

Item 8: Special Item

Discussion and Possible Action: The Board will review proposed legislation (File No. 251211) which would eliminate appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments and commissions. The Board may take a position on the legislation and/or authorize a letter to be sent on its behalf to the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor or applicable departments, setting forth the Board's recommendations and positions on the proposed legislation.

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Public Works, Administrative, Planning Codes - Street Trees]

Ordinance amending the Public Works Code to allow development projects to satisfy street tree planting requirements through payment of an in lieu fee or providing alternative landscaping; exempt accessory dwelling units from street tree planting requirements; eliminate appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments and commissions; and update in lieu fee reporting requirements; amending the Administrative Code to create a separate account within the Adopt-A-Tree Fund to receive in lieu fees for street tree requirements; amending the Planning Code to update street tree applicability requirements; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; making findings of consistency with the General Plan and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1; and making public necessity, convenience, and welfare findings under Planning Code, Section 302.

Existing Law

Decisions on Street Tree Removals

Article 16 of the Public Works Code (Sections 800 et seq.) is the Urban Forestry Ordinance, which regulates the planting and removal of street trees by private parties, the Department of Public Works, and other City agencies and commissions. A Street Tree is "any tree growing within the public right-of-way, including unimproved public streets and sidewalks, and any tree growing on land under the jurisdiction of the Department [of Public Works]." (Public Works Code Section 802.)

Section 806(a)(2) provides that the decision by the Department of Public Works to remove a Street Tree is first appealable to the Director of Public Works. Section 806(a)(3) prescribes noticing requirements for the hearing on the appeal, which includes posting on the affected Tree and in a newspaper of general circulation, and notice to the objecting party, the owner of the property abutting the affected Tree, and all interested San Francisco organizations, not less than seven days prior to the hearing. After the hearing, the Director of Public Works must issue a written decision, which can then be further appealed to the Board of Appeals.

Section 806(c) applies the same notice and procedure requirements of 806(a)(2) and (a)(3) to decisions by other City departments and agencies to remove a Street Tree.

Section 806(a)(3) and (a)(4) also govern the Department of Public Works' removal of Hazard Trees. A Hazard Tree is a "tree that poses an imminent hazard to person or property." (Public Works Code Section 802.) Prior to removing a Hazard Tree, the Department of Public Works must provide 15 days' written notice on the affected tree, to the owner of the property abutting the affected tree, all interested San Francisco organizations, and to the extent

practical, owner and occupants of properties on the block where the affected tree is located. If an objection is filed within those 15 days, the Director of the Department of Public Works must hold a hearing and issue a written decision, which can then be further appealed to the Board of Appeals.

Required Street Trees for Development Projects

Section 806(d) prescribes Street Tree planting requirements for development projects. Development projects include: the construction of a new building; the addition of a dwelling unit; the addition of a new curb-cut; the addition of a garage; and/or a net addition to an existing building of 500 gross square feet or more. New developments must provide one Street Tree for each 20 feet of street frontage of the property containing the development project, with any remaining fraction of 10 feet or more of frontage requiring an additional tree.

The Director of Public Works may waive or modify this Street Tree planting requirement when (i) inadequate sidewalk width or interference with driveways, sub-sidewalk basements, or other pre-existing surface, sub-surface, or above-grade features render installation of the required Street Tree(s) in the required fashion impossible, impractical, and/or unsafe; or (ii) where an applicant successfully demonstrates that an overriding City policy renders the Planting of the required Street Tree(s) inappropriate. For each required Street Tree that the Director waives, the applicant shall either (i) pay an In-lieu fee; or (ii) to fulfill all or a portion of the requirement, provide alternative landscaping, including but not limited to sidewalk landscaping, in amount comparable to or greater than the number of Street Trees waived.

The In-lieu fee shall be equal to the City's cost to plant and water a tree for three years. (Planning Code Section 802.) The current In-lieu fee is \$2,590 and the fee is reviewed and adjusted each year to reflect changes in the relevant Consumer Price Index, as determined by the Controller in accordance with the procedures set forth in Public Works Code Section 2.1.2. The In-lieu fee is deposited into the Adopt-A-Tree Fund, which is established in Administrative Code Section 10.100-227.

Planning Code Section 138.1 codifies streetscape and pedestrian improvements for new development projects and cross-references the Street Tree planting requirements of Article 16 of the Public Works Code.

Amendments to Current Law

Decisions on Street Tree Removals

For Street Tree removals undertaken by the Department of Public Works, this ordinance would amend the Public Works Code to:

- Replace the requirement that hearing notices be published in a newspaper of general circulation with a requirement that the hearing notice be posted to the Department's website;

- Provide that the Director of Public Works' decision on removal of a Street Tree—excluding a Hazard Tree—is final and nonappealable;
- Provide that the Department of Public Works' decision on removal of a Hazard Tree is final and nonappealable.

For Street Tree removals initiated by other City agencies or commissions, this ordinance would:

- Replace the requirement that hearing notices be published in a newspaper of general circulation with a requirement that the hearing notice be posted to the Department's website; and
- Provide that the Director's decision on removal of a Street Tree is final and nonappealable.

This ordinance would not change the notice or appeal procedures for Street Tree removals initiated by private parties.

Required Street Trees for Development Projects

This ordinance would also amend the Public Works Code and Planning Code to exempt Accessory Dwelling Units and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units, as defined in Planning Code Section 102, from Street Tree planting requirements.

This ordinance would also enable any development project to pay the In-lieu fee instead of planting the required Street Trees, regardless of whether the planting is impossible, impractical, and/or unsafe.

In instances where the Director of Public Works determines that inadequate sidewalk width or interference with driveways, sub-sidewalk basements, or other pre-existing surface, sub-surface, or above-grade features render installation of the required Street Tree(s) impossible, impractical, and/or unsafe, a development project could elect to provide alternative landscaping that complies with various conditions set forth in the ordinance, including a minimum area of 75 square feet of sidewalk landscaping for each required Street Tree that cannot be planted.

The ordinance also amends the Public Works Code and the Administrative Code to prescribe procedures for the collection, accounting, and deposit of In-lieu fees into the Adopt-A-Tree Fund.

Background Information

This ordinance contains findings that document how San Francisco's urban forest creates a more walkable, livable, and sustainable city. However, with just over 125,000 trees, San Francisco's tree canopy—measured by the amount of land covered by trees when viewed from above—is just 13.7%, one of the smallest of any major city in the United States. The

findings detail how the ordinance balances the need to grow the City's tree canopy with the need to promote efficiency and certainty in the development process. Expanding the availability of the in lieu fee to all new developments and streamlining hearings on City agency removals of street trees successfully balances these needs.

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[Public Works, Administrative, Planning Codes - Street Trees]

Ordinance amending the Public Works Code to allow development projects to satisfy street tree planting requirements through payment of an in lieu fee or providing alternative landscaping; exempt accessory dwelling units from street tree planting requirements; eliminate appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments and commissions; and update in lieu fee reporting requirements; amending the Administrative Code to create a separate account within the Adopt-A-Tree Fund to receive in lieu fees for street tree requirements; amending the Planning Code to update street tree applicability requirements; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; making findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1; and making public necessity, convenience, and welfare findings under Planning Code, Section 302.

NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
Additions to Codes are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
Deletions to Codes are in ~~*strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*~~.
Board amendment additions are in double-underlined Arial font.
Board amendment deletions are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
Asterisks (* * * *) indicate the omission of unchanged Code subsections or parts of tables.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. Environmental and Land Use Findings.

(a) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of

Supervisors in File No. ____ and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board affirms this determination.

(b) On _____, the Planning Commission, in Resolution No. _____, adopted findings that the actions contemplated in this ordinance are consistent, on balance, with the City's General Plan and eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1. The Board adopts these findings as its own. A copy of said Resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. _____, and is incorporated herein by reference.

(c) Pursuant to Planning Code, Section 302, this Board finds that this ordinance will serve the public necessity, convenience, and welfare for the reasons set forth in Planning Commission Resolution No. _____, and incorporates such reasons by this reference thereto. A copy of said resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. _____.

Section 2. Background and Findings.

(a) San Francisco's urban forest creates a more walkable, livable, and sustainable city. Trees and other vegetation clean the air and water, create greener neighborhoods, calm traffic, improve public health, provide wildlife habitat, and absorb greenhouse gases. Annually, the benefits provided by trees in San Francisco are estimated at over \$100 million. However, with just over 125,000 trees, San Francisco's tree canopy—measured by the amount of land covered by trees when viewed from above—is just 13.7%, one of the smallest of any major city in the United States.

(b) Article 16 of the Public Works Code—the Urban Forestry Ordinance—seeks to “[t]o promote efficient, cost effective management of the City's urban forest by coordinating public and private efforts within a comprehensive and professional management system.” Private parties planting and maintaining new street trees is a key strategy of the 2014 Urban Forestry

1 Plan, on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 141264, and the 2010
2 Better Streets Plan, on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 101194.
3 Similarly, the 2021 Citywide Infrastructure Nexus Study, on file with the Clerk of the Board of
4 Supervisors in File No. _____, found that street tree planting is an element of San
5 Francisco's sustainable streets infrastructure. To this end, since 2010, the Public Works
6 Code (previously the Planning Code) has required development applicants to plant one street
7 tree for every 20 feet of lot frontage.

8 (c) Alternatives to street tree planting, which include payment of an in lieu fee or
9 provision of alternative sidewalk landscaping, are limited to situations where the Director of
10 Public Works determines that planting a street tree in the required fashion is impossible,
11 impractical, and/or unsafe. The Public Works Code sets the in lieu fee in an amount equal to
12 the Department's cost to plant and water a tree for three years—the period necessary to
13 establish a street tree. The current in lieu fee amount is \$2,590, subject to annual inflation
14 adjustments. In lieu fees are deposited into the Adopt-A-Tree Fund, proceeds of which are
15 used to fund the Department's planting and maintenance of new street trees.

16 (d) This ordinance enables a development applicant to satisfy the street tree planting
17 requirements through payment of an in lieu fee. In situations where planting the street tree
18 would be impossible, impracticable, and/or unsafe, this ordinance would allow a development
19 application to satisfy the street tree planting requirement by planting alternative sidewalk
20 landscaping, as defined in the ordinance. This ordinance also exempts Accessory Dwelling
21 Units and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units ("ADU/JADU") from the street tree requirements.
22 By expanding the in lieu fee option to all development applicants, defining appropriate street
23 tree planting requirements, and exempting ADU/JADUs, this ordinance promotes efficiency
24 and certainty in the development process, one of the key goals of the Permit SF initiative.

25 (e) This ordinance does not establish, increase, or impose a fee within the meaning of

Government Code Section 66001(a). The in lieu fee remains equal to the Department's cost of planting and watering a street tree for three years, which bears a reasonable relationship to the impact of the foregone street tree.

(f) In situations where a street tree poses a safety hazard, this ordinance eliminates the ability for a member of the public to appeal such a removal and thereby delay the removal of the hazard. This ordinance also provides that the decision of the Director of Public Works is final and nonappealable for a removal of a non-hazardous street tree by any City department or commission.

Section 3. Article 16 of the Public Works Code is hereby amended by revising Sections 802, 806, and 807, to read as follows:

SEC. 802. DEFINITIONS.

* * * *

"In-lieu fee" shall mean a fee imposed and deposited into the Adopt-A-Tree Fund ~~and imposed by the Director pursuant to Section 806. The in-lieu fee shall be equal to the replacement value of a tree(s) to be removed or trees that have been destroyed or as otherwise specified in Section 811. In the case of trees required to be planted by Section 805 or 806, yet excused by the Director through a waiver or modification, the In-lieu fee shall be equal to the City's cost to plant and water a tree for three years. The minimum In-lieu fee shall be \$1,489.00. Beginning with fiscal year 2007-2008, this fee shall be reviewed and adjusted each year in accordance with the procedures set forth in Public Works Code Section 2.1.2.~~

* * * *

SEC. 806. PLANTING AND REMOVAL OF STREET TREES.

1 (a) **Planting and Removal by the Department.**

2 (1) **Planting.** The Department may determine to plant a new climate
3 appropriate Tree(s) in a Sidewalk or public right-of-way. When the Department determines to
4 plant a new Street Tree(s), the Department will undertake Maintenance responsibility for such
5 new Street Tree and shall send a courtesy Notice to the abutting property owner prior to
6 Planting such new Tree. Any objections to the proposed work must be submitted to the
7 Director in writing and postmarked within 30 days after Notice by the Director. The Director
8 shall consider such objections and may hold a hearing, in the Director's discretion. The
9 Director's decision on the matter shall be final and nonappealable.

10 (2) **Removal of Street Trees.** The Department may not cut down or remove a
11 Street Tree, unless 30 days prior to the Removal date, the Department notifies all Interested
12 San Francisco organizations and, to the extent practical, all owners and occupants of
13 properties that are on or across from the block face where the affected Tree is located. In
14 addition, 30 days prior to the Removal date, the Department shall post a notice on the
15 affected Tree. This subsection (a)(2) shall not apply to Removal of Hazard Trees.

16 (3) **Appeal of Tree Removal.**

17 (A) If within 30 days after the giving of Notice for Street Tree Removal,
18 as specified in subsection (a)(2), ~~or if within 15 days after the giving of notice for Removal of a~~
19 ~~hazard Street Tree, as specified in Subsection (a)(4),~~ any Person files with the Department written
20 objections to the Removal, the Director shall hold a hearing to consider public testimony
21 concerning the proposed Tree Removal. Written Notice of the date, time, and place of the
22 hearing shall be posted on the affected Tree and the Department's website, provided in a
23 ~~newspaper of general circulation,~~ and sent to the objecting party, the owner of the property
24 abutting the affected Tree, and all Interested San Francisco organizations, not less than
25 seven days prior thereto.

1 (B) The Director shall issue a written decision and order on the
2 objections after the public hearing specified above.

3 (C) The Director's decision shall be final and nonappealable ~~to the Board~~
4 ~~of Appeals~~.

5 (4) **Removal of Hazard Street Trees.**

6 (A) No Hazard Street Tree shall be cut down or removed by the
7 Department unless:

8 (i) The Department gives 15 days' prior written Notice to the
9 owner of the property abutting the affected Tree; and

10 (ii) Fifteen days prior to the Removal date, the Department
11 notifies all Interested San Francisco organizations and, to the extent practical, owners and
12 occupants of properties that are on or across the block face where the affected Tree is
13 located. In addition, 15 days prior to the Removal date, the Department shall post a notice on
14 the affected Tree.

15 (B) The Department's decision on Removal of a Hazard Street Tree shall be
16 final and nonappealable.

17 _____ (C) Hazard Street Tree shall have the same meaning as Hazard Tree in
18 Section 802 except that a Hazard Street Tree is located within the public right-of-way.

19 (5) **Emergency Removal.** In the case of manifest danger and immediate
20 necessity, as determined by the Director, the Department may remove any Street Tree
21 immediately. After such emergency Removal, the Department shall provide Notice of the
22 necessity for such action to the owner of the property abutting the affected Tree, all Interested
23 San Francisco organizations and, to the extent practical, all owners and occupants of
24 properties that are on or across from the block face where the affected Tree was removed.

25 * * * *

1 **(c) Planting and Removal by City Agencies, Commissions, or Other**

2 **Departments.** If a City agency, commission, or department other than the Department of
3 Public Works desires to plant or remove a Street Tree, such agency, commission, or
4 department shall be subject to the provisions of §subsection (b) of this Section 806; provided,
5 however, that for purposes of Street Tree Removal, the notice and procedures for Director's
6 hearings set forth in §subsections (a)(2) and (a)(3) shall apply. The Director's decision shall be
7 final and nonappealable.

8 **(d) Required Street Trees for Development Projects.** The Director shall require
9 Street Trees for the development projects as set forth in this §subsection (d).

10 **(1) Applicability.** This §subsection (d) shall apply to development projects that
11 involve any of the following except the construction of an Accessory Dwelling Unit and/or Junior
12 Accessory Dwelling Unit, as those terms are defined in Planning Code Section 102:

- 13 (A) the construction of a new building;
14 (B) the addition of a dwelling unit;
15 (C) the addition of a new curb-cut;
16 (D) the addition of a garage; and/or
17 (E) a net addition to an existing building of 500 gross square feet or
18 more.

19 **(2) Number of Trees Required.** The Director shall require one Street Tree for
20 each 20 feet of Street frontage of the property containing the development project, with any
21 remaining fraction of 10 feet or more of frontage requiring an additional Tree. Any existing
22 Street Trees located within the public right-of-way along such property that have been
23 protected during construction and that the Director does not recommend~~d~~ for Removal, shall
24 count toward meeting the requirement.

1 (3) **Standards for Required Trees.** New Street Trees that the Director
2 requires to be planted under this Subsection shall:

3 (A) be planted within the public right-of-way adjacent to the property
4 containing the development project;

5 (B) be of a species suitable for the site conditions;

6 (C) be a minimum of 24-inch box size;

7 (D) have a minimum 1 1/4-inch caliper, measured at 6-inches above
8 ground;

9 (E) be planted no higher than the adjacent Sidewalk and provide a
10 below-grade environment with nutrient-rich soils, free from overly-compacted soils, and
11 generally conducive to Tree root development; and

12 (F) be watered, maintained, and replaced if necessary by the property
13 owner, in accordance with this Article 16, and be in compliance with applicable water use
14 requirements of Administrative Code Chapter 63.

15 (4) **Alternatives to New Street Trees** ~~Waivers and Modifications.~~ An applicant may
16 satisfy some or all of the requirements of subsection (d)(2) The Director may waive or modify the
17 number of and/or standards for Street Trees required pursuant to this Ssubsection only as described
18 below:

19 (A) **In Lieu Fee.** ~~The Director, in his or her sole discretion, may waive or~~
20 ~~modify the requirements of this subsection when inadequate Sidewalk width or interference with~~
21 ~~driveways, sub-sidewalk basements, or other pre-existing surface, sub-surface, or above-grade features~~
22 ~~render installation of the required Street Tree(s) in the required fashion impossible, impractical, and/or~~
23 ~~unsafe.~~ For each required Street Tree ~~that the Director waives,~~ the applicant, ~~at his or her~~
24 ~~choosing, shall either (i) may elect to pay an In-lieu fee. The In lieu fee shall be equal to the City's~~
25 cost to plant and water a tree for three years. The In-lieu fee shall be \$2,590 for Fiscal Year 2025-

1 2026. This fee shall be reviewed and adjusted each year as provided in Public Works Code Section
2 2.1.2. pursuant to Section 802 or (ii) to fulfill all or a portion of the requirement, provide alternative
3 landscaping, including but not limited to Sidewalk landscaping, in amount comparable to or greater
4 than the number of Street Trees waived; or

5 (B) **Alternative Landscaping.** Only in those extraordinary and unusual
6 circumstances where an applicant successfully demonstrates that an overriding City policy renders the
7 Planting of the required Street Tree(s) inappropriate and both the Director and the Director of
8 Planning concur, the Director may waive one or more required Street Trees. If the Director determines
9 that inadequate Sidewalk width or interference with driveways, sub-sidewalk basements, or other pre-
10 existing surface, sub-surface, or above-grade features render installation of the required Street Tree(s)
11 impossible, impractical, and/or unsafe, For each required Street Tree that the Director waives, the
12 Director, in his or her sole discretion, shall require that the applicant either may elect to (i) pay an In-
13 lieu fee pursuant to Section 802 or (ii) fulfill all or a portion of the requirement by providing
14 alternative landscaping that complies with all of the following; including but not limited to Sidewalk
15 landscaping, in amount comparable to or greater than the number of Street Trees waived.

