urban forest that benefits all San Franciscans while ensuring public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Forestry Council's 2019 strategic plan articulates a goal to develop policy recommendations related to climate change; and

WHEREAS, a global scientific consensus tells us that we are in a state of climate emergency, CO2 emissions continue to rise, and recent research by the Nature Conservancy and other organizations found that nature-based solutions can provide 37% of the global CO2 mitigation that is needed by 2030, and California Executive Orders (B-55-18 in 2018, N-19-19 in 2019 and N-82-20 in 2020) mandate bold action to decrease carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 San Francisco Climate Action Plan acts on the declared "Climate Emergency in San Francisco" articulated by Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 160-19, as well as the greenhouse gas emissions targets described in Chapter 9 of San Francisco's Environment Code; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 San Francisco Climate Action Plan includes robust strategies and actions that the Urban Forestry Council has long recommended,

including increasing the urban forest cover by 30,000 street trees and establishing long term funding for planting and maintenance of city trees; and

WHEREAS, tree planting, greening and aggressive revegetation strategies outlined in the 2021 San Francisco Climate Action Plan can provide, in addition to carbon sequestration and increased biodiversity, numerous direct resilience benefits for urban residents, including beauty, cooling, air quality, stormwater management, and overall quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Forestry Council passed a resolution on December 10, 2021, endorsing San Francisco's updated Climate Action Plan and urging legislative action by the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to support and fund the Plan's implementation; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Department of the Environment is charged with leading the implementation of the hundreds of actions among six climate action sectors within the Plan that together represent a significant overhaul of how San Francisco operates; and

WHEREAS, considering this enormous responsibility, the San Francisco Department of the Environment is severely underfunded, relying on work orders from other City departments and outside grants, without receiving any general fund support; and

WHEREAS, for the coming fiscal year 2022-2023 San Francisco is projected to enjoy a budget surplus of \$100 million; and

WHEREAS on February 7, 2022, the Commission on the Environment which approves the San Francisco Department of the Environment's annual budget, voted

unanimously to support the Department's \$3.2 million general fund request, to begin planning and scope analysis on the implementation of the San Francisco Climate Action Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor might not include this \$3.2 million budget request in the final general fund budget for fiscal year 2022-2023; and, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Urban Forestry Council endorses the fiscal year 2022-2023 request by the Department of the Environment for general fund support in the amount of \$3.2 million as a modest beginning; and, therefore, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Urban Forestry Council strongly urges that the Mayor prioritize addressing the existential crisis that the declared Climate Emergency in San Francisco represents by funding her own Climate Action Plan and including at least the \$3.2 million in this year's budget; and therefore, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Urban Forestry Council urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to increase the general fund allocation substantially beyond the \$3.2 million request so that the Department of the Environment can truly begin to accelerate implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan; and therefore, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Urban Forestry Council urges the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of San Francisco to continue to provide appropriate legislation and sufficient funding to ensure the full successful implementation of the 2021 San Francisco Climate Action Plan into the future.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Urban Forestry Council at its Regular Meeting on May 27, 2022.

Peter Brastow, Urban Forestry Coordinator

Andrew Sullivan, Chair

Vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

DRAFT