16 (i) the water use requirements of Chapter 63 of the Administrative Code;
17 (ii) applicable provisions of Public Works Code Section 810B;
18 (iii) a minimum area of 75 square feet of sidewalk landscaping for each
19 required Street Tree that cannot be planted; and

20 (iv) applicable requirements in the Director's Order on Tree Planting
21 (Director's Order No. 187,246) and any successor order.

22 **(5) Administration of the In Lieu Fee.**

23 **(A) Deposit.** The In lieu fees collected pursuant to subsection (d)(4) shall be
24 deposited into a separate account within the Adopt-A-Tree fund under Section 10.100-227 of the

1 Administrative Code. All funds therein shall be appropriated to fund the planting and watering of
2 Street Trees in accordance with the law.

3 **(B) Collection.** If a project applicant elects to pay the In lieu fee in subsection
4 (d)(4) at the time of Development Application, as that term is defined in Planning Code Section 102, the
5 Planning Department shall provide notice to the Department of Building Inspection's Development Fee
6 Collection Unit in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 402 of the Planning Code. If a
7 project applicant elects to pay the In lieu fee in subsection (d)(4) after approval of a Development
8 Application, the Department shall provide notice to the Development Fee Collection Unit. The
9 Development Fee Collection Unit shall collect the In lieu fee in accordance with Section 107A.13 of the
10 San Francisco Building Code.

11 **(C) Annual and Five-Year Findings.**

12 (i) Within 180 days of the end of each fiscal year beginning with Fiscal
13 Year 2025-2026, the Controller shall, in coordination with the Director of the Department and the
14 Development Fee Collection Unit, provide information on In lieu fees collected under this subsection,
15 including: a. a description of the type of fee in each account or fund; b. the beginning and ending
16 balance of the accounts or funds including any bond funds held by an outside trustee; c. the amount of
17 fees collected and interest earned; d. an identification of each public improvement on which fees or
18 bond funds were expended and amount of each expenditure; e. an identification of the approximate
19 date by which the construction of public improvements will commence; f. a description of any inter-
20 fund transfer or loan and the public improvement on which the transferred funds will be expended; and
21 g. the amount of refunds made and any allocations of unexpended fees that are not refunded, and any
22 annual reporting information otherwise required pursuant to the California Mitigation Fee Act,
23 Government Code 66001 et seq.

24 (ii) Commencing on July 1, 2026, and every five fiscal years thereafter in
25 conjunction with the Annual Citywide Development Fee and Development Impact Requirements Report

1 described in Planning Code Section 410, the Director and the Controller shall jointly prepare and
2 publish a comprehensive report on the compliance of the In lieu fee set forth in this Section 806 with
3 the California Mitigation Fee Act, Government Code Section 66001 et seq., including making specific
4 findings regarding any unexpended funds.

5
6 **SEC. 807. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM;**
7 **POWERS AND DUTIES.**

8 * * * *

9 **(d) Authority over Site Development Plans.**

10 (1) The Department shall have the authority to review and comment on site
11 development plan applications received by the City's Central Permit Bureau that pertain to the
12 planting, alteration, or removal of street trees. The Department shall also have the authority to
13 review and comment on site development plan applications that pertain to the alteration or
14 removal of landmark trees designated pursuant to Section 810(a) of this Article 16 and
15 significant trees pursuant to Section 810A of this Article. Protection of such trees during
16 construction shall be required in accordance with Section 808(c) of this Article. Removal of
17 such trees shall be subject to the applicable rules and procedures for removal set forth in
18 Sections 806, 810, or 810A of this Article.

19 (2) The Department shall transmit annually the amount of the In lieu fee in Section
20 806(d)(4) to the Planning Department for inclusion on the Development Impact Fee Register. If the
21 Director modifies or waives the requirements of Section 806(d) in accordance with subsection
22 806(d)(4), the Department shall impose an in-lieu fee on the property owner so excused.

23 (3) If an applicant elects to provide alternative landscaping pursuant to Section
24 806(d)(4)(B), the Department shall determine whether the proposed alternative landscaping complies
25 with the required standards.

1 (e) **Public Works Adopt-A-Tree Fund.** Pursuant to Section 10.100-227 of the
2 Administrative Code, the Department shall maintain the Public Works Adopt-A-Tree Fund to
3 enhance the urban forestry program.

4 (f) **In-Lieu Tree Planting Program.** The Department shall develop and implement an
5 ~~In-Lieu Tree~~ Planting Program to offset the loss of street trees, significant trees, and landmark
6 trees due to removal, destruction, or death. The Tree Planting Program shall be funded through:
7 (1) fees or penalties assessed pursuant to Section 811 as mitigation for violation of the requirements in
8 this Article 16; (2) In lieu fees paid pursuant to Section 806; and (3) funds from the Tree Adoption
9 Program described in subsection (g). The ~~In-Lieu Tree~~ Planting Program also shall compensate for
10 ~~the loss of Street Trees~~ required to be planted by Section 806(d) for which the applicant has
11 elected to pay an In lieu fee. The Department shall use funds from In lieu fees to plant and water trees
12 for three years. , unless the Director has modified or waived such requirements under subsection
13 806(d)(4). The Department shall impose an in-lieu fee in accordance with a fee schedule adopted by the
14 Director where a street tree is destroyed, removed, or is excused from planting where otherwise
15 required by Section 806(d). The Department also shall assess an in-lieu fee or such other penalty as set
16 forth in Section 811 as mitigation for violation of the requirements of this Article 16. The Department
17 shall follow the requirements set forth herein for payment of an in-lieu fee unless it makes written
18 findings detailing the basis for waiving said requirements. As set forth in Section 811, in-lieu fees shall
19 be deposited in the Public Works Adopt-A-Tree Fund.

20 (g) **Tree Adoption Program.** The Department shall develop and implement a tree
21 adoption program to allow persons to donate money for the purpose of tree planting and
22 maintenance. Money donated to the City and County for the purpose of tree planting and
23 maintenance shall be deposited into the Public Works Adopt-A-Tree Fund.

1 Section 4. Chapter 10, Article XIII of the Administrative Code is amended by revising
2 Section 10.100-227, to read as follows:

3
4 **SEC. 10.100-227. PUBLIC WORKS ADOPT-A-TREE FUND.**

5 (a) **Establishment and Use of Fund.** The Public Works Adopt-A-Tree Fund is
6 established as a category eight fund to receive all monetary donations, administrative fees,
7 permit fees, fines, liens, and in-lieu fees pursuant to Article 16 of the Public Works Code
8 which may be offered to or collected by the City and County for the planting and maintenance
9 of trees by the Department of Public Works. Within the Adopt-A-Tree Fund, the Controller shall
10 establish a separate account to receive all in lieu fees paid pursuant to Section 806(d)(4)(A) of the
11 Public Works Code and all interest received thereon.

12 (b) **Use of Fund.** The fund shall be expended solely for the purposes of planting and
13 maintaining trees under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works. For in lieu fees paid
14 pursuant to Section 806(d)(4)(A) of the Public Works Code, the funds shall be used solely to plant and
15 water trees for three years.

16 (c) **Administration of Fund.** The Department of Public Works shall submit to the
17 Board of Supervisors on a quarterly basis a written report of revenues to and expenditures
18 from the fund. For in lieu fees paid pursuant to Section 806, the Department of Public Works shall
19 coordinate with the Controller to provide annual and five-year reporting as described in Section
20 806(d)(5) of the Public Works Code.

21
22 Section 5. Article 1.2 of the Planning Code is amended by revising Section 138.1, to
23 read as follows:

24 **SEC. 138.1. STREETScape AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS.**

25 * * * *

(c) **Required streetscape and pedestrian improvements.** Development projects shall include streetscape and pedestrian improvements on all publicly accessible right-of-ways directly fronting the property as follows:

(1) **Street trees.** Project Sponsors shall plant and establish street trees as set forth in Article 16, Sections 805(a) and 806(d) of the Public Works Code; provided, however, that ~~where a property owner is either (A) adding an Accessory Dwelling Unit pursuant to Section 207.1 or 207.2 of this Code or (B) legalizing a Dwelling Unit pursuant to Section 207.3 of this Code,~~ ~~the owner~~ may elect to pay the in-lieu fee authorized by Section 806(d)(4)(A) 807(f) of the Public Works Code or, in circumstances where tree planting is impossible, impractical, and/or unsafe, provide alternative sidewalk landscaping, as authorized in Section 806(d)(4)(B) of the Public Works Code.

* * * *

Section 6. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles, numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the “Note” that appears under the official title of the ordinance.

Section 7. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the

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1 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board
2 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

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5 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
6 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

7 By: /s/ Giulia Gualco-Nelson
8 GIULIA GUALCO-NELSON
9 Deputy City Attorney

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SEC. 802. DEFINITIONS.

Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise,

"Administrative cost" shall mean 20 percent of the Department's actual replacement cost, or a minimum of \$100, whichever is greater.

"City" shall mean the City and County of San Francisco.

"Community Boards" of San Francisco shall mean the neighborhood mediation/dispute settlement service established under the auspices of The Community Board Program, Inc.

"Department" shall mean the Department of Public Works of the City.

"Director" shall mean the Director of Public Works or the Director's designee, which shall include the Urban Forester or other departmental staff.

"Ex officio" shall mean a current employee of any City department, or California or federal agency whose appointment to the Urban Forestry Council has been approved by the Director of the Department of the Environment.

"Hazard tree" shall mean any tree that poses an imminent hazard to person or property. The Director may determine that a tree is a hazard if it or any part of it: (1) appears dead, dangerous, or likely to fall, even after proper maintenance activities are performed to eliminate dead or dangerous parts; (2) obstructs or damages a street, sidewalk, or other existing structure; (3) harbors a serious disease or infestation threatening the health of other trees; (4) interferes with vehicular or pedestrian traffic; or (5) poses any other significant hazard or potential hazard, as determined by the Director; provided, however, that feasible measures have been applied to abate any such hazard, such as applicable Maintenance activities as defined in this Section 802. The Director's determination shall be in writing.

"Injure" or "injury" shall mean any act which harms or damages a tree, including but not limited to excessive pruning, impact, cutting, carving, painting, transplanting, or knocking over, and includes but is not limited to the following: injurious attachment of any rope, wire, nail, advertising poster, or other contrivance to any tree subject to the provisions of this Article 16; intentionally or negligently allowing any gaseous, liquid, or solid substance that is harmful to a tree to come into contact with a tree; setting fire or intentionally or negligently permitting any fire to burn when such fire or the heat therefrom will injure any part of any tree; pruning which in and of itself will kill or cause a tree to decline; or severing of all or part of a tree.

"In-lieu fee" shall mean a fee deposited into the Adopt-A-Tree Fund and imposed by the Director. The in-lieu fee shall be equal to the replacement value of a tree(s) to be removed or trees that have been destroyed or as otherwise specified in Section 811. In the case of trees required to be planted by Section 805 or 806, yet excused by the Director through a waiver or modification, the In-lieu fee shall be equal to the City's cost to plant and water a tree for three years. The minimum In-lieu fee shall be \$1,489.00. Beginning with fiscal year 2007-2008, this fee shall be reviewed and adjusted each year in accordance with the procedures set forth in Public Works Code Section 2.1.2.

"Interested San Francisco organization" shall mean a San Francisco organization or individual that has made a written request to the Department for notification of proposed tree removals in a specified area(s) or neighborhood(s).

"Landmark Tree" shall mean a tree so designated pursuant to Section 810 of this Article 16.

"Landscape Material" shall mean any tree, shrub, groundcover or other plant.

"Maintenance" shall mean those actions necessary to promote the life, growth, health, or beauty of a tree. Maintenance includes both routine and major activities. "Routine Maintenance" shall include adequate watering to ensure the tree's growth and sustainability; weed control; removal of tree-well trash; staking; fertilizing; routine adjustment and timely removal of stakes, ties, tree guards, and tree grates; bracing; and sidewalk repairs related to the tree's growth or root system. "Major Maintenance" shall include structural pruning as necessary to maintain public safety and to sustain the health, safety, and natural growth habit of the tree; pest and disease-management procedures as needed and in a manner consistent with public health and ecological diversity; replacement of dead or damaged trees. Pruning practices shall be in compliance with International Society of Arboriculture Best Management Practices and ANSI Pruning Standards, whichever is more protective of tree preservation, or any equivalent standard or standards selected by the Director.

"Median Strip" shall mean the dividing area in the public way between opposing lanes of vehicular traffic.

"Notice" shall mean written notice by personal delivery or by mailing, either by letter or postal card, postage prepaid to the last known address as the same appears on the City's most recent assessment rolls.

"Person" shall mean any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, or organization of any kind.

"Planting" shall mean putting or setting into the ground or into a container to grow and irrigating until self-sufficient.

"Removal" shall mean any intentional or negligent moving, carrying away, elimination or taking away of part or all of a tree.

"Replacement Value" shall mean the actual cost to the Department of replacing a tree or landscape material removed or destroyed with a comparable size and species of tree or with comparable landscape material. Certain trees or landscape material, because of their size, species or historical significance, cannot be replaced from available nursery stock. In such case, "replacement value" shall be determined pursuant to the valuation formula adopted by the International Society of Arboriculture, as amended from time to time, plus the Department's actual costs to replace the tree. "Replacement value" shall include the Department's administrative costs.

"Sidewalk" shall mean the area between the curbing and the abutting private property lot line, whether paved or unpaved, as legislated by the Board of Supervisors and as reflected in the Department's official maps.

"Significant Tree" shall mean a tree so defined in Section 810A of this Article.

"Street" shall mean the vehicular travel-way portion of any public street, avenue, boulevard, lane, road, parkway, freeway, or other public way.

"Street Tree" shall mean any tree growing within the public right-of-way, including unimproved public streets and sidewalks, and any tree growing on land under the jurisdiction of the Department. "Street Tree" does not include any other forms of landscaping.

"Tree" shall mean any perennial, woody or fibrous plant species of cultivar, which reaches a height exceeding 10 feet at maturity, and which supports a branched or un-branched leaf canopy.

"Urban Forest" shall mean all trees on public streets and right-of-ways within the borders of the City and County of San Francisco, any trees growing on land subject to the jurisdiction of the Department, and any other trees subject to the provisions of this Article 16.

"Urban Forestry Council" shall mean the Urban Forestry Council as established under the Environment Code Chapter 12.

(Added by Ord. 165-95, App. 5/19/95; amended by Ord. 294-98, File No. 98-0991, Eff. 11/2/98; Ord. 17-06, File No. 051458, App. 1/20/2006; Ord. 193-06, File No. 060778, App. 7/21/2006; Ord. [119-15](#), File No. 150221, App. 7/15/2015, Eff. 8/14/2015; Ord. [245-17](#), File No. 170985, App. 12/22/2017, Eff. 1/21/2018)

PUBLIC COMMENT

PermitSF Street Tree Legislation: Overview & Key Changes

The Proposal: Proposed as part of Mayor Daniel Lurie's PermitSF Initiative, new legislation (Board [File No. 251211](#)) gives development applicants more flexibility and options to meet street tree planting requirements.

Background: San Francisco Public Works is committed to growing our city's urban tree canopy for an equitable distribution of health and livability benefits to the City.

San Francisco's tree canopy is among the smallest of any major U.S. city. At just 13.7% coverage, San Francisco trails far behind peer cities like Los Angeles (21%), Chicago (17%) and New York City (24%).

Since 2017, the Bureau manages all 125,000 street trees, repairs tree-related sidewalk damage and provides emergency response during storms.

Per the City's Urban Forest Plan, San Francisco's low-canopy neighborhoods carry the heaviest health and livability burden and are most prone to the impacts of extreme heat and air quality hazards. At the Bureau of Urban Forestry, planting street trees in low-canopy neighborhoods is a priority goal to address the needs of disadvantaged communities that experience disparities in public health and historic patterns of resource disinvestment. The Bureau of Urban Forestry has recently hired a new Superintendent of Trees who is developing a tree planting plan to actively prioritize tree planting and expedite sidewalk repairs citywide.

Primary objectives of legislation:

- Make compliance with street tree permitting less onerous.
- Transition to an in-lieu fee payment program for businesses and homeowners who wish to build in the City but prefer to pay the City to plant trees. This will enable Public Works to streamline the planting process and free our urban forestry inspectors to focus on identifying viable planting locations and evaluate the health and maintenance needs of the City's current tree stock.
- Provide developers and homeowners, who wish to expand their residences, a "check list" of street tree compliance options, replacing the outmoded method of relying on waiver or modifications requests.
- Bring into alignment with state law local accessory dwelling unit construction requirements.
- Offer legislative consistency across City departments. San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) have separate appeals processes without Board of Appeals.

Current Challenge:

San Francisco's Urban Forestry Ordinance requires street tree planting for all commercial and residential development projects. Public Works' current means of providing waivers, modifications and access to the appeals process have proven to be onerous, time consuming and a roadblock to streamlining housing development.

Short staffed BUF: Five BUF inspectors are responsible for nearly 125,000 street trees and the team remains understaffed. Much of the inspection team's daily work has become a daily triage to address backlog requests for service, preparing for Appeals hearings and working with housing project applicants on enforcement of street tree compliance for street tree planting, or on waiver or modification requests from the housing project applicant.

Appeals: A tree-removal appeals process is relatively new, instituted in 2006 and can be expensive, time-consuming and misunderstood by members of the public intent on saving a sentimental yet hazardous tree. A tree-removal appeal can add hundreds of days and expense to a project and most often results in a denial or delayed removal.

Proposed Legislative Changes

The Ordinance eliminates the appeals process at the Board of Appeals of the Director's tree removal Order. It enforces the Director's Order for tree related removal decisions as final and nonappealable.

It exempts Accessory Dwelling Unit's and Junior Accessory Dwelling Unit's from street tree requirements, provides a simplified "check-list" of compliance options including in-lieu fees and alternative landscaping options when street tree planting is not optimal due to sidewalk width, sub-sidewalk basements or other concerns.

The Ordinance also requires additional Department accountability of In-Lieu fees expenditure for Public Works-managed tree plantings and financial compliance.

Allowing an in-lieu fee option for street tree planting compliance:

Currently, project applicants must provide design plans for street tree planting. In-Lieu Fees are only allowable per discretion of the Public Works Director in cases when sidewalks are deemed inadequate.

The proposed change: Allow applicants to choose from options to 1) plant street trees, 2) pay an in-lieu fee, or 3) plant alternative landscaping, regardless of street tree feasibility.

Benefits

For Applicants:

- More flexibility in meeting tree planting requirements.
- Faster project timelines – eliminates at least 30 days from the permitting process.
- Projects can break ground sooner.

For San Francisco's Tree Canopy:

- In-lieu fee revenue provides Public Works with funds to plant trees proactively, at scale, and in priority neighborhoods.
- Trees can be strategically planted in neighborhoods with the greatest need for canopy coverage.
- More equitable distribution of the urban forest.

Remains unchanged:

- The tree planting requirement and fee amount remain the same, at one street tree per 25 feet of linear frontage or \$2,590 per tree (established in 2008 and adjusted up by Consumer Price Index).

Eliminating Board of Appeals = Streamlining Removal of Hazardous Tree

A Public Works Order to remove a street tree is a last resort option to preserve public and private property or when the safety of the public is at risk.

Currently, Public Works provides an appeals process for members of the public to appeal tree removals. Appeals are heard at a Public Works Directors' hearing.

When Public Works' certified arborists identify a hazardous tree—one that poses public risk and cannot be safely mitigated through pruning—the current removal process can take months while the dangerous tree remains standing.

The public notice period for this removal is extensive. After Public Works posts a hazard tree for removal, members of the public can protest the decision, triggering an administrative hearing with the Public Works Director, followed by a potential appeal to the Board of Appeals. Two hazardous trees have fallen during appeal periods, creating the exact public safety risks the process was meant to prevent.

Meanwhile, the certified arborists who identified these hazards must spend hours preparing hearing materials and attending appeals instead of doing their core work: inspecting thousands of trees annually, responding to emergency safety requests, and identifying new planting locations.

The proposed changes

For Hazard Trees: Eliminate the hearing and appeal process for tree removal, while maintaining strong public notice requirements.

Codify the Director's Order as final and unappealable.

City Initiated Removals of Trees on City-Owned Land

Removal of an established tree that has become a beloved public asset is a last resort decision to preserve public or private property. If Public Works is not able to remove trees damaging public or private property in a timely manner, we are risking an avoidable litigious situation.

Reducing procedural delays for clearly hazardous and problematic trees allows staff to spend more time in the field—planting, inspecting, and growing the urban canopy.

Remains unchanged: Strong public protections

Robust notice requirements:

- 15 days' notice for trees deemed hazardous by Public Works certified arborists.
- 30 days' notice for trees proposed for removal that are not immediate public safety concerns.
- Additional 7 days' notice if a public hearing is required.

Public hearing process:

- Mandatory public hearing for trees posted for 30 days if a member of the public objects.

- Written final decisions by the Director of Public Works.

Full appeal rights for private property:

- Board of Appeals process remains completely unchanged for all private-property owner-initiated tree removals.
- The public retains full appeal rights when private property owners seek to remove trees.

From: [Robin phillips](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#); ben.white@sfgov.org
Subject: in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 2:33:20 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has *nothing* to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant *more* trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

From: [Leslie](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: ben.white@sfgov.org
Subject: Tree Permit Issue on Appeals Jan 12.
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 2:48:34 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

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Leslie Koelsch

District 8

From: [ChristinePL](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments),
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 3:18:43 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in **opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals.** Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

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Christine Patch-Lindsay
1879 21st Ave
San Francisco CA 94122

Sent from my iPhone

From: james.collector4@gmail.com
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: ben.white@sfgov.org
Subject: Opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 3:43:18 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

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San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Sincerely,

James Collector

155 15th Ave

San Francisco, CA 94118

From: [Rebecca Hardy](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (street tree amendments)
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 4:29:55 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

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San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Rebecca Hardy, Potrero Hill

From: [Rell Sanderson](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 5:25:29 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello Commissioners,

I wish to express my opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211, specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. The public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals acts like a check and balance. Without it, there is too much of an opportunity for abuse. We need more trees in the city, not fewer.

I thank you for considering my opinion on this issue..

Respectfully,
Rell Sanderson
19th Street
San Francisco

From: [Hatun Noguera](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: ben.white@sfgov.org; [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments)
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 5:37:28 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

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San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Hatun Noguera
Longtime resident of Miraloma Park D7

From: [Anna Papitto](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 5:43:46 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

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San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Thank you for your consideration,
Anna Papitto, Noe Valley resident

--

Anna Papitto (she)
[Software Engineer at Google](#)
[Artist](#)

From: [Denise Selleck](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments)
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 5:58:38 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

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San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Denise Selleck
4th Generation San Franciscan
D4

From: [Tom Duffy](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Subject: Appeal Rights Regarding Tree Removal
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 6:12:01 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

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Add to that the recent Park and Rec's axing of so many trees in GGP especially in the beautiful Hellman Meadows area. They have been cutting trees on the south side of the meadow with abandon and recently cut down the Meadow's Tree of the Forest, near the monument to Mr. Hellman. It was a magnificent 100 foot tree that had graced the Meadow for probably 100 years. There were no safety issues of it falling on a road much less just toppling over onto Park visitors. This department really needs supervision and accountability. They have plenty of tasks to do besides looking for trees to cut down.

San Francisco must do better - must protect what's left of its green infrastructure. I thank you for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Respectfully, Tom Duffy

From: [Jane Bliss](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Right to appeal tree removals
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 6:32:25 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jane Bliss** <bliss.j3@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jan 9, 2026 at 6:24 PM
Subject: Right to appeal tree removals
To: <boardofappeals@sfgov.gov>
Cc: <Ben.White@sfgov.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has *nothing* to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant *more* trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

thank you for your sensible consideration, sincerely

jane bliss, 47 Ashbury, SF 94117

From: [Jane Bliss](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Subject: Right to appeal tree removals
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 6:35:29 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

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thank you for your sensible consideration, sincerely

jane bliss, 47 Ashbury, SF 94117

From: [Jane Bliss](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Subject: Right to appeal tree removals
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 6:38:56 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has *nothing* to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant *more* trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

thank you for your sensible consideration, sincerely

jane bliss, 47 Ashbury, SF 94117

From: [Teresa Palmer](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [WongStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [MahmoodStaff](#)
Subject: SFBOS File# 251211:Oppose amendment
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 6:51:31 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To: BOARD OF APPEALS

Wednesday January 14th, 5pm

Re: Item 8-File # 251211: NO To the removal of public's right to appeal City initiated tree removals

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals.

Eliminating this right does nothing to expedite permitting for housing and development, and nothing to do with permit efficiency pero lo your own data.

Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant more trees. . Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and its trees!

Thanks, Teresa Palmer M.D. District 5

1845 Hayes St. SF Calif 94117

From: [Marlayne Morgan](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#); [SherrillStaff](#)
Subject: Right to Appeal Tree Removals
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 8:10:14 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners:

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has *nothing* to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant *more* trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Best regards,

Marlayne Morgan

Cathedral Hill Neighborhood Association

From: [Shoshanah Dobry](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Tree removals
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 10:42:20 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does nothing to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has nothing to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant more trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so). So, if Rec & Parks can do that, what's to say that we as the City can actually believe in your actions?

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. Is your action or inaction being considered without reference to all of the net positive factors for the tree canopy in an urban environment? Living in the Bayview, we certainly could use so many more trees. Having less, for any reason, could only be detrimental to the neighborhood. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Shoshanah Dobry
D10 - resident

From: [Kyung Choi](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Subject: Who own the city of SF?
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 11:11:51 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

What the SF mayor is doing for SF?

The developers turned Park Mercedes Apt complex to the Den of the Robberies and Thefts.
Where else?

The SF taxpayers don't mean anything to the mayor and try to remove the rights to appeal for removing the beautiful trees?

Running SF city is not like Levi Strauss & co. have been taken by chance!
Great San Franciscans have inherited SF's natural beauty and fresh bay area environment for nearly two centuries.

They went through 1906 major earthquakes, World War I, World War II, World Great Depression.
Still, SF kept the world class beauty and fresh natural environment for hundreds of years.

There are reasons why the houses are built two or three stories and many of them are attached.
SF is the major Earthquake Zone and the beach areas have warnings of Tsunami evacuation.
Weaken the ground foundation by removing the trees?

It won't take that much time to destroy the world value of SF and the natural beauty of SF for the YIMBI developers!
DON'T BECOME THE ZOMBIES FOR the developers! WHAT A SHAME.....
San Franciscans won't stand by the zombies!!!

Best,
K. Carpenter

From: [Margaret Goeden](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Preserving right of appeal for city-initiated tree removal
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 7:58:07 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has *nothing* to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant *more* trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Last, I have planted trees as a volunteer with Friends of the Urban Forests. Keeping our existing canopy is as important as planting for the future. Let's not see mistakes happen with our existing trees.

Thank you

Margaret Goeden

1969 10th Ave

SF 94116

Sent from my iPad

From: [Natalia Peschiera](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Public comment on File 251211 - Removing the public's Right to Appeal Tree Removals
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 8:07:05 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has *nothing* to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde. As a current active volunteer for Mission Verde I have witnessed first hand how critical it is to our community to protect the existing urban canopy.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant *more* trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

I have lived in San Francisco for over 40 years in many different neighborhoods and have seen how preserving (and growing) the urban canopy positively impacts the health of the communities living amongst the concrete and glass. We must work to preserve the green spaces in our city to improve the quality of city life for the people of SF.

Thank you for your efforts and time.

Sincerely

Natalia Peschiera

From: [Cass](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Please vote no: File 251211 (the street tree amendments)
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 9:07:12 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has *nothing* to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant *more* trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

From: [Cass](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Subject: Please vote no: File 251211 (the street tree amendments)
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 9:09:47 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has *nothing* to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant *more* trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

From: warier.cleric-8u@icloud.com
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Subject: Tree removal right
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 9:35:22 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I want to have the right to maintain trees. A tree takes a long time to grow, provides shade and should not be randomly removed. I ask the mayor that citizens have the right to maintain trees. Stephanie Peek

From: [Carolyn Doran](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Public need for input re removal of street trees in San Francisco
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 10:06:06 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has *nothing* to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

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San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. Many of your tree removals are in shade deserts and people in those neighborhoods and All of our neighborhoods deserve to have these green sentries. Of course, the City needs to take better care of the surrounding, uplifted sidewalks! I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

From: [Ryan Boswell](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#); Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Please help retain citizen accountability for street trees
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 10:19:11 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does nothing to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has nothing to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant more trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

--

Ryan Boswell

From: [Sara Alexander](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: I oppose The Street Tree Amendment File 251211
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 10:48:37 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and to the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does very little to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your own data underscores that this proposed amendment will do very little for permit efficiency...but it will do a lot to damage to our city's trees.

This proposed Street Tree Amendment will facilitate a bad trend in SF of making it easy to kill trees that have taken decades to grow and that provide beauty, better air, shade, habitat, etc for SF's residents and creatures.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant *more* trees.

Additionally, the right to appeal City-initiated tree removals has exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

Please help guarantee the future of San Francisco's resilient green infrastructure.

I thank you for your judicious work on issues like this in the past, and for the ever more precious opportunity to submit this public comment.

Best,

Sara Alexander

3923A Sacramento Street
San Francisco, CA 94118
(415) 606-5335

P.S.. Every day I walk (multiple times) by dozens of mature redwood and New Zealand Christmas trees on my corner of Sacramento and Cherry that are slated to be killed for the 3700 California Street development, where a small design adjustment could have allowed them to become part of the landscaping of the project. Due to the delay of beginning to build that project, the(doomed) trees are still there, but they serve as a reminder to me of the importance of, at least, of having been able to have this conversation with developers, even if I/we did not come out of it victorious.

From: [Gandhia Andrews](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Appeal City-initiated tree removal permits
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 10:49:07 AM

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Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has *nothing* to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant *more* trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Gandhia Andrews

D7 Resident

From: [James Parke](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#); [Kathy Howard](#)
Subject: tree removal appeals process
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 11:12:19 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

As a longtime resident of the Sunset, I have witnessed the greening of the "sea of cement" that characterized post-70's drought landscaping... attenuated by painting cement covered front yards green, appealing to feng shui in removing trees blockading luck, reducing water use, and avoidance of sidewalk deformation leading to costly City driven requirements to replace cracked pathways.

This greening was primarily the effort of all of us, led by Friends of the Urban Forest, in punctuating the streets with voluntary family focused projects adding trees to the cement girded streets of the Sunset. Back then... and now, the effort to green our neighborhoods is an aesthetically pleasing, air freshening, shade enabling return to a "leafy" neighborhood idyl bleeding out of the Golden Gate Park's hegemony of greenness across the Richmond and the Sunset, its closest neighbors.

Now, with the inclusion of the aquifer beneath us as a source of our drinking water, it is even more imperative to resist wanton real estate industry greed, selfish landlords, and anti-naturalist belligerence seeking a concrete, steel and glass Manhattan like a "real city". Imperative because it must accommodate the absorption of rain water refueling the aquifer that sustains us.

As families gravitate towards pet ownership in an effort to familiarize our children with our earth's animal kingdom as intimate partners, so the proliferation of trees inculcates respect and appreciation for the world's plants that allow us to breathe, cool, and sustain us in capturing the carbon pollution we cause.

Like most things that beg for democracy, representation, and local control, this minor right, to own our neighborhood's integrity, beauty, and self determination, managing our trees is a symbol of that empowerment, and more, a critical resource for our quality of life and that of our children.

Please do not disenfranchise us of this management of our neighborhood for our families. We have to have a say in our future that belongs to us and no one else, least of all non-residents.

From: [Joel VanderWerf](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: the street tree amendments (file 251211)
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 12:16:07 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals.

I grew up in the Ingleside district and nearby areas, which in the 1970s had few street trees.

I have lived for almost 30 years in SoMa, which had nearly zero trees in 1996.

Over the years, dedicated volunteers have organized plantings and gotten property developers to contribute to these efforts.

We now have much prettier streets, which visitors to SoMa frequently compliment.

I don't buy the "streamlining" argument.

Protecting street trees is about quality of life, city pride, and welcoming visitors. Why has SF forgotten about these things?

Joel VanderWerf
San Francisco

From: [Tenderloin Tree Campaign 2004](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Subject: Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 3:35:08 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

FACT SHEET

Response to Proposed Street Tree Amendments (BOS File 251211)

Impacts on San Francisco's Tree Canopy, Public Oversight, and Climate Resilience

What Is Being Proposed?

1. Street Tree Planting Requirements

Developers could meet street tree obligations by:

- Planting trees, **or**
- Paying an in-lieu fee (**~\$2,590 per tree**), **or**
- Providing "alternative landscaping" (undefined and **explicitly excludes street trees**)

2. Elimination of Public Appeals

- Removes the public's right to appeal **City-initiated tree removals** to the Board of Appeals
 - City decisions would become **final and non-appealable**
-

Why This Matters

San Francisco's Tree Canopy Is Already Critically Low

- **~13.7% canopy coverage**, among the lowest of major U.S. cities
- Street trees are one of the **few tree categories with meaningful protections**
- Trees provide:
 - Heat reduction and climate resilience
 - Air quality and public health benefits

- Storm water management
 - Equity benefits in dense neighborhoods
-

Key Concerns

1. Fewer Trees Will Be Planted

- The in-lieu fee **barely covers planting and short-term watering**, not full lifecycle costs
- Developers are incentivized to **pay fees instead of planting trees**
- “Alternative landscaping”:
 - Is undefined
 - Excludes street trees
 - Offers **no canopy guarantee**

Result: Likely **net loss or stagnation** of tree canopy growth.

2. Operational Capacity Is Not Addressed

- Public Works and Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) face:
 - Staffing and coordination limits
 - Insufficient watering capacity (critical for first ~3 years)
 - **\$19M Street Tree SF budget:**
 - Legally restricted to **maintaining existing trees**
 - **Cannot be used** to plant or water new trees
 - No new dedicated funding is included in the amendments
-

3. Eliminating Appeals Removes Oversight—Not Delays

- Board of Appeals FY2025 data:
 - ~90% of appeals involve building/planning permits
 - **<2% involve tree removal permits**
- Appeals are **not a development bottleneck**
- Appeals have:
 - Prevented or reduced mass tree removals
 - Increased replacement planting
 - Exposed unlawful City actions (e.g., UN Plaza tree removals)

Result: Loss of transparency and accountability with **no efficiency gain**.

Risks of the Proposed Changes

- Increased pressure to remove public trees without scrutiny
 - Reduced public trust and participation
 - Greater taxpayer liability for tree loss and climate impacts
 - Worsening urban heat, flooding, and public health outcomes
-

Better Policy Options (Available Now)

- Increase in-lieu fees to reflect **true planting + maintenance costs**
 - Clearly define and require **canopy-producing alternatives**
 - Secure dedicated funding for **planting and watering new trees**
 - Maintain public appeal rights for City-initiated removals
 - Strengthen coordination and capacity at Public Works and FUF
-

Bottom Line

These amendments weaken tree protections, reduce public oversight, and fail to address real operational challenges. San Francisco can support housing **without sacrificing** its urban forest, transparency, or climate resilience.

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Executive Committee

Tenderloin Tree Campaign

From: [Alex Kriney](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Subject: Street Tree Amendments
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 4:08:58 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has *nothing* to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant *more* trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Alex Kriney - District 5

From: [CAROLINE AYRES](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#); ben.white@sfgov.org
Subject: Tree canopy in San Francisco
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 4:46:06 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments); specifically I oppose the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does nothing to expedite permitting for housing and development.

The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has nothing to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant more trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this comment.

Sincerely, Caroline Ayres 87 Dolores Street number 105 San Francisco, CA 94103

From: [cala mario](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: ben.white@sfgov.org
Subject: street trees amendments
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 4:56:15 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does nothing to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has nothing to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant more trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Ho

643 Hamilton St.
SF, CA 94134

From: [Robert Cherny](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#); Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: proposed legislation, File No. 251211
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 5:30:24 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I'm writing to you to urge that you oppose the proposed legislation, file no. 251211, that would remove citizens' right to appeal City-initiated tree removal permits.

I have paid to have trees planted in front of our property on 9th Avenue. If this passes, I'd lose my right even to appeal a city decision to remove those trees.

I understand that developers find it burdensome to permit citizens to protest against their plans. But democracy is burdensome. We are losing aspects of our democracy by the actions of the Trump administration. Please do not contribute to that process here in San Francisco.

The First Amendment explicitly addresses "the right of the people . . . to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." The appeals process is exactly that: the right of San Franciscans to petition for redress.

Robert W. Cherny
Professor *emeritus* of History

From: [Ann Rubin](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: BOS File 251211 (the street tree amendments)
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 10:47:14 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does nothing to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has nothing to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant more trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Ann Rubin

1020 Union St #27

San Francisco 94133

From: [Paula Katz](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: [Ben.White@sfgov.org](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [WongStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendment), Item 8 on agenda of 1/12/26 meeting
Date: Sunday, January 11, 2026 1:53:23 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners of the Board of Appeals,

My name is Paula Katz and I live in District 4. My friends and I love trees, as they are so healthy for the environment and enhance our well being and our spirits. We want more trees in San Francisco, not less.

So I am submitting this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has *nothing* to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant *more* trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure.

I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the

opportunity to submit this public comment.

Paula Katz

From: [KyleQ](#)
To: [Board of Appeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211
Date: Sunday, January 11, 2026 9:06:50 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does nothing to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

I believe you are failing to take into account that trees keep the temperature of the surrounding areas down by more than 10 degrees. <https://url.avanan.click/v/2/r0l/> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00704-025-05904-2> ____YXAzOnNmZHQyOmtE6fzoxMjVmZDVmNTNlMWNjNzZlNWFiNTcyZjQ4NDU0MDlyODo3OmtU4MjE6ODgyN2l3ZTlhYTRjNmU4YmZlZmYxOTlyMGI3MTA5Vjg0OTM3VjVjNGU0OWMyZDYwMTA3OGI0NjliZDczMGRjMzpwOlQ6Tg Outside of avoiding temperatures that are life threatening to infants and the elderly, the simple comfort level of everyone who lives, works, or shops in this city should be taken into account. The simple solution, MORE rather than less trees.

Similarly I believe you are failing to take into account that the excess temperatures occurring worldwide are going to cause a rising sea level, maybe not during your term-but I am hoping you are thinking of the long term benefits to the city, and as a peninsula San Francisco will be among the first to bear the brunt of that. The simple solution, MORE rather than less trees.

I do understand that Sacramento is pushing hard the 'Build Baby Build' narrative, but there is more to life than large mostly market-rate buildings, and San Francisco should be doing more to push-back against this ill-guided growth direction.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has nothing to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant more trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Kyle DeWolfe
1020 Post St #402
SF CA 94109

From: [Robert Ogilvie](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: [Ben.White@sfgov.org](#); [Patricia.Handsland](#); [Matt.Friese](#); [Chandra.Friese](#); [Peter.Fortune](#); [Thomas.Butler](#)
Subject: File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.
Date: Sunday, January 11, 2026 9:15:03 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To Members of the Board of Appeals:

San Francisco Beautiful asks that you reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16. San Francisco Beautiful (SFB) started in 1947 when its founder, Friedel Klusmann, led the successful charge to defeat the then Mayor's attempt to get rid of all of the City's cable cars. Since then, SFB, along with its 15,000+ current followers, have pursued SFB's mission to protect and enhance the unique beauty and livability of San Francisco. This includes our tree canopy.

San Francisco's tree canopy is an absolutely vital part of the City's beauty and livability and we already have one of the smallest tree canopies of any major U.S. city. This proposed amendment would result only in making our "smallest canopy" even smaller. We think that this is unacceptable. It is for this reason that SFB is opposed to File #251211, and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does nothing to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has nothing to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant more trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Respectfully,

--

Robert Ogilvie
Chief Executive Officer
San Francisco Beautiful
<https://sfbeautiful.org>

SAN FRANCISCO
Beautiful

PLEASE do the right thing and REJECT this proposed amendment. We can--and must--do much better for our City

Regards,

--

Robert Ogilvie
San Francisco Beautiful

<https://sfbeautiful.org/>

From: [Charles Bush](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Street tree amendments
Date: Sunday, January 11, 2026 12:17:00 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has *nothing* to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant *more* trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Charles Bush

2673 Pine Street

From: [Krisanthy Desby](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Subject: BOS File 251211–Street Tree Amendments
Date: Sunday, January 11, 2026 4:08:36 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in opposition to the Board of Supervisors' File 251211 regarding street tree amendments. In examining the permit appeals, it appears that there were fewer than 2% regarding tree removals. I don't understand what the fuss is about.

Furthermore, removing the public's right to appeal tree removals strikes me as a slippery slope. What rights will be next?

The city's own Environment Dept has stated that it is behind in its own climate goals, and with tree planting in particular. Silencing neighbors, advocates and the public in general when we wish to appeal a decision is a gift to developers, corporations, and other moneyed interests.

There is no machine that can do what a tree can do: filter the air and water, give shade and shelter, and prevent erosion, among many other things necessary for humans to thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Krisanthy Desby

Clay Street, San Francisco

From: [Nathalie Paven](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Subject: Street tree amendment File 251211
Date: Sunday, January 11, 2026 7:07:06 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to oppose Board of Supervisors File 251211, specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City initiated tree removals. My understanding is that less than 2% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with tree removal, so it will do little to expedite permitting for development. The main thing it will do is silence the public.

With climate change so obviously affecting us all, older trees are more important than ever to mitigate air pollution and flooding.

Thank you,

Nathalie Paven
1534B Shrader St

From: [Michael Nulty](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Legislation (File No. 251211)
Date: Sunday, January 11, 2026 7:21:22 PM

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January 11, 2026

San Francisco Board of Appeals
City Hall, Room 416
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Opposition to Proposed Legislation (File No. 251211) – Elimination of Appeals for Street Tree Removals by City Departments and Commissions (Item 8: Special Item)

Dear Members of the Board of Appeals,

I am writing on behalf of the Alliance for a Better District 6, a community organization dedicated to advocating for equitable urban development, environmental sustainability, and resident empowerment in San Francisco's District 6. Our members include residents, business owners, and community leaders from neighborhoods such as South of Market, the Tenderloin, and Mission Bay, where street trees play a vital role in enhancing quality of life, mitigating urban heat islands, and providing essential green spaces in densely populated areas.

We strongly oppose the provisions in File No. 251211 that would eliminate appeals to the Board of Appeals for street tree removals undertaken by City departments and commissions. While we recognize the need for efficient urban forestry management, this legislation undermines public accountability, community input, and environmental protections that are critical to maintaining San Francisco's urban canopy. Under existing law (Public Works Code Sections 806(a) and (c)), decisions to remove street trees—whether by the Department of Public Works or other City agencies—are subject to a transparent appeals process. This includes initial appeals to the Director of Public Works, followed by the option to appeal to the Board of Appeals. This system ensures that residents and stakeholders have a meaningful opportunity to challenge removals that may be unnecessary, environmentally harmful, or inconsistent with community priorities. For hazard trees, the current 15-day notice period and appeal rights provide a necessary check against hasty decisions that could lead to the loss of valuable trees without due consideration.

The proposed amendments would make the Director's decisions final and nonappealable for non-hazard trees and the Department's decisions final for hazard trees, effectively removing this layer of oversight. This change risks eroding public

trust in City processes, as it concentrates decision-making power without independent review. In District 6, where green space is already limited and trees are essential for air quality, shade, and neighborhood aesthetics, such removals could disproportionately impact vulnerable communities without recourse. Furthermore, replacing newspaper notices with website postings may reduce accessibility for residents who rely on traditional notification methods, further limiting public engagement.

We are particularly concerned that this legislation prioritizes administrative expediency over environmental and community benefits. San Francisco's Urban Forestry Ordinance (Article 16 of the Public Works Code) was designed to balance development needs with tree preservation, and eliminating appeals weakens this balance. Instead of removing oversight, we urge the Board to recommend maintaining the appeals process while exploring ways to streamline it, such as enhanced digital notifications, clearer criteria for hazard designations, or dedicated resources for expedited reviews.

The Alliance for a Better District 6 supports other aspects of the ordinance, such as allowing in-lieu fees for street tree requirements and exemptions for accessory dwelling units, which could promote housing affordability and flexible urban planning. However, the elimination of appeals for tree removals is a step backward for transparency and sustainability. We respectfully request that the Board take a position against these specific provisions and authorize a letter to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor recommending their removal or modification from File No. 251211.

Thank you for considering our position. We are available to discuss this matter further and can be reached at sf_district6@yahoo.com.

We look forward to your support in preserving community oversight on urban forestry decisions.

Sincerely,

Michael Nulty
Executive Director
Alliance for a Better District 6

Michael Nulty

P.O. Box 420782
San Francisco, CA 94142-0782
(415) 339-8327 - Direct
(415) 339-8779 - Alliance for a Better District 6
(415) 339-8683 - Central City Democrats

(415) 937-1289 - North of Market Business Association
(415) 820-1412 - Tenderloin Futures Collaborative
<http://abd6.cfsites.org/>

From: [Michael Nulty](#)
To: [Board of Appeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Legislation (File No. 251211)
Date: Sunday, January 11, 2026 8:02:40 PM
Attachments: [File 251211 - Public Comment Ltrs.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

January 11, 2026

San Francisco Board of Appeals
City Hall, Room 416
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Opposition to Proposed Legislation (File No. 251211) – Elimination of Appeals for Street Tree Removals by City Departments and Commissions (Item 8: Special Item)

Dear San Francisco Board of Appeals Members,

As a long-time resident of District 6, citizen planner, and Executive Director of the Alliance for a Better District 6, I submit this opposition to the provisions in File No. 251211 that would eliminate the public's right to appeal City-initiated street tree removals to your Board. I have been actively involved in urban forestry advocacy for decades, including leading the Tenderloin Tree Campaign, which has fought to preserve and expand green spaces in our densest, most vulnerable neighborhoods.

San Francisco's urban tree canopy is critically low at approximately **13.7%** coverage (as measured by the amount of land covered by trees when viewed from above, per the San Francisco Planning Department's Urban Tree Canopy Analysis and confirmed in recent City reports). This figure places San Francisco among the smallest urban tree canopies among major U.S. cities and significantly below the national average of around 27%. Compared to other California cities, San Francisco fares poorly: for example, Los Angeles has a tree canopy cover of about 21%, while cities like Sacramento, San Diego, and parts of the Inland Empire have shown net gains in canopy coverage in recent years (2018–2022 data from the USDA Forest Service). California's statewide urban tree canopy averages around 19%, underscoring that San Francisco lags behind its peers in the state despite its dense urban environment and pressing climate challenges. Street trees remain one of the few categories with meaningful protections, providing essential benefits including heat reduction for climate resilience, improved air quality and public health, stormwater management, and equity in dense areas like the Tenderloin, South of Market, and Mission Bay.

The proposed amendments allow developers to satisfy street tree planting requirements through:

- Planting trees,
- Paying an in-lieu fee (currently ~\$2,590 per tree), or
- Providing "alternative landscaping" (undefined and explicitly excluding street trees).

While these options may seem flexible, they risk a net loss or stagnation of canopy growth. The in-lieu fee covers only planting and short-term watering (about three years), not full lifecycle costs. Developers are incentivized to pay fees rather than plant trees, and "alternative landscaping" offers no guarantee of canopy. No new dedicated funding addresses the operational challenges faced by Public Works and Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF), including staffing shortages, insufficient watering capacity, and the \$19 million StreetTreeSF budget, which is legally restricted to maintaining existing trees and cannot fund new planting or watering.

Most critically, the legislation removes the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals to the Board of Appeals, making decisions final and non-appealable. This overlooks a vital point and does not address the actual delays. Board of Appeals data show that appeals related to tree removals constitute less than 2% of cases (with ~90% involving building/planning permits), so they are not a significant bottleneck in development.

Appeals have:

- Prevented or reduced mass tree removals,
- Increased replacement planting, and
- Exposed unlawful City actions (such as premature removals at UN Plaza).

Eliminating this process increases pressure to remove public trees without scrutiny, reduces public trust and participation, and heightens taxpayer liability for tree loss and climate impacts. It could worsen urban heat, flooding, and public health outcomes in already underserved areas—issues that are especially acute given San Francisco's disproportionately low canopy compared to other California cities.

Better alternatives exist now:

- Increase in-lieu fees to reflect actual planting and maintenance costs,
- Clearly define and require canopy-producing alternatives,
- Secure dedicated funding for new tree planting and watering,
- Maintain public appeal rights for City-initiated removals, and
- Strengthen coordination and capacity at Public Works and FUF.

San Francisco can support housing and development without sacrificing its urban forest, transparency, or climate resilience. These amendments weaken tree protections, reduce public oversight, and fail to address core operational challenges—particularly urgent in a city with one of the lowest tree canopies among central California and U.S. cities. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past and for the opportunity to submit this comment. I would like for the Board to oppose the elimination of appeals and authorize a letter to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor recommending their removal or modification from File No. 251211.

I am available to talk about this more.

Sincerely,

Michael Nulty
Citizen Planner
Executive Director, Alliance for a Better District 6
San Francisco Tree Campaign Affiliate Member

Veterans Alley Mural Project, Inc. Member, Board of Directors at Veterans Alley

Co-Founder and Co-President at [Central City Democrats](#)

Founding member at [San Francisco Community Land Trust](#)

Member at [Lower Polk Neighbors](#)

Community Partner representative at [Friends of Boeddeker Park](#)

Planning Committee Member at District 6 Parks Planning Committee

Community Advocate at [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#)

Project Coordinator & Community Member & CBO Member at [Tenderloin Futures Collaborative](#)

Co-founder, Program Director at [Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco](#)

Former Community Leader at San Francisco Neighborhood Parks Council

Former The Central City Extra Editorial Board Member at [San Francisco Study Center](#)

Former Senior Housing Development Advisory Committee Member at [St. Anthony Foundation](#)

Former Co-Producer at Mi Casa No Es Su Casa

Former Renewal & Expansion Steering Committee Member at Mid Market Community Benefit District

Former Board of Directors Member-Resident Seat, Membership Chair at North of Market Planning Coalition, Inc.

PS. Just to let you know, I have included additional public comments regarding this proposed legislation below.

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [De Asis, Edward \(BOS\)](#); [BOS-Operations](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: File No. 251211 Street Trees - 27 letters
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 12:32:53 PM
Attachments: [27 letters.pdf](#)

Dear Supervisors,

Please see the attached 27 letters, from members of the public and various organizations, regarding:

File No. 251211 - Ordinance amending the Public Works Code to allow development projects to satisfy street tree planting requirements through payment of an in lieu fee or providing alternative landscaping; exempt accessory dwelling units from street tree planting requirements; eliminate appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments and commissions; and update in lieu fee reporting requirements; amending the Administrative Code to create a separate account within the Adopt-A-Tree Fund to receive in lieu fees for street tree requirements; amending the Planning Code to update street tree applicability requirements; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; making findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1; and making public necessity, convenience, and welfare findings under Planning Code, Section 302.

Regards,

Richard Lagunte
Office of the Clerk of the Board
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
Voice (415) 554-5184 | Fax (415) 554-5163
bos@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

Pronouns: he, him, his

Disclosures: *Personal information that is provided in communications to the Board of Supervisors is subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act and the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance. Personal information provided will not be redacted. Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Board of Supervisors and its committees. All written or oral communications that members of the public submit to the Clerk's Office regarding pending legislation or hearings will be made available to all members of the public for inspection and copying. The Clerk's Office does not redact any information from these submissions. This means that personal information—including names, phone numbers, addresses and similar information that a member of the public elects to submit to the Board and its committees—may appear on the Board of Supervisors' website or in other public documents that members of the public may inspect or copy.*

From: [Shaun Aukland](#)
To: [CPC-Commissions Secretary](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Dennis Phillips, Sarah \(CPC\)](#)
Cc: [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Opposition & CEQA Objection: File No. 251211 (Street Tree Ordinance)
Date: Monday, January 5, 2026 12:34:38 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear President So, Chair Melgar, Supervisors, and Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of [FairTrees.org](#) to formally oppose [File No. 251211](#) and to object to the Planning Department's CEQA determination. Please also add this to the legislative file.

1. CEQA Objection. The legislative file states this ordinance is "Not defined as a project... because it would not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment." We dispute this finding. The legislation eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Historical data proves that the appeals process has successfully preserved hundreds of mature trees that the City intended to remove (e.g., Mission Verde, 24th St).

If the appeals process prevents tree removal, then removing the appeals process will logically result in the destruction of trees that otherwise would have been saved.

This will have an obvious impact to the city's physical environment. A reduction in urban canopy is a physical change to the environment that increases heat islands and reduces air quality. This requires environmental review, not an exemption. As our organization has communicated before, Environment Justice Communities like SOMA, the Tenderloin, Bayview Hunter's Point, and others are largely *losing* canopy, not gaining it. Ongoing projects like the Folsom / Howard Streetscape projects that have removed dozens of trees, and only added marginally.

2. The "Equity" Justification is Not Defined. The "In-Lieu Fee" Loophole The bill allows developers to pay fees to plant trees in "neighborhoods with low canopy" but fails to define that term. Without a data-driven definition (like "Equity Priority Communities"), this creates a slush fund where fees generated in high-need districts like SoMa (2.7% canopy) can be diverted to wealthier areas. We have seen this **over and over**, with the federal Inflation Reduction Act grant, as well as Prop L funds. Our organization has been analyzing canopy data from US Forestry, and can provide this to make this a more data-driven process.

3. SF Citizens Lose Their Last Remaining Voice in Trees: Stripping residents of the right to appeal City decisions removes the only check and balance against administrative overreach, and eliminates due process.. This is not streamlining; it is silencing.

We urge you to CONTINUE this item until the CEQA determination is corrected and these amendments are made.

Sincerely,

Shaun Aukland
FairTrees.org

From: [Ruby Rieke](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 3:30:11 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely, Ruby Rieke Mission District

From: [Shamika Klassen](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 3:31:18 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shamika Klassen, Alamo Square Neighborhood

From: [Christine S.](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [DorseyStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 3:56:14 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction. The City of San Francisco needs to be adding more trees to beautify the sad streets in SF.

I've been trying for 5 years just to get one tree planted after a car crashed into the gorgeous healthy ficus that adorned my street in SOMA. This is shameful. A missed opportunity to have a city that deserves to showoff its natural beauty.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Christine Segalas
District 6 (SOMA)

From: [Anna Papitto](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 4:06:36 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely, Anna Papitto, Noe Valley

From: [Alice Rogers](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 4:21:09 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

As a decades-long tree advocate and FUF member, I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Additionally, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored. We need to get this right.

Respectfully,

Alice Rogers

.....

Alice Rogers
10 South Park St
Studio 2
San Francisco, CA 94107

arcomnsf@pacbell.net

From: [Abigail Kroch](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 4:35:50 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

- Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Abigail Kroch, SoMa resident

From: [Shalmali Bane](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 4:51:13 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Shalmali Bane, SOMA west neighborhood

From: [Collin Tharp](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 5:20:42 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Collin Tharp

Potrero Hill

From: [Barklee Sanders](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: contact@fairtrees.org; [Shaun Aukland](#)
Subject: Re: Action Alert: Next Monday, City Hall is voting to strip your tree appeal rights
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 6:14:01 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Public Records Request under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 7920.000 et seq.) and San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance (Admin. Code Ch. 67) concerning **File No. 251211 (“PermitSF” legislation)**, any amendments affecting **Public Works Code Article 16 (Urban Forestry Ordinance)**, and **City-initiated tree removal appeal rights and “low-canopy” in-lieu fees**.

Pursuant to CPRA and the Sunshine Ordinance, please produce the following records **from January 1, 2024 to present** (or earlier if needed for completeness). I request **electronic copies** (native format where available) and **rolling production** as records are located. If any portion is withheld, please provide a **Vaughn-style index** stating the specific exemption and how it applies.

A. Legislation & Redlines (File No. 251211):

1. All drafts, redlines, margin notes, and working copies of File No. 251211 and any trailer/companion ordinances that amend **Public Works Code Article 16** or address **appeals of City-initiated tree removals** or “final and non-appealable” language.
2. All committee packets, staff reports, fiscal/equity analyses, and “legislative digest” language; including any version posted to or prepared for the **Land Use & Transportation Committee** (meeting agendas and packets).
3. Any **CEQA** memos/determinations related to the ordinance(s) and whether changes to tree-removal appeal rights were assessed as a project impact.

B. Policy Basis for Appeal Changes:

4) Internal/external correspondence (including emails, texts, Slack/Teams messages) among **Mayor’s Office, Clerk/BOS, Public Works/BUF, Planning, City Attorney, Board of Appeals, and Department of the Environment** discussing:

- proposals to eliminate or limit public appeals of **City-initiated** tree removals;
- the phrase “**final and non-appealable**” (or similar);
- jurisdiction of the **Board of Appeals** over tree-removal orders;
- comparisons to current practice noted on DPW/BUF pages (notice/hearing/appeal). Please include attachments and calendar invites. Suggested search terms: “**251211**” “**PermitSF**” “**Article 16**” “**tree removal**” “**appeal**” “**non-appealable**” “**BUF**” “**Board of Appeals**” “**low canopy**” “**in-lieu**” “**fee**” “**equity**” “**Posting 30 days.**”

C. “Low-Canopy” In-Lieu Fee Targeting:

5) Any definitions, maps, methodologies, or datasets used to define “**low-canopy neighborhoods**,” including draft criteria, environmental burden indexes, CalEnviroScreen overlays, and proposed fund allocation rules.

6) Communications with developers, BIDs, or advocacy groups regarding in-lieu fee substitutions for on-site planting and fund deployment in “low-canopy” areas.

D. Impact & Historical Records:

7) Annual counts (CSV/spreadsheet) for **2018-present**: tree-removal permits initiated by **City departments**, objections received, hearings held, Director decisions, and **appeals filed and outcomes** (including to the **Board of Appeals**). Include any datasets that back Public Works web statements about objections, hearings, and appealability.

8) Records relating to the **Calle 24 / 24th Street ficus** proceedings (BUF recommendations, posted notices, appeals, Board of Appeals actions, and final conditions), used as precedent in policy discussions.

E. Public Notice & Meeting Compliance:

9) Proof of noticing, agenda postings, and public comment instructions for any meetings where the appeal-rights change was discussed (committee and full Board).

10) Any Sunshine/Brown Act compliance reviews or guidance from the **City Attorney** regarding public participation on this subject.

Format, Fees, Timelines:

I request **fee waiver**/no-cost electronic production (CPRA § 7922.530), **rolling releases**, and confirmation within **10 days** (and any extension basis) as required by law. For any redactions/withholdings, identify the **specific code section** and explain how it applies. If records are available on public sites, please provide **direct URLs**.

Departments/Offices to Search:

Clerk of the Board/BOS (including Land Use & Transportation Committee), **Public Works – Bureau of Urban Forestry**, **Board of Appeals**, **Planning Department**, **City Attorney** (Supervisor of Records), **Department of the Environment**, and **Mayor’s Office**.

Barklee Sanders

Technology Consultant

More about me: barkleesanders.com

Schedule a meeting: <https://cal.com/barkleesanders>

On Tue, Jan 6, 2026 at 6:26 PM Shaun Aukland <shaun.aukland@gmail.com> wrote:



Hi everyone,

I am writing with an urgent warning. While we have been fighting for *more* trees, the City has quietly fast-tracked legislation that would strip your right to protect the *existing* ones. On **Monday, Jan 12th**, the Land Use Committee will vote on [File No. 251211](#).

Buried in Lurie's new "streamlining" bill is a provision that **eliminates the public's right to appeal** tree removals initiated by City departments.

Why care? Currently, if Public Works or another agency wants to cut down mature trees on your block, you have the legal right to file an appeal and force a public hearing. Importantly, the process **works**. It is how residents saved nearly 40 mature trees in the Mission's **Calle 24** district when the [City wanted to clear-cut them](#).

However, under the new law, that right vanishes. The Director's decision to cut would be "final and non-appealable."

This is not "streamlining." It is silencing. The City is effectively saying that it does not trust its citizens to have a voice in the design of their own neighborhoods.

We are also concerned about an "equity loophole": The bill allows developers to pay a fee instead of planting new trees. The fee goes to plant trees in "low canopy neighborhoods" but **leaves this undefined**. As this group knows well, without a strict definition, funds get assigned with little regard for actual canopy cover of environmental burden scores.

Two Fast Ways To Help:

We need to register opposition to these clauses.

Step 1: Copy and Paste this Email. This ensures your opposition is placed in the official file for every Supervisor to see. You may modify it your message to be more personal, if desired.

- **To:** John.Carroll@sfgov.org, Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Bilal.Mahmood@sfgov.org, Chyanne.Chen@sfgov.org
- **Subject:** Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has

historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely, [Your Name] [Your Neighborhood]

Step 2: [Sign the Petition](#) -- Join over 500 neighbors in demanding the Board reject this ban on appeals.

It seems Mayor Lurie and Supervisor Wong want to make it easier to cut trees, even as our city's canopy declines, without an equity plan. Together, we can push back on this.

Best,

Shaun Aukland
FairTrees.org

--

You are receiving this email as a community partner or petition signer at FairTrees.org.

If you would like to unsubscribe from future updates, you can do so [here](#).

From: [Josh Jagerman](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 6:21:27 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Josh Jagerman

From: [Rebecca Hardy](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 6:54:22 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining;" it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hardy, Potrero Hill

From: [Amanda Rodriguez](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 6:57:16 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Amanda Rodriguez

Glen Park resident

From: [Laurel Myers](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 7:46:27 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Laurel Myers, SoMA resident

From: [Andrea Biltagi](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 8:00:01 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Andrea Biltagi

Tenderloin, 94102

From: [Frank Lorch](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 8:34:59 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,
Frank Lorch
Sunset

From: [Mc Mc 1](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: legislative File No. 251211. OPPOSE eliminating public appeal for tree removal
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 11:05:42 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,
Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.
I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.
Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.
Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.
Sincerely,
Mary McFadden
Anza Vista

From: [Nikhil Gowda](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 8:48:55 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Nikhil Gowda

West SoMa resident and home owner.

From: [Barbara Bagot-López](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [FelderStaff](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 10:29:20 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello, Chair Melgar & members of the Land Use Committee.

Please add my comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I OPPOSE the elimination of the public right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process--removing the voice of SF residents--is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

In addition, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please CONTINUE this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bagot-López

Resident of Bernal Heights and San Francisco for 49 years who appreciates street trees

From: [Loren Craig Harrington](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 1:18:40 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for File No. 251211.

I am writing to OPPOSE the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please CONTINUE this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Craig Harrington
Twin Peaks SF

From: [David Singer](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 4:30:50 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

I am writing to OPPOSE the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Though I appreciate that streamlining is needed, this goes too far, especially in the light of history where the city has failed to plant and maintain trees unless prompted. If the DPW and were doing a fabulous job, perhaps lacking an appeal wouldn't matter, but they have not been, and so it does, a lot.

I'd like the legislation amended to define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a strict data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores.

Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please CONTINUE this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for File No. 251211.

Thank you, David Singer, SOMA

From: [Tisay Baclay](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Subject: Public Comment – File No. 251211 – Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 4:44:04 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Subject: Public Comment – File No. 251211 – Opposition to Appeals Ban

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **strongly OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public’s right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. While framed as administrative “streamlining,” this provision fundamentally strips communities of their right to be heard and removes meaningful oversight over decisions that directly affect neighborhood health, environmental equity, climate resilience, and quality of life.

Under current law, when Public Works or another City agency seeks to remove mature trees, residents have the legal right to file an appeal and trigger a public hearing. This process is not theoretical - it works. File No. 251211 would eliminate this safeguard entirely.

The right to public participation and due process is not optional. It is protected under the **First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution**, including the rights to free speech, to petition the government for redress of grievances, and to due process under the law. Fast-tracking legislation that removes appeal rights, especially when initiated by City departments themselves, raises serious constitutional concerns and undermines democratic governance. San Francisco must not become a city where community voices are treated as impediments rather than essential partners.

San Francisco has long been recognized as a leader in **environmental protection, climate justice, and civic engagement**. At a moment when residents are already absorbing sweeping budget cuts across healthcare, social services, outreach, housing stabilization, and environmental programs, this legislation further erodes trust and participation. The question before us is not whether the City can move

faster, but whether it can do so **without abandoning its values**.

Across the city, residents have stepped up beyond expectations - working in partnership with community-based nonprofits, organizing neighbors, and serving as frontline responders to the consequences of disinvestment. We are the ones operating at ground zero, engaging directly with impacted communities and protecting neighborhood-level environmental health. Removing public oversight ignores this lived experience and weakens outcomes.

I am also deeply concerned about an **equity loophole** in the legislation. While the bill allows developers to pay an In-Lieu Fee in place of planting trees, it fails to clearly define “low tree canopy” neighborhoods. Without a strict, data-driven definition that includes **canopy cover metrics and environmental burden scores**, these funds risk being allocated without regard to actual environmental need, undermining the very equity goals the policy claims to advance.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **CONTINUE this item** until public appeal rights, constitutional protections, and clear environmental equity safeguards are fully restored.

Sincerely,

Teresa Dulalas

Resident - SoMa Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District 6

From: [Claudia Stern](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Shaun Aukland](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 5:55:13 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I have lived and voted in San Francisco since 1985. As a retiree, I now volunteer in the garden (Sutro Park) near my house. I am lucky to have an increasing number of trees on the streets near my home thanks to the Friends of the Urban Forest. These trees reduce heat and noise, provide water absorption during rainy periods, and provide habitat for living creatures. We need more trees to make SF an even better city.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,
Claudia Stern
714 44th Avenue
415 318 6461

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

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more [Click Here](#).

From: [Steve Ensminger](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 10:11:20 AM

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely, [Your Name] [Your Neighborhood]

From: [Theatre District Neighbors](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Opposition for File No. 251211 tree legislation
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 10:21:22 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Land Use Committee Members,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for File No. 251211.

We need more trees to make SF an even better city.

Theatre District Neighbors is writing to OPPOSE the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, We request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please CONTINUE this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

--

Theatre District Neighbors

P.O. Box 420846

San Francisco, CA 94142-0846

theatredistrictneighbors@gmail.com

(415) 339-8779

<https://atasf7.wixsite.com/tdneighbors>

From: [dweller SF](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: reject File No. 251211 trees
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 11:20:21 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

94105 Resident (Rincon Hill / South Beach / SoMa)

Strong Opposition to Proposed Amendments in File No. 251211
(Urban Forestry PROPOSED Ordinance Changes)
January 8, 2026

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

As a resident of **ZIP code 94105** in the Rincon Hill, South Beach, and South of Market (SoMa) area—one of San Francisco's fastest-growing neighborhoods dominated by high-rises and with **critically low tree canopy coverage of approximately 4-5%** (far below the citywide average of 13.7%), including areas like South Beach and parts of SoMa with very little tree cover—I and my family are **vehemently oppose** the proposed amendments in File No. 251211. Our concrete-heavy streets already create severe urban heat islands, poor air quality, and extreme vulnerability to wildfire smoke and heat waves. These changes would exacerbate environmental inequities by letting developers skip on-site tree planting in the very places experiencing intense new development.

Key Reasons for Opposition:

- 1. Devastating Blow to Greening in High-Density, Low-Canopy Areas Like 94105**
South Beach, Rincon Hill, and SoMa have some of the lowest street tree canopy in the city—around 4.1% in parts of SoMa—with vast stretches of pavement and towering buildings offering little shade. These areas are priority zones for the **\$12 million federal Inflation Reduction Act grant** targeting low-canopy, heat-vulnerable neighborhoods including SoMa to plant **3,500 new street trees**. Allowing developers to pay in-lieu fees instead of planting on-site—or exempting ADUs—would undermine this critical effort, leaving new luxury high-rises without greenery and denying residents immediate cooling and cleaner air amid booming development.
- 2. Undermining Our Primary Source of New Trees Amid Severe Budget Crises**
With the City's historic budget deficits—closing an **\$800+ million shortfall in FY 2025-26** and facing projections up to **\$1 billion** in coming years—Public Works' Urban Forestry programs are chronically underfunded, relying heavily on grants and external sources. **Mandatory tree planting from new development has become the main reliable way San Francisco adds street trees**. Expanding in-lieu fees and exemptions would sever this vital pipeline, stalling greening in fast-developing areas

like mine where every tree is essential.

3. **Exacerbating Life-Threatening Health and Climate Risks**

Low tree canopy in 94105 leads to temperatures 10–20°F higher than greener neighborhoods, worsened air quality from traffic and freeways, and severe impacts from California's wildfires and droughts—we endured weeks of hazardous orange skies and smoke in 2020. Residents face elevated risks of heat-related illness and respiratory problems. Eliminating appeals for City tree removals erodes oversight, while online-only notices exclude many.

4. **Betraying City Promises and Contradicting Protective Policies Elsewhere**

These developer-friendly changes prioritize short-term efficiency over accountability, unlike robust appeal processes in cities such as Beverly Hills, Pacifica, Los Altos, Mountain View, Santa Cruz, Saratoga, San Luis Obispo, Santa Monica, and Pasadena. They undermine the Urban Forest Plan, federal Justice40 commitments, and environmental goals—while areas like 94105 suffer from unchecked concrete expansion.

We cannot afford more barren streets in our skyline-dominated neighborhood. My family demands you **reject File No. 251211 entirely** and strengthen mandates for on-site planting and public appeals to deliver real trees where new development is transforming our community.

Regards,

The Fong Family

94105 Resident & Native San Franciscan
Rincon Hill / South Beach / SoMa, San Francisco, CA

From: [dweller SF](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: reject File No. 251211 trees
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 11:20:19 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

94105 Resident (Rincon Hill / South Beach / SoMa)

Strong Opposition to Proposed Amendments in File No. 251211
(Urban Forestry PROPOSED Ordinance Changes)
January 8, 2026

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

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We cannot afford more barren streets in our skyline-dominated neighborhood. My family demands you **reject File No. 251211 entirely** and strengthen mandates for on-site planting and public appeals to deliver real trees where new development is transforming our community.

Regards,

The Fong Family

94105 Resident & Native San Franciscan
Rincon Hill / South Beach / SoMa, San Francisco, CA

From: [SusanW](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Tree removal
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 10:55:50 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Susan Weisberg

From: [Theatre District Neighbors](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Opposition for File No. 251211 tree legislation
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 10:21:24 AM

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Dear Chair Melgar and Land Use Committee Members,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for File No. 251211.

We need more trees to make SF an even better city.

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Sincerely,

--

Theatre District Neighbors

P.O. Box 420846

San Francisco, CA 94142-0846

theatredistrictneighbors@gmail.com

(415) 339-8779

<https://atasf7.wixsite.com/tdneighbors>

From: [Steve Ensminger](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 10:11:31 AM

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

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Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely, [Your Name] [Your Neighborhood]

From: [Theatre District Neighbors](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Opposition for File No. 251211 tree legislation
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 10:21:24 AM

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Dear Chair Melgar and Land Use Committee Members,

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Please CONTINUE this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

--

Theatre District Neighbors

P.O. Box 420846

San Francisco, CA 94142-0846

theatredistrictneighbors@gmail.com

(415) 339-8779

<https://atasf7.wixsite.com/tdneighbors>

From: [Steve Ensminger](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 10:11:31 AM

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely, [Your Name] [Your Neighborhood]

From: [Joshua Klipp via ActionNetwork.org](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Protect San Francisco Trees!
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 9:16:20 AM
Attachments: [protect-san-francisco-trees_signatures_202601080515.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

583 people have signed a petition on Action Network telling you to Protect San Francisco Trees!.

Here is the petition they signed:

Mayor Lurie and Supervisor Wong's proposals for San Francisco's street trees are disastrous. We already have the smallest urban canopy of any major city in the U.S., and our failure to invest in our City trees has allowed even this small tree canopy to decline. We ask you to not allow Developers to have the choice of planting trees or paying an inadequate fee. This will lead to even fewer trees on City streets.

And we ask you not to eliminate the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. These appeals, for City projects, have nothing to do with expediting development. Additionally, these appeals have lead to innovative results, such as Mission Verde - one of the most innovative City/Community partnerships that resulted in 3x more trees being planted along the Mission District's cultural corridor. Eliminating this right to appeal will result in City projects removing trees en masse without oversight, and will incentivize private developers to persuade the City to remove trees on the taxpayer dime.

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

You can view each petition signer and the comments they left you in the attached PDF.

Thank you,

Joshua Klipp

Action Network



organize. [Click here to sign up](#) and get started building an email list and creating online actions today.

Action Network is an open platform that empowers individuals and groups to organize for progressive causes. We encourage responsible activism, and do not support using the platform to take unlawful or other improper action. We do not control or endorse the conduct of users and make no representations of any kind about them.

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San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

583 people have signed a petition on Action Network telling you to Protect San Francisco Trees!.

Here is the petition they signed:

Mayor Lurie and Supervisor Wong's proposals for San Francisco's street trees are disastrous. We already have the smallest urban canopy of any major city in the U.S., and our failure to invest in our City trees has allowed even this small tree canopy to decline. We ask you to not allow Developers to have the choice of planting trees or paying an inadequate fee. This will lead to even fewer trees on City streets.

And we ask you not to eliminate the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. These appeals, for City projects, have nothing to do with expediting development. Additionally, these appeals have lead to innovative results, such as Mission Verde - one of the most innovative City/Community partnerships that resulted in 3x more trees being planted along the Mission District's cultural corridor. Eliminating this right to appeal will result in City projects removing trees en masse without oversight, and will incentivize private developers to persuade the City to remove trees on the taxpayer dime.

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

You can view each petition signer and the comments they left you below.

Thank you,

Joshua Klipp

1. Joshua Klipp (*ZIP code: 94107*)

2. K Desby (*ZIP code: 94118*)

3. Bryan Dillingham (*ZIP code: 94107*)

4. Natalie Downe (*ZIP code: 94019*)

5. Shaun Aukland (*ZIP code: 94103*)

I object to the removal of any resident voice in appealing tree removals. There is a well-documented history of departmental overreach, non-compliance with laws, and general laziness that the appeals process is intended to provide a check on.

6. Sara Alexander (*ZIP code: 94118*)

Please take a long time to become trees. Let's protect the ones we have. They are precious....

7. Shawna McGrew (ZIP code: 94122)

8. Robert Hall (ZIP code: 94117)

9. David Romano (ZIP code: 94121)

Trees and the tree canopy are critical to the livability of the City. We need to increase and enhance our tree canopy, plant more trees and keep the trees we have.

10. Natalia Peschiera (ZIP code: 94110)

I'm signing this petition as a long time resident of SF and a member of mission verde because I am very concerned with the proposed changes to legislation that will negatively impact our relatively small and struggling urban forest canopy. The trees are a vital piece of our communities' health and wellbeing. We must do better for the trees and the people who live amongst them - For today and generations to come.

11. John Mendoza (ZIP code: 94110)

12. Judy Irving (ZIP code: 94133)

Removing the public's right to appeal has nothing to do with streamlining, and everything to do with the fact that SFRPD broke the law, illegally removed trees, and got caught red-handed by the Board of Appeals. What's worse, if City-initiated tree removals aren't appealable, this incentivizes private developers to get the City to do its tree removals for them, on the taxpayer dime.

13. Roz Arbel (ZIP code: 94118)

Please do not remove the community's right to save SF's already dwindling urban canopy! I never thought I would see the day when our city's Democratic process would be threatened in such a way. As the petition says, it's not about streamlining the building of affordable housing, it's about preserving the nature that already exists in our city. And when you remove a healthy, mature tree, you're not only removing the tree, you're removing the nature that depends on its existence - including humans.

14. Jacqueline Nauman (ZIP code: 94018)

Cities need greenery. Take that away and not only is the air quality affected, the city dwellers are negatively affected. There are more reasons than air for having trees visible in urban areas. Read up on Barcelona and how badly that city is affected by no parks or greenery. This is a horrible idea to turn SF into a concrete jungle!!

15. Nancy Shanahan (ZIP code: 94133)

16. Renee Lazear (ZIP code: 94116)

17. Bridget Maley (ZIP code: 94123)

18. SON-SF ~ Save Our Neighborhoods SF (ZIP code: 94116)

19. Melinda MacNaughton (ZIP code: 94018)

Not Ok to Silence the public about tree concerns. Trees are most important for our survival with climate change and providing what minor habitat SF has left. Not Ok to put developers first over a struggling environment.

20. Courtney Damkroger (ZIP code: 94109)

21. Lisa Arjes (ZIP code: 94122)

22. Laurew Frishman (ZIP code: 94018)

23. Judith Berkowitz (ZIP code: 94110)

24. Dorothy Pasquinelli (ZIP code: 94018)

25. DANIEL MATAROZZI (ZIP code: 94110)

Pls. stop the destruction of our urban forrest by rejecting this developer friendly regulation.

26. Angelina Matarozzi (ZIP code: 94110)

27. Charlotte Mooney (ZIP code: 94118)

28. Claire Mills (ZIP code: 94123)

29. Barbara Heffernan (ZIP code: 94123)

Save our trees and stop this nonsense

30. Marie Sorenson (ZIP code: 94110)

31. Karen Breslin (ZIP code: 94127)

32. Janet Monfredini (ZIP code: 94127)

This speaks for itself. Trees make all the difference.....

33. SHARON HAWLEY (ZIP code: 94110)

34. Sigrid Bull-McCarthy (ZIP code: 94122)

We need more trees not less. If there is a sick and dying tree that poses a threat, it should be replaced with 3 new trees when removed. But no willy nilly tree removal. A concrete jungle is not the city we want. Protect green spaces and protect trees. Keep our right to have a say in what we want for our city!!

35. John Nulty (ZIP code: 94142)

36. Nancy Federico (ZIP code: 94122)

This is my right! SFRPD is breaking the law!

37. Wayne Johnson (ZIP code: 94114-2417)

38. Sarah Bellrichard (ZIP code: 94110)

39. Ruth Malone (ZIP code: 94121)

40. Katherine Petrin (ZIP code: 94133)

41. Greg Giachino (ZIP code: 94133)

This move has to be a joke, right?

42. Tomasita Medál (ZIP code: 94122)

43. Lynne Burwell (ZIP code: 94118)

44. Jamie Wong (ZIP code: 94116)

45. Marcus Wong (ZIP code: 94116)

46. Erica Zweig (ZIP code: 94122)

Another giveaway to developers - there should be greater requirements for developers to increase and enhance SF Green infrastructure! Its a minor hoop to jump and pocket change cost to developers to plant around their new concrete structures. An absurd giveaway!

47. KEN RACKOW (ZIP code: 94109)

48. Esfir Shrayber (ZIP code: 94122)

Please protect our trees , our oxygen. We need them.

49. Linda Lawrence (ZIP code: 94804)

Protect our urban canopy!

50. Aaron Goodman (ZIP code: 94127)

See Glen Park Trees, see Excelsior Trees, Mc Laren Park Trees, and Parkmerced Trees along right of way.

51. Mark Peters (ZIP code: 94114)

52. Doug Comstock (ZIP code: 94117)

53. Mark Beyer (ZIP code: 94110)

We need trees! We want trees! Please allow YOUR constituents a voice.

54. Tes Welborn (ZIP code: 94117-1802)

55. Rita Da Luz (ZIP code: 94114)

People deserve to be heard. Furthering a concrete jungle isn't in the best interest of SF in the long run.

56. Leslie Smith (ZIP code: 94611)

57. Patricia Taber (ZIP code: 94114)

San Francisco has, for a major city, the fewest number of trees than most US cities. Shameful, we should embrace trees not only for their esthetics but also for their positive contribution to our environment.

58. Elizabeth Kiefling (ZIP code: 94110)

Preserving our urban forest is fundamental to the health and prosperity of San Francisco's community, culture and well being.

59. Mary Anne Giglio (ZIP code: 94018)

60. Rell Sanderson (ZIP code: 94114)

61. Stephanie Peek (ZIP code: 94116)

62. Dinorah Salazar (ZIP code: 94112)

63. peggy huff (ZIP code: 94133)

Eliminating this right to appeal will result in City projects removing trees en masse without oversight, and will incentivize private developers to persuade the City to remove trees on the taxpayer dime.

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

64. Steve Wilkerson (ZIP code: 94127)

65. Scott Feeney (ZIP code: 94110)

I've come out on volunteer shifts to water trees with Mission Verde, trees that wouldn't be there without the tree removal appeal process. We love our street trees and want more, not less. And since large scale development often tears up the sidewalk anyway, planting trees at that time just makes sense, it's more efficient! Please reject this legislation and help grow our tree canopy, not shrink it.

66. kim snead (ZIP code: 94117)

67. Dave Osgood (ZIP code: 94105)

Significant trees are currently slated for removal along Howard Street for largely cosmetic reasons.

We need our right to appeal these misguided decisions.

68. Mahdi Rahimi (ZIP code: 94110)

69. bea manuel (ZIP code: 94112)

70. Jeff Daniel (ZIP code: 94116-2613)

71. Floriana Spezza (ZIP code: 94122)

72. Maggie Grabmeier (ZIP code: 94110)

Please commit to keeping San Francisco green! As a Mission Verde volunteer, I love to see the community out enjoying our trees. It makes our neighborhoods healthier and more beautiful. It's so important for San Franciscans to feel our connection to nature! Thank you for listening!

73. STEVE WARD (ZIP code: 94122)

74. Michael Nulty (ZIP code: 94142-0846)

In contrast, many other California cities maintain strong appeal processes to ensure accountability: Beverly Hills: Appeals to the Planning Commission (Municipal Code Title 10, Chapter 3).

Pacifica: 10-day appeal period to Planning Commission, with further escalation to City Council (Title 4, Chapter 12).

Los Altos: 10-day public notification for appeals to City Clerk.

Mountain View: Appeals to Urban Forestry Board or City Council within 10 days.

Santa Cruz: Appeals to Parks and Recreation Commission for heritage trees.

Saratoga: 15-day appeal window for nearby homeowners.

San Luis Obispo: Appeals to Tree Committee.

Santa Monica: Reviews by Urban Forest Task Force.

Pasadena: Standard zoning code appeals for tree protections.

These models demonstrate that appeals foster community trust and prevent arbitrary removals, unlike the proposed streamlining, which could lead to unchecked tree loss.

75. RADOGO ULUINADAVE (ZIP code: 94102)

76. Tricia Downey (ZIP code: 94122)

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

77. Paula L (ZIP code: 94121)

78. Harold Miller (ZIP code: 94188)

Help us save the trees

79. SUSAN BRYAN (ZIP code: 94102)

80. Gwendalina Carrera (ZIP code: 94044)

We need MORE trees in SF, not fewer.

81. paul wermer (ZIP code: 94115)

Trees bring health benefits and environmental benefits AND create the more appealing streetscapes that tourists appreciate

82. Carol Brownson (ZIP code: 94115)

83. Deborah Gallegos (ZIP code: 94112)

We need more tree plantings in every neighborhood to provide all the medicinal properties that trees have to offer in the environment.

84. Belinda Irons (ZIP code: 94105)

Please do not remove trees on Howard St.

85. tom fenwick (ZIP code: 94122)

This tree reform makes no sense. Just make it easier and faster to get a permit to plant the trees

86. Katharine Demgen (ZIP code: 94105)

87. Avrum Shepard (ZIP code: 93291)

88. Matt Laroche (ZIP code: 94122)

89. Carla Schlemminger (ZIP code: 94123)

90. Ann Rubin (ZIP code: 94133)

91. Stephen Davis (ZIP code: 94044-1517)

Please maintain the public's right to appeal tree removals in San Francisco. Construction is necessary for the city, of course, but it should not destroy existing trees. Mature trees do so much good for removing CO2, providing habitat for birds, and improving the urban scenery.

92. Margaret O'Brien (ZIP code: 94121)

93. Tony Tantillo (ZIP code: 94105)

94. John Anderson (ZIP code: 94115)

Particular consideration should be given to the remaining coast live oaks, such as the ones on the south block of Laurel St. Architects have a long history of ignoring the natural world, an unfortunate legacy of colonialism. As a city, we should do better.

95. Cathwrine Dodd (ZIP code: 94131)

Trees are life. They bring shade, oxygen and charm to the city. That are home to birds. They take

generations to grow. Greed of politicians and the Developers who support them must not continue. Also oppose the ATT Tower in the canopy behind the police academy. The construction will kill off entire parts of forest.

96. Maximilienne Ewalt (ZIP code: 94112)

To: San Francisco Board of Supervisors

From: Maximilienne Ewalt

Mayor Lurie and Supervisor Wong's proposals for San Francisco's street trees are disastrous. We already have the smallest urban canopy of any major city in the U.S., and our failure to invest in our City trees has allowed even this small tree canopy to decline. We ask you to not allow Developers to have the choice of planting trees or paying an inadequate fee. This will lead to even fewer trees on City streets.

And we ask you not to eliminate the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. These appeals, for City projects, have nothing to do with expediting development. Additionally, these appeals have lead to innovative results, such as Mission Verde - one of the most innovative City/Community partnerships that resulted in 3x more trees being planted along the Mission District's cultural corridor. Eliminating this right to appeal will result in City projects removing trees en masse without oversight, and will incentivize private developers to persuade the City to remove trees on the taxpayer dime.

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

97. Linda Weiner (ZIP code: 94110)

98. Peter Fortune (ZIP code: 94133)

99. Mearu Takatsu (ZIP code: 94123)

REJECT Mayor Lurie's and

Supervisor Wong's proposed amendment to the Public Works Code -- reject File #2151211 amendment to the SF Public Works Code Article 16.

100. Elias Berbari (ZIP code: 94116)

101. Catherine Chase (ZIP code: 94111)

It is important to keep the tree canopy we have and add to it if at all possible.

102. deanne delbridge (ZIP code: 94123-1175)

Thank you for starting this, Joshua. Every effort to save our trees in San Francisco is totally worth it and you and only a small handfull of others continue this work by yourselves. Please let me know how to reach you.

103. Linda Shaffer (ZIP code: 94121-3255)

104. Anna Esquivel (ZIP code: 94116)

It's disturbing that the tree canopy in San Francisco is less than half the national average. This city needs to do better to protect and preserve the trees are in place!

105. Judi Gorski (ZIP code: 94116)

106. Chandra Frieese (ZIP code: 95476)

107. Barbara Delaney (ZIP code: 94122)

108. Holly Watts (ZIP code: 94116)

109. DOUGLAS ENGMANN (ZIP code: 94109)

Keep the appeals process for the public to object to tree removal

110. Cath Ann Giacomini-McDonald (ZIP code: 94116)

111. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94103)

112. Kerrie Walsh (ZIP code: 94116)

113. Maureen McVerry (ZIP code: 94107)

This is important rule that protects everyone in the city - do not cut down mature trees.

114. Lauren Meredith (ZIP code: 94121)

Trees are great for people who was to breathe, those who want to see something beautiful around them, those who want to heal quicker after illness... I really hate that they are killed for construction convenience.

115. Heather Davies (ZIP code: 94116)

Please do not change the review process for tree removal. It is essential for SF bird populations to retain this canopy. Trees are part of our beloved cultural landscape. Trees help lower the effects of urban heat islands. Trees take decades to mature and are not readily replaceable. Public review and input on tree removal should be retained.

116. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94122)

117. Laurette Tanner (ZIP code: 94122)

Trees help create the air we breathe

118. Rebecca Robertson (ZIP code: 94105)

119. Jonathan Maguire (ZIP code: 94116)

120. Merrill Randol (ZIP code: 94118)

121. Al hawley (ZIP code: 94118)

Alan wong this legislation is idiotic. You claim it is to provide in lieu fees for planting trees in high need

areas. YOUR DISTRICT is a HIGH NEEED AREA! Many of your streets lack adequate street trees. This and your work to allow more parking is in direct conflict with planning code seeking to improve permeability initially started because people were paving over all of the front right of way to park making your district one of the worst offenders for stormwater runoff and pollution.

122. Jascenta Napier (ZIP code: 94105)

123. Linda Bartlett (ZIP code: 04115)

Please save any trees and do not remove. We love the trees and they help our community to be beautiful and places for birds to build nests and survive.

124. aaron brick (ZIP code: 94134)

125. Margot Garey (ZIP code: 94115)

More, NOT less trees in San Francisco.

126. george williams (ZIP code: 94122)

127. Alan Shaw (ZIP code: 94103)

128. Rosa Maline (ZIP code: 94122)

Trees help to make streets and cities beautiful.

129. Sharon Harrison (ZIP code: 94118)

130. Peter Rothe (ZIP code: 94127-1848)

plant more trees

131. Norma Gengler (ZIP code: 94115)

Save our trees!

132. Eric Shackelford (ZIP code: 94116)

133. Karen Auby (ZIP code: 94116)

My supervisor, Mr Wong, is against trees and parks but very interested in adding more parking.

134. Jim Hannah (ZIP code: 94114)

Thanks for bringing this to our attention. More trees

135. Joel Sayre (ZIP code: 94122)

More Trees!

136. Diana Hazas (ZIP code: 94112)

Prioritize trees!!

137. Flannery Alber (ZIP code: 94116)

138. Mary Klipp (ZIP code: 94131)

139. Lance Carnes (ZIP code: 94133)

Last Name Carnes
Email lacarnes@gmail.com
Zip/Postal Code 94133

Comments

You may receive email updates from Joshua Klipp, the creator of this petition.

Protect San Francisco Trees!
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

It's one thing to streamline permits. It's another thing to harm the minimal green infrastructure SF has. Mayor Lurie wants to allow developers to choose between planting trees, or paying an inadequate fee to the City to do it instead. This means not only do we lose trees, but developers can permanently design over spaces that might have accommodated trees in the future.

Additionally, Mayor Lurie seeks to remove the public's right to appeal when a City department initiates a tree removal. This isn't about housing or development. This would include, for example, when SFMTA sought to remove every tree on Van Ness (~200) for the new bus lane. Or when SFDPW sought to remove every tree on 24th Street (~77) between Mission and Potrero. Or when Better Market Streets sought to remove every tree on Market Street for its new sidewalks (~700). If the public didn't have the right to appeal, these trees would be gone. Because of the appeals process, trees were saved, plans were revised, and City-community partnerships were formed.

Removing the public's right to appeal has nothing to do with streamlining, and everything to do with the fact that SFRPD broke the law, illegally removed trees, and got caught red-handed by the Board of Appeals. What's worse, if City-initiated tree removals aren't appealable, this incentivizes private developers to get the City to do its tree removals for them, on the taxpayer dime.

Tell Mayor Lurie that we can - and must - do better. For our trees, for the planet, and for our future.
Petition by
Gravatar
Joshua Klipp
San Francisco, California

To: San Francisco Board of Supervisors
From: Lance Carnes

Mayor Lurie and Supervisor Wong's proposals for San Francisco's street trees are disastrous. We already have the smallest urban canopy of any major city in the U.S., and our failure to invest in our City trees has allowed even this small tree canopy to decline. We ask you to not allow Developers to have the choice of planting trees or paying an inadequate fee. This will lead to even fewer trees on City streets.

And we ask you not to eliminate the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. These

appeals, for City projects, have nothing to do with expediting development. Additionally, these appeals have lead to innovative results, such as Mission Verde - one of the most innovative City/Community partnerships that resulted in 3x more trees being planted along the Mission District's 24th Street cultural corridor. Eliminating this right to appeal will result in City projects removing trees en masse without oversight, and will incentivize private developers to persuade the City to remove trees on the taxpayer dime.

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

City trees are SF assets (and beautiful greenery) that all citizens depend on for a living and beautiful means of keeping SF's air fresh and our environment green and thriving.

Removing taxpayers' ability to protest the removal of trees via hearings at DPW and Board of Appeals curtails our rights as citizens, to protect these important and health-giving assets.

Please keep current appeal processes in place.

Thank you,
Lance Carnes

140. Rosario Cervantes (*ZIP code: 94112*)
Greenery and growth of our city over developers any time

141. Nan Kornfeld (*ZIP code: 94122*)

142. Chloe Gonzalez Coyle (*ZIP code: 94124*)

143. Beth Patty (*ZIP code: 94122*)
Please keep our city green

144. Jeffrey Beck (*ZIP code: 94122*)

145. Deidra White (*ZIP code: 94118*)

146. Susan Spellman (*ZIP code: 94116*)

147. Lori Liederman (*ZIP code: 94122*)

148. Lael Robertson (*ZIP code: 94107*)

149. Kerri Finn (*ZIP code: 94118*)
Save our trees. We need shade, shelter, oxygen, beauty, preserving living things and homes for our neighboring critters. Leave nature only.

150. Usha Moss (*ZIP code: 94114*)

151. Patricia Sur (ZIP code: 94121)

152. Molly Hayden (ZIP code: 94117)

153. Cathy Morgan (ZIP code: 9413)

154. Judy Minton (ZIP code: 94107)

155. Christine Innes (ZIP code: 94107)

156. Alice Cassman (ZIP code: 94117)

Please protect the trees!

157. karen LARSEN (ZIP code: 94107)

We need our trees and have already lost too many. Please re-consider letting developers cut down trees without public input.

158. Kelly Vance (ZIP code: 94117)

159. Helen Vander Wende (ZIP code: 94122)

160. Jaimie VanPernis (ZIP code: 94118)

Save the trees!

161. Marguerite Felts (ZIP code: 94112)

162. Nikita Van beek (ZIP code: 94121)

163. James Estey (ZIP code: 94131)

Keep the trees and add a few more.

164. Cade Peterson (ZIP code: 94121)

165. Robin Grossinger (ZIP code: 94705-1082)

166. Susan Cronin Parano (ZIP code: 94121)

Because these trees are lovely and should not be cut down! A redwood especially ! We need more green!

167. JOAN M BRONER (ZIP code: 94122)

We need all trees & those trees need to stay!

168. Mara Sohm (ZIP code: 94115)

169. Paul Dohrmann (ZIP code: 94122)

Save trees and make the city more green.

170. Bradley Golden (ZIP code: 94117)

Something's wong, Lurie-ing the public to lose out to developers over trees is no bueno.

171. Kyung Choi (ZIP code: 94116)

SF needs more trees to keep the fresh environment as they produce oxygen far more than Carbon dioxide.

The developers are destroying SF's healthy, natural environment!

172. Blair Czarecki (ZIP code: 94109)

173. Brian Reyes (ZIP code: 94122)

174. Alan Carpenter (ZIP code: 94114)

175. Carolyn Kincaid (ZIP code: 94112)

176. Sharon Wilensky (ZIP code: 94122)

177. Don Ino (ZIP code: 94121)

Corporate developers cannot have carte blanche in disregarding neighborhood charm.

178. Rasa Moss (ZIP code: 94114)

179. David Kerby (ZIP code: 94114)

180. Michael Rothmann (ZIP code: 94133)

181. Susan Cieutat (ZIP code: 94102)

182. Jen dougherty (ZIP code: 94122)

Please stop destroying our beautiful city

183. Robert Sutton (ZIP code: 94127)

184. Sheila Fischer Kiernan (ZIP code: 94131)

185. Diem Tran (ZIP code: 94105)

186. Rebecca Misner (ZIP code: 94131)

187. Carolyn Johnston (*ZIP code: 94127*)

188. Ariane Eroy, Ph. D. (*ZIP code: 94121*)

Realtors, Developers, Investors too often care nothing about the people, or our City, or our beleaguered planet. Their buildings will not give us oxygen or sequester carbon dioxide. Yet Mayor Lurie and the Board has yet to stop them.

We demand that our politicians stop currying favor to the Wealthy, to Corporations, and to Developers. For their ethos is take-the-money-and run; their modality is selling our city to the highest bidder; and their corruption involves wheeling-and-dealing until the City collapses from their greed. Such short-sightedness proves that corporate Democrats ignore the Climate Emergency in favor of augmenting their campaign coffers -- at everyone's peril!

Wake up! Humanity is facing an existential crisis that will not be resolved by itself. Such a crisis demands that we focus on healing our environment as the number one issue of our time.

"_Our planet is trying to tell us something. But we don't seem to be listening. My dear friends, the American Museum of Natural History is the ideal place to make the point: This great museum tells the amazing story of our natural world--the vast forces that have shaped forces on life over billions of years. And Humanity is just one, small blip on the radar. But like the meteors which wiped out the dinosaurs, we are having an outsized impact. In the case of climate, we are not the dinosaurs. We are the meteor. We are not only in danger. We are the danger. But we are also the solution. This world over billions of years humanity is just a small blip. In the case of climate change, we are not the dinosaurs; we are the meteor. We are not in danger: We are the danger... But we are also the solution.

Antonio Guterres
UN Secretary General
June 2024

"When you destroy Mother Nature, you destroy yourself."
Maitreya

189. Scott Simons (*ZIP code: 94107*)

Really, no oversight, we might as well annex San Mateo to get more trees

Whenever I go to another city, the first thing I see is trees, and what a delight that is

Why the uphill struggle for the simplest of beauty and health

Can't we even agree on this?

190. Madhavan Rangaswami (*ZIP code: 94118*)

191. Xenia Rangaswami (*ZIP code: 94115*)

192. Anjali Rangaswami (*ZIP code: 94118*)

193. Paula Katz (*ZIP code: 94116*)

194. Bev Lips (ZIP code: 94121)

195. Irma Lewis (ZIP code: 94107)

To: SF Board of Supervisors

From: Irma Lewis

The current proposals for San Francisco's street trees are disastrous. SF has the smallest urban canopy of any major city in the U.S., and our failure to invest in our City trees has allowed even this small tree canopy to decline. This has direct, measurable health impacts, particularly our most vulnerable. We ask you to not allow Developers to have the choice of planting trees or paying a fee. This will lead to even fewer trees on City streets.

We ask you not to eliminate the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. These appeals, for City projects, don't impede development. They've actually led to innovative results, such as Mission Verde - one of the most innovative City/Community partnerships that resulted in 3x more trees being planted along the Mission District's cultural corridor. Eliminating this right to appeal will result in City projects removing trees en masse without oversight, and will incentivize private developers to persuade the City to remove trees on the taxpayer dime.

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

196. Thomas Herz (ZIP code: 94131)

197. Laura Griffiths (ZIP code: 94131)

198. Eva Daniel (ZIP code: 94115)

199. Lauren Jarrell (ZIP code: 94122)

Please do not allow this legislation to happen. We have already lost so many trees and have a very small urban canopy for a city of our size.

200. Anastasia Glikshtern (ZIP code: 94122)

We need the trees.

And the city is engaged in deforestation - in parks and open spaces. the street trees are under assault too...

201. Jessica Kalafati (ZIP code: 94114)

202. Anton Kalafati (ZIP code: 94114)

203. Raisa Chudnovskaya (ZIP code: 94118)

204. Eugene Bachmanov (ZIP code: 94118)

205. Susanna Klebaner (ZIP code: 94121)

206. Svetlana Savchuk (ZIP code: 94122)

207. Peter Glikshtern (*ZIP code: 94110*)

208. Elizabeth Gould (*ZIP code: 94114*)

209. Benjie Lasseau (*ZIP code: 94109*)

Save the trees please!

210. Michael Goodsmith (*ZIP code: 94109*)

211. Lorraine Petty (*ZIP code: 94115*)

The Lurie/Wong legislation is destructive to our trees, our neighborhoods, and the health of our people, as well as the power of citizens to oversee and overrule developer and government abuse.

212. Galina Gorodetsky (*ZIP code: 94552*)

213. Susan Vaughan (*ZIP code: 94121*)

214. Chrisanne Bradley (*ZIP code: 94131*)

Protect the trees!

215. Tod Elkins (*ZIP code: 94131*)

We must protect our trees in SF!

216. Patrick Villano (*ZIP code: 94117*)

217. Sem Lederman (*ZIP code: 94116*)

218. Janet Kessler (*ZIP code: 94114*)

219. Diana Scott (*ZIP code: 94116*)

Developers, like the MTA, like to cut trees to enable there projects. Planners need to consider the air we breathe as a planning priority. WE NEED OUR RIGHT TO APPEAL bad planning proposals, to insure this!

220. Daniel Detorie (*ZIP code: 94109*)

221. Diane Rivera (*ZIP code: 92011*)

Protect San Francisco Trees

222. Wendy Lowinger (*ZIP code: 94122*)

223. Jason jungreis (*ZIP code: 94121*)

224. Tim Bailey (*ZIP code: 94115*)

225. Sandy Weil (ZIP code: 94116-1160)

226. Dennis Rubenstein (ZIP code: 94110)

We need to protect what few trees we have in our city

227. Michele Liapes (ZIP code: 94109)

228. Christine Patch-Lindsay (ZIP code: 94122)

229. Noel Kelton (ZIP code: 94107)

Ty! And good luck; we need our trees!

230. Linda Zimmerman (ZIP code: 94116)

very unhappy with tree management on all levels in SF. I pay big taxes and feel my opinions should be heard. SF is looking less and less green.

231. judith zimrin (ZIP code: 94133)

we need more trees

232. Robert Heisler (ZIP code: 94116)

Lurie is gradually morphing into his real self: a fellow billionaire developer-enabling Maga republican. He has no regard for the wishes of the majority of the people of San Francisco and now that he is ensconced is steamrolling forward the maga machine in San Francisco.

233. Theresa potente (ZIP code: 94117-1703)

234. Betsy Eddy (ZIP code: 94131)

I feel that removing the public's write to appeal tree removal is a gift to developers and will encourage more developers to put buildings close to sidewalks. Please vote to preserve our green canopy.

235. Bree Brown (ZIP code: 94118-1435)

236. E B (ZIP code: 94110)

237. Carl Wendorf (ZIP code: 94127)

238. Howard Wong (ZIP code: 94133)

239. Claudette Brooks (ZIP code: 94124)

240. Rebecca Diaz (ZIP code: 94116)

241. Laurie Wen (ZIP code: 94110)

242. Carolyn Doran (ZIP code: 94116)

More trees, but maintain the sidewalks. Less parking. People have to wake up to climate change and tree desert pockets of dangerous heat

243. Claudia Kindler (ZIP code: 94112)

244. Erik Greenfrost (ZIP code: 94124)

245. Elaine Chan-Scherer (ZIP code: 94122)

Trees add so much character to the City. They increase property value. They clean the air. Old trees are valuable in ways that touch the soul. Protect the trees!

246. Maureen Gonzalez (ZIP code: 941105913)

247. Andrea Galvin (ZIP code: 94121)

Please protect and expand San Francisco's tree canopy! Trees beautify the city, provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, provide increasingly needed shade in the warmer months (and rain protection in winter, are shown to improve people's mental health and sense of well being, and do more to calm traffic on streets than all the BS Muni is wasting our money on. We should be investing in more trees, not making it easier to chop them down.

248. Kayla Dzurek (ZIP code: 94112)

249. Lucy Hilmer (ZIP code: 94121)

250. Bruce Allen (ZIP code: 94132)

251. Elsa Townsend (ZIP code: 94109)

Remember how bad the air quality gets when forests are burning? Tree canopies provide a vital way of purifying smoky air!

252. Arthur Adams (ZIP code: 94121)

253. Laurie Chaprack (ZIP code: 94116)

254. Carolyn White (ZIP code: 94131)

Trees and green space are critical elements of our city., for the health and well being of all people.

255. Leslie Koelsch (ZIP code: 94114)

256. Roger Underhill (ZIP code: 94132)

257. Kathleen Hallinan (ZIP code: 94147-0124)

258. sara coe (*ZIP code: 94110*)

259. Nadine May (*ZIP code: 94118*)

260. An anonymous signer (*ZIP code: 94133*)

261. Cathryn Lewis (*ZIP code: 94122*)

WE need our trees as they are the key to our health and welfare.....practically and aesthetically.....please protect our city!! WE voted for you Mayor Lurie and now we need to count on you to do the right thing!!

262. Patricia Acosta (*ZIP code: 94114*)

cities need trees! They make a city more beautiful and more livable! And they make our air cleaner. Let's have more oak trees, and thus help the pollinators thrive! this is so important.

263. Michael McCauslin (*ZIP code: 94112*)

San Francisco trees are precious!

264. Nancy Spangler (*ZIP code: 94127*)

Maintain the Green Canopy.

265. Judith Dancer (*ZIP code: 94132*)

Trees are an important part of our ecosystem for breathing and wellbeing. Our ancestors had it right! Keep the trees and stand for beauty!

266. Victoria Duffett (*ZIP code: 94116*)

There has been a shocking - and frankly ugly - amount of tree clearing around the city. I urge restraint from such great swaths of tree removals!

267. Kim Smith (*ZIP code: 94117*)

We need trees.

268. Richard & Gail Manso (*ZIP code: 94109*)

269. Diane Navarro (*ZIP code: 94134*)

Save our trees

270. Gandhia Andrews (*ZIP code: 94132*)

271. Dennis Ainslie (*ZIP code: 94121*)

272. Lois Brady (*ZIP code: 94123*)

273. Denise Selleck (*ZIP code: 94122*)

274. Laure Cleveland (ZIP code: 49770)

Except for the non-native, invasive, fire-hazard, eucalyptus! Please replace them with native trees. Thanks.

275. Helen Strain (ZIP code: 94132)

276. Susan richmond (ZIP code: 94118)

Trees in San Francisco are essential to its beauty and good for wind mitigation, shade, etc. It has taken decades to get them planted (thank you, Friends of the Urban Forest) and must not be destroyed.

277. Ana Malinow (ZIP code: 94117)

278. David Richardson (ZIP code: 94131)

279. Olga Ryerson (ZIP code: 94110)

Don't remove our right to appeal to the Board of Appeals.

280. Bud Ryerson (ZIP code: 94110)

I hope I'm not too late. Please let me know what else I can do.

281. Barbara Kivowitz (ZIP code: 94131)

282. Monika Pietraszek (ZIP code: 94122)

Please protect our tree and tree canopy.

283. Micah Barth-Rogers (ZIP code: 94121)

284. Karla McElroy (ZIP code: 94122)

Pls. Mayor Lurie & Borad of Supervisors don't permit this legislative change. People 1st! Let our voices be heard, it's the democratic thing to do... Karla - SF Resident

285. Stephen McGurin (ZIP code: 94118)

286. Kathleen McCowin (ZIP code: 94116)

Stop cutting down our trees!

287. Herb Leong (ZIP code: 94134)

288. Amy Meyer (ZIP code: 94121)

289. Christine Hall (ZIP code: 94117)

290. Ramona Draeger (ZIP code: 94117)

291. C K (*ZIP code: 94044*)

292. An anonymous signer (*ZIP code: 94121*)

293. Frances Rapoport (*ZIP code: 94904*)

Our urban environments will slowly become sterile and perhaps toxic without the plants and trees our ancestors flourished with

294. Suzanne Dumont (*ZIP code: 94127*)

Trees are a critical part of the respiratory health of San Franciscans. Do not allow profit driven developers decide the fate of our precious trees.

295. Tracy Castle (*ZIP code: 94131*)

296. Wesley Saunders (*ZIP code: 94112*)

297. Shannon King (*ZIP code: 94115*)

Trees are absolutely key to the beauty of a city. All you have to do is look at Paris. Their trees are well organized in species and trimmed regularly. We need more trees not less.

298. Gretchen Turner (*ZIP code: 94112-1307*)

No right to appeal a removal. They could take out beautiful, established trees that are decades old to make for better residential "views", while the rest of us suffer with no shade!

299. Marilyn Tredinnick (*ZIP code: 94127*)

Trees are so important to our city. Please build our city for the future, not just the present.

300. Barry Hermanson (*ZIP code: 94116*)

Josh,

Thanks very much for your work on growing and protecting the urban canopy.

Barry

301. James Parke (*ZIP code: 94122*)

It has been a long hard slog to increase the livability of San Francisco. Key to that is increasing the arboreal canopy for its aesthetics and for the healthy rain capture for our aquifer. More green space equals more healthy clean water to drink. This is not a Trump state, people matter and we want a green haven from real estate seas of concrete.

302. Charles Bush (*ZIP code: 94115*)

We are rapidly losing our already too small tree canopy.

303. Janie Lucas (*ZIP code: 94110*)

304. Yolanda Catzalco (*ZIP code: 94110*)

305. Leslie de Taillandier (ZIP code: 94109)

306. Daniel Strickland (ZIP code: 94114)

Our trees help make San Francisco beautiful and a more desirable place to live and work. We need to protect them.

307. Stephen Gorski (ZIP code: 94116)

308. Jane Bliss (ZIP code: 94117)

309. Kim Russo (ZIP code: 94122-2923)

Please keep our city green. We need trees! They are good for us and the wildlife in our city.

310. Calvin Lau (ZIP code: 94115)

311. Bette Stockton (ZIP code: 94133)

312. David Fairley (ZIP code: 94110)

313. Lisa Signoff (ZIP code: 94122)

Please save our trees!

314. ALEX KRINEY (ZIP code: 94117)

315. Norma Yazbek (ZIP code: 94137)

316. Georges Yazbek (ZIP code: 94127)

317. Dori Yazbek (ZIP code: 94127)

318. Helen Ferentinos (ZIP code: 94114)

Keep trees where they are. And, when possible, add MORE TREES!

319. Dorothy Nicolls (ZIP code: 94121)

320. Connie Begg (ZIP code: 94122)

321. Olena Beyer (ZIP code: 94127-1037)

322. Irene Nishimura (ZIP code: 94102)

Trees help clean the environment of greenhouse gases. We should encourage the planting of trees.

323. Kelly Torres (ZIP code: 94134)

Stop runaway developers!! Our trees matter and so does permitting to build. That's why the system is in place and it should NOT be altered for greedy developers and their supporters

324. Ray Rauen (*ZIP code: 94134*)

325. Erica Chiarucci (*ZIP code: 94122*)

326. James Collector (*ZIP code: 94118*)

Trees are priceless and no policy should result in SF having fewer trees over time.

327. Noa Beharav (*ZIP code: 94127*)

328. Jeanne Choy Tate (*ZIP code: 94110*)

329. Joel VanderWerf (*ZIP code: 94103*)

I have lived for almost 30 years in SoMa, which had nearly zero trees in 1996. Over the years dedicated volunteers have organized plantings and gotten property developers to contribute. We now have much prettier streets, which visitors frequently compliment. This is not about "streamlining". It's about quality of life, city pride, and welcoming visitors.

330. Melinda Dart (*ZIP code: 94112*)

It is wrong to allow developers to deplete our tree canopy. Doing so will degrade our environment all over the city. Please stand up for our right to be connected to nature, birds, life. Don't turn our whole city into a high rise.

331. Marigrace Cohen (*ZIP code: 94116*)

332. elaine benoit (*ZIP code: 94112*)

No, No, No. We need more trees. We need the right to appeal tree removal.. No to developers having trees removed at taxpayers expense.

333. Lisa Platt (*ZIP code: 94123*)

334. Gae Conte (*ZIP code: 94123*)

335. Deborah J. Nosowsky (*ZIP code: 94131*)

336. gene hwang (*ZIP code: 94103*)

337. Ellen Stephens (*ZIP code: 94127*)

338. Denise Chu (*ZIP code: 94134*)

They wiped out all the trees at the dead end of Raymond Ave. Truly disgusted and no notice. It was like a massacre.

339. JoAnn Yates (ZIP code: 94116)

I am particularly annoyed with Supervisor Wong supporting this initiative. D4 may easily have the least number of trees in the city, trees that are extremely important for our health as has been demonstrated by science over and over again. Do not make it easier to remove trees.

340. Kindra Scharich (ZIP code: 94109)

341. Mary Cervantes (ZIP code: 94121)

Please protect the trees!!! For the future wellbeing of humankind.

342. Maria Sousa (ZIP code: 94131)

343. John Ripley (ZIP code: 94110)

344. Doreen Gotelli (ZIP code: 94080)

345. Mary McAllister (ZIP code: 94116)

San Francisco is a cold, windy place, which was treeless prior to settlement. It has been systematically destroying its urban forest for decades. Stop San Francisco's war on trees.

346. Betty Jo Swanson (ZIP code: 94133-2021)

347. Jennifer Cook (ZIP code: 94123)

Mayor Lurie, you must do better for the future of our beautiful city. The city's trees are our reminders of nature's beauty - they aid in our happiness & the planet's well-being.

348. Don Bliss (ZIP code: 94110)

349. Laura Maguire (ZIP code: 94124)

SF already has one of the smallest tree canopies of a major metropolitan area in the US and needs to focus on adding a lot more trees and quickly. With increasingly extreme weather caused by global warming, any measure to streamline the removal of trees, when there is an urgent need to plant trees, would be shortsighted to say the very least. Making it easy to remove trees should not be a priority for this mayor. Please focus on what we urgently need—a much greater tree canopy.

350. Christopher Plaskett (ZIP code: 94110)

351. Diana Gilbert (ZIP code: 94134)

352. Anastasia Yovanopoulos (ZIP code: 94114)

353. Ryan Boswell (ZIP code: 94110)

We need to maintain and grow the green spaces in this city to be able to have healthy, livable streets and communities. Walking down a street lined with trees versus walking down a glass and concrete corridor are wildly different experiences, and a lifeless streetscape makes a neighborhood feel less

welcoming and comfortable. City departments and developers should not have unquestioned power to harm our communities like this.

354. sofia vilsker (ZIP code: 94122)

355. Dan Hasegawa (ZIP code: 94015)

356. Karen Schulkin (ZIP code: 94127)

357. Rupinder Baidwan (ZIP code: 94122-2557)

358. MARLAYNE Morgan (ZIP code: 94109)

359. Nathalie Paven (ZIP code: 94117)

360. Stan Hayes (ZIP code: 94133)

361. Susan Karpenko (ZIP code: 94122)

Trees are essential to keeping our air clean and provide protection and food for wildlife. Progreen!

362. Raphael Stricker (ZIP code: 94127)

363. Margaret Stroad (ZIP code: 94127)

364. Jacqueline Westby (ZIP code: 94112)

365. Mahin Charles (ZIP code: 94110)

366. Patricia Carazo (ZIP code: 94112)

367. Peter Walbridge (ZIP code: 94107)

368. Anna Abeyta (ZIP code: 94112)

Trees are important for the air quality of our city. Please continue to allow citizens to appeal the removal of trees by developers and others that might want to remove trees. Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

369. Barbara Handler (ZIP code: 94110-5112)

PLEASE stop turning SF into Manhattan. YES, we need housing, but throwing up all these ugly, identical looking high rises in pretty & old neighborhoods and then also cutting down the trees ruins the entire character of SF AND is terrible for the climate and our air here.

370. Marilyn Ho (ZIP code: 94134)

Your organization is supposed to save trees one at a time. Right now we are close to the loss of 400

trees in the Park within about 2 years. I don't know how clear cuttings of a glove are possible. I hope your organization can come up with a guideline to relate it to the new Mayor's office. This tree-cutting activity is not limited to McLaren Park. There are alarming numbers of trees being taken down for weak reasons, i.e. fire, safety, and sunlight for future native plants. I have a friend who is a McLaren Collective volunteer who planted a native garden in the park and watched it being neglected and died. Is there a timeline for replanting any of the trees? So far I haven't seen anything.

Climate Change is a real threat and cutting down a large number of trees that's been here for 75 yrs is not a solution. We can stop this madness.
Thank you for your attention.

371. An anonymous signer (*ZIP code: 94107*)

372. Nancy Keane (*ZIP code: 94118-3523*)

We need more trees, not fewer trees! I'd support a new law requiring developers to double the number of existing trees.

373. James Edwards (*ZIP code: 94131*)

374. Amanda Rodriguez (*ZIP code: 94110*)

Trees are vital for all of our health. Please prioritize them!

375. Ronnie Zuckerberg (*ZIP code: 94131*)

376. Carol Faulkner (*ZIP code: 94116*)

377. Megann Sept (*ZIP code: 94110*)

378. Christel Henderson (*ZIP code: 94124*)

379. Rosana Castrillo Diaz (*ZIP code: 94110*)

380. Francisco Beltran (*ZIP code: 94121*)

381. Bill Snyder (*ZIP code: 94121*)

382. Rachel Aloy (*ZIP code: 94118*)

383. Barbara Butler (*ZIP code: 94116*)

Protect San Francisco trees and continue to create a future with more trees!

384. Marc Duffett (*ZIP code: 94116*)

If property owners are required to pay for the upkeep and replacement of sidewalks, then they should at least have the right to appeal the fate of the trees that are so important to the shared character of our neighborhoods and the city at large.

385. Carolyn Shuman (ZIP code: 94127-1128)

386. Lisa Bayan (ZIP code: 94118)

We need trees not concrete.

The public should have a voice

387. Jua Burciaga (ZIP code: 94112)

388. Linda Twigfire (ZIP code: 94107)

389. Gretchen Addi (ZIP code: 94127)

390. Susan Bostrom-Wong (ZIP code: 94121)

I hav planted 6 street trees in San Francisco through Urban Forest. We need more trees in our city. Protect what everyone have now and in the future.

391. Laurie Dunlap (ZIP code: 94115)

We need MORE trees, no fewer. Protect our trees and plant more.

392. Elizabeth Doyle (ZIP code: 94112-1335)

We need more trees in San Francisco, and they should be part of any new planning project. The public should be allowed to appeal when tree removals affect them.

393. laureen bergeron (ZIP code: 94110)

394. shoshanah dobry (ZIP code: 94124)

We need tree canopy for the overall health of the City. If a developer decides to remove a tree then they should pay a \$10K fine/tree & plant the same # of trees in a comparable space before they can move forward on that particular project.

395. Douglas Flinn (ZIP code: 94116)

396. Elizabeth DiMicco (ZIP code: 94127)

397. Steve Lumley (ZIP code: 94127)

398. Thomas Yaussy (ZIP code: 94114)

399. sue denlinger (ZIP code: 94131)

400. Dorothy Ruggles (ZIP code: 94127)

Please do not allow this unchecked and unwarranted tree cutting around the city.

401. Laura Kemp (ZIP code: 94134)

As a neighbor who has been actively involved in helping plant trees in my neighborhood and my street, I am for planting more street trees in our urban areas. Trees are necessary for a healthier environment, our personal and collective wellbeing, and help bring beauty and grace to our concrete spaces. Any proposal to remove the city's urban tree canopy without community input is preposterous and undemocratic. I am strongly opposed. Thank you.

402. stacy thompson (ZIP code: 94117)

403. martin zanfardino (ZIP code: 94133-2957)

404. Dianne Prichard (ZIP code: 94117)

What is their reasoning for God's sake? Partnered with developers? Very suspicious. Especially, if they don't care about input from voters. Cutting down healthy trees in SF is a diminution of lifestyle.

405. Susan Mullaney (ZIP code: 94122)

This is a really horrible loophole for developers that harms the rest of us. Once the sidewalk can't accommodate a tree well the opportunity will never come back. And removing the right to appeal is too totalitarian for our city.

406. Momoko Otani (ZIP code: 94123)

407. Callie Floor (ZIP code: 94117)

408. Michael Rich (ZIP code: 94112)

We need nature.

409. Revel P (ZIP code: 94116)

410. Dory Culver (ZIP code: 94109-2304)

411. Elaine Bonn (ZIP code: 94116)

412. Phillip Battaglia (ZIP code: 94114)

413. Victor Stern (ZIP code: 94127)

414. Margaret Sletteland (ZIP code: 94133)

415. Caroline Strongman (ZIP code: 94122)

416. Debolina Dutta (ZIP code: 94112)

This makes no sense. Why would the city make it less livable by removing and then allowing developers the opportunity to bypass planting trees. There are numerous social, environmental and quality of life benefits that's trees bring.

This is yet another way Mayor Lurie is NOT the people's mayor and rather developers' mayor.

417. Sandy S.Alvarez (ZIP code: 94122)

Please keep our city with lungs and green areas for our overall health.

418. Mitch Dalition (ZIP code: 94117)

419. Darlene Horton (ZIP code: 94107)

Please develop a sustainable plan to maintain and increase trees, even with new developments.

420. Deetje Boler (ZIP code: 94115-4261)

The change to this process that is needed, if any, would be 1) to increase the penalty for any tree removals to the point that there would be fewer proposed and 2) to encourage (maybe even fund) neighborhood residents (perhaps focused on teens?) to foster new plantings on their streets.

421. Debra Levin (ZIP code: 94114)

We need more trees not less- it's crucial to the beauty & health of San Francisco

422. Nathan Lang (ZIP code: 94121)

423. Karen Metro (ZIP code: 94116)

424. Kasia Shopov (ZIP code: 94122)

425. Richard Darrough (ZIP code: 94117)

It's obvious that SF has too few trees.

Good planning will provide them along with the badly needed affordable housing.

426. Kayleigh Henson (ZIP code: 94121)

I find it astounding how little is required of real estate developers for the privilege of doing business in SF and the millions upon millions they reap in profits. Yet for some reason the city seems entirely willing to let them off the hook for even the smallest of benefits. The idea that they can pay a negligible fee so they don't have to plant some trees says something deeply sad about the mayor's priorities. And the developers. And the soul of this city. Who, other than a movie villain, wants fewer trees in urban settings. Please don't move forward with this.

427. Joan Varrone (ZIP code: 94114)

Trees have so many benefits to a tree canopy and we must protect the trees.

428. Laura Burciaga (ZIP code: 94112)

429. Shoshana Lavinghouse (ZIP code: 94118)

430. Dolores Perez Heilbron (ZIP code: 94109)

Please stop these developers from causing further destruction to the natural growth of trees! Thank you.

431. Cindy Navarro (ZIP code: 94112)

432. Regina Sneed (ZIP code: 94109)

There used to be a street tree advisory committee that took the role of protecting our canopy of trees in the city. With climate change we need more trees and green spaces for air quality, reduction of heat etc.

433. Jamie Delman (ZIP code: 94103)

434. Rosemary Booth (ZIP code: 94118)

Never remove the public's right to appeal.

435. Yasuyo Satoh (ZIP code: 94109)

Tokyo is one of the highly populated cities. They still keep trees. They make the city look beautiful and refreshing.

436. Kristap Baltin (ZIP code: 94114)

437. Terry Baum (ZIP code: 94114)

438. Yuko Franklin (ZIP code: 94131)

439. Alessandra Kameron (ZIP code: 94109)

I affirm the importance of retaining the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removal in San Francisco. We have every reason to expect that the number of removed trees would easily eclipse the number that would be planted to replace them. Similarly, we are already losing, due to age and disease, trees that are not being replaced. Giving potentially unrestricted preference to developer dollars will only compound this condition.

440. Janet Freeman (ZIP code: 94121)

441. Cynthia Joe (ZIP code: 94109)

442. Victoria Kirby (ZIP code: 94109)

Trees are so important, especially in a city. We need more trees, not less!

443. Bianca Molgora (ZIP code: 94110)

444. Chris Bunga (ZIP code: 94117)

445. Denise O'Sullivan (ZIP code: 94118)

Trees are beautiful and healing.

446. joyce fishman (ZIP code: 94109)

447. Robin Phillips (ZIP code: 94131)

448. Vera Genkin (ZIP code: 94116)

449. Gail Colombo (ZIP code: 94127)

We need trees, leave them alone. And do not dare to remove the citizen's right to appeal! Fascism has no place in America.

450. Sophia Andary (ZIP code: 94121)

451. David Eldred (ZIP code: 94122)

We need trees and the PUBLIC right to make policy and decisions.

452. Suzanne Smith (ZIP code: 94109)

453. Cathy Cohn (ZIP code: 94122)

454. Karen Tarantola (ZIP code: 94127)

455. Lynn Morgenstern (ZIP code: 94901)

456. iona Ali (ZIP code: 94112)

457. Nancy Edmonson (ZIP code: 94132)

PLANT More Trees! Do Not Cut Them Down. We need green, not dirt.

458. Marlene Tran (ZIP code: 94134)

Given the urgency of global warming and for the beautification of our cities, we must preserve all our precious trees. Never allow the cutting of any grandfather trees!

459. Winnie Tsang (ZIP code: 94134)

Please DON'T cut down any of our beautiful trees in our City. Let them thrive.

460. Hatun Noguera (ZIP code: 94127)

461. Margaret Goeden (ZIP code: 94116)

I oppose this misguided effort to reduce accountability and silence the public, regarding the public's ability to request review of tree removal by the city. Thank you

462. Bronwyn Gundogdu (ZIP code: 94122)

I am very upset with the ongoing removal of trees throughout the city, and very upset with this plan to stop the appeals process re: tree removal. San Francisco is a high density city - and in many areas an ugly tree desert. The Mayor and the Board of Supervisors should be protecting our already scant tree coverage and promoting increased greening of our city.

463. Tony Villa (ZIP code: 94122-2807)

Park and Rec is out of control! They are bleeding the city of money and are poorly run.

464. Mary OConnell (ZIP code: 94123)

465. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94122)

Urban forests keep cities alive in multiple ways.

466. Kyle DeWolfe (ZIP code: 94109)

The State wants more housing, the residents of San Francisco want more trees!

467. Nancy Donnelly (ZIP code: 94121)

Please don't cut the trees down during demolition at the old hospital on Sacramento street! Work around them!! We need them!

468. Heather Estes (ZIP code: 94116)

Of course we need the right to appeal removing trees!

469. Joshua Prieto (ZIP code: 94122)

470. Shamika Klassen (ZIP code: 94115)

471. Savannah Schoelen (ZIP code: 94122)

472. Qian Wan (ZIP code: 94103)

Trees are needed

473. Christine Segalas (ZIP code: 94107)

474. Kristina Cooper (ZIP code: 94107)

What a terrible plan!! We need to PLANT trees not remove them

475. Sebastian Forst (ZIP code: 94114)

476. Samara Laxineta (ZIP code: 94121)

477. Anna Papitto (ZIP code: 94131)

478. Alice Rogers (ZIP code: 94107)

479. Debbie Bowman (ZIP code: 94107)

480. Abigail Kroch (ZIP code: 94107)

481. Rose Arrieta (ZIP code: 94110)

Please don't silence us. Support our planet and our future.

482. Shalmali Bane (ZIP code: 94103)

483. Joseph Barrett (ZIP code: 94127)

484. Collin Tharp (ZIP code: 94107)

485. Adam Lippe (ZIP code: 94122)

486. Elena Giacomani (ZIP code: 94110)

487. Teja Pattabhiraman (ZIP code: 94117)

488. Marisa Johnson (ZIP code: 94115)

Please do not cut down any planted mature trees that can be saved. Takes years with newly planted.

489. Jen Fowler (ZIP code: 94131)

490. Harold Klingsporn (ZIP code: 94109)

Residents need a voice in such changes to liveability

491. W Chan (ZIP code: 94102)

Trees in cities are a great benefit for those who walk or roll. They also beautify our communities and increase real estate values. Keep the trees promised by the developers!

492. Josh Jagerman (ZIP code: 94103)

493. KATINA ANTOINE (ZIP code: 94107)

Respect nature. Leave the trees alone, the community has a right to object this action.

494. Josh Bruck (ZIP code: 94131)

Don't take away the right to appeal the cutting of trees!

495. Rebecca Hardy (ZIP code: 94107)

496. Patrick Monette-Shaw (ZIP code: 94109)

In addition to removing the public's right to appeal tree removals, Mayor Lurie's "Commission Streamlining Task Force" has recommended eliminating the "Urban Forestry Council" completely, and assigning the Forestry Council's oversight duties to the Commission on the Environment — if (a big if) the Environment Commission deigns to take on the oversight functions of the Forestry Council. The Streamlining Task Force also simultaneously recommended taking the Environment Commission out of the City Charter, moving it to the Administrative Code, and converting it from a "regulatory body" to an "advisory body," slapping a three-year sunset date on the Environment Commission, and taking

budget approval authority over the Environment Department away from the Environment Commission. Applying a sunset date opens the door to the Environment Commission being shut down by the Board of Supervisors anytime in the future.

The Urban Forestry Council was created by the Board of Supervisors 22 years ago in July 2003 under the "Precautionary Principle" to manage trees in San Francisco by emphasizing public participation in the preservation and expansion of the urban forest before causing actual environmental harm — including through illegal tree removal and greedy developers avoiding responsibility to protect and expand our urban canopy.

In addition to writing the Board of Supervisors about stopping the Mayor's removal of citizen appeals of tree removals, also consider writing separately to the Board of Supervisors asking them to overturn the Streamlining Task Force's decision to eliminate the Urban Forestry Council and decision to take the Environment Commission out of the City Charter and apply a sunset date to the Environment Commission!

Through public pressure and advocacy, the Streamlining Task Force just overturned its initial decision to eliminate the "Reentry Council," showing public pressure works. Contact the Streamlining Task Force at CommissionStreamlining@sfgov.org to overturn eliminating the Urban Forestry Council too!

After all, any District Supervisor who approves any of the Mayor's tree removal or commission reform "streamlining" goals should face recall from office, just as Joel Engardio was recalled!

— Patrick Monette-Shaw

497. Richie Vasquez (*ZIP code: 94103*)

498. Teresa Palmer (*ZIP code: 94117-1219*)

499. Arthur Paul Cartier (*ZIP code: 94117-1219*)

500. Laurel Myers (*ZIP code: 94107*)

501. Diana Anderson (*ZIP code: 94117*)

Trees give us livability in an increasingly concrete city. They reduce heat in summer, block some wind tunnels and exchange carbon dioxide for oxygen. They take a LONG TIME to GROW- but only an hour to destroy

502. Andrea Biltagi (*ZIP code: 94102*)

503. Frank Lorch (*ZIP code: 94122*)

504. Nicky Trasvina (*ZIP code: 94132*)

Please stop this attack on SF residents, SF trees, and SF birds. San Francisco, as beautiful as it is, still needs our trees for a healthier environment! We also need to follow the law when it comes to protecting our trees from any City department or developer whose intention is to destroy this vital environmental factor that contributes to the health and beauty of San Francisco. What would Saint Francis say ? !

505. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94103)

506. Jayme Kogel (ZIP code: 94103)

507. Paul Giese (ZIP code: 94103)

508. Wendy Oakes (ZIP code: 94117)

He just lost my vote. This is disgusting

509. Norm Ishimoto (ZIP code: 94116-1246)

We have had a Mayten in front of our house since, hmmm, 30 years? From a FUF campaign. SFPW has been erratic at irregular intervals, thankfully infrequent, in its attentions. Wife and I would be highly upset if we came home from shopping and found our Mayten was a stump or badly trimmed.

510. Linda R Miller (ZIP code: 94121)

PLEASE DO NOT CUT DOWN ANY TREES - THE BIRDS NEED THEM FOR MANY REASONS AND PEOPLE NEED BEAUTY AND SHADE.

511. Catherine Valentine (ZIP code: 94127-2143)

512. Nikhil Gowda (ZIP code: 94103)

File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban

513. Daniel Dokovna (ZIP code: 94103)

Protect our trees.

514. Kelly Fitzgerald (ZIP code: 94116)

Plant trees!

515. Zachariah Spellman (ZIP code: 94116)

We need our trees to breathe the breeze.

516. Jake Hanft (ZIP code: 94114)

517. Barbara Save PRATO (ZIP code: 94131-1161)

Save our beautiful native __. I was shocked to see Washington Park without that tree. WHY? Please now replace with a __.

518. Julia Ready (ZIP code: 94114)

Cutting trees to

Improve sidewalks passage - can be replaced with trees that have a better root system.

519. Sybil Meyer (ZIP code: 94131)

SF doesn't need less foliage!

520. Leah Edwards (ZIP code: 94103)

521. Nancy Burrill (ZIP code: 94109-6553)

522. Eric Oesterling (ZIP code: 94115)

523. Carole Issel (ZIP code: 94127-2212)

I was born in San Francisco 82 years ago. The public must have the right to appeal when the City initiates a tree removal. Greenery purifies our air and gives space to our wildlife. Too many trees have been destroyed by the City already. We have to protect them.

524. Loren Jones (ZIP code: 94127)

525. Kasey Rios (ZIP code: 94102)

To be the vibrant world-class city San Francisco aims for we must increase investment in forest canopy.

This means: protecting the trees we have, planting trees proportionate to development and respecting public process.

526. Terence Craig (ZIP code: 94109)

Removing the right to appeal would, of course, streamline new development, but at a considerable cost to beauty of the city. I say keep the right of appeal.

527. David Singer (ZIP code: 94103)

528. Keith Robert Saggars (ZIP code: 94133)

529. Elissa Matross (ZIP code: 94114)

I love trees

530. Shawn Agarwal (ZIP code: 94103)

Trees are a part of our community and neighbors shouldn't be stripped of our rights to advocate for them if necessary to protect them.

531. Annie Pearson (ZIP code: 94121)

Daniel Lurie is just here for the billionaires. Gross.

532. Victoria Isyanova (ZIP code: 94132)

533. Linda Hayashi (ZIP code: 94118)

534. Tom Duffy (ZIP code: 94127)

We need more trees not less. It's terrible what Parks and Rec is doing at Golden Gate Park. They took down a healthy 50 year old tree in the middle of Hellman meadow that was joy to behold. They also cut down many of the trees around the meadow. They are denuding Lake Merritt on the side

opposite to Fort Funston.

535. Brian Glennon (*ZIP code: 94132*)

Trees over developers!

536. Philip Schwartz (*ZIP code: 94107*)

537. Maryann Hrichak (*ZIP code: 94117*)

538. Jeanine Hawk (*ZIP code: 94116*)

Trees are an important part of our neighborhoods. Don't let developers buy out.

539. Juliette Hayes (*ZIP code: 94118*)

540. Mahon McGrath (*ZIP code: 94110*)

541. Angela DePaul (*ZIP code: 94133*)

542. Ton-Yun Fang (*ZIP code: 94114*)

543. Ann MacAndrew (*ZIP code: 94112*)

544. Alexander Koodrin (*ZIP code: 94131*)

545. Sebra Leaves (*ZIP code: 94110*)

Why do you want to cut the trees that are sequestering the carbon that would otherwise go into the air and are a major source for cooling our city?

546. Allyson Browne (*ZIP code: 94131*)

547. Marc Brenman (*ZIP code: 94110*)

548. Shelby Morales (*ZIP code: 94015*)

Our trees and green spaces provide immeasurable benefit to the air we breathe and the wild birds and other critters which enrich our lives. They must be responsibly stewarded, not sold out to developers who's primary concern is their bottom line.

549. Poppy Gilman (*ZIP code: 94122*)

From: [Claudia Stern](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Shaun Aukland](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 5:55:14 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I have lived and voted in San Francisco since 1985. As a retiree, I now volunteer in the garden (Sutro Park) near my house. I am lucky to have an increasing number of trees on the streets near my home thanks to the Friends of the Urban Forest. These trees reduce heat and noise, provide water absorption during rainy periods, and provide habitat for living creatures. We need more trees to make SF an even better city.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,
Claudia Stern
714 44th Avenue
415 318 6461

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more [Click Here](#).

From: [Tisay Baclay](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Subject: Public Comment – File No. 251211 – Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 4:44:10 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Subject: Public Comment – File No. 251211 – Opposition to Appeals Ban

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **strongly OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public’s right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. While framed as administrative “streamlining,” this provision fundamentally strips communities of their right to be heard and removes meaningful oversight over decisions that directly affect neighborhood health, environmental equity, climate resilience, and quality of life.

Under current law, when Public Works or another City agency seeks to remove mature trees, residents have the legal right to file an appeal and trigger a public hearing. This process is not theoretical - it works. File No. 251211 would eliminate this safeguard entirely.

The right to public participation and due process is not optional. It is protected under the **First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution**, including the rights to free speech, to petition the government for redress of grievances, and to due process under the law. Fast-tracking legislation that removes appeal rights, especially when initiated by City departments themselves, raises serious constitutional concerns and undermines democratic governance. San Francisco must not become a city where community voices are treated as impediments rather than essential partners.

San Francisco has long been recognized as a leader in **environmental protection, climate justice, and civic engagement**. At a moment when residents are already absorbing sweeping budget cuts across healthcare, social services, outreach, housing stabilization, and environmental programs, this legislation further erodes trust and participation. The question before us is not whether the City can move

faster, but whether it can do so **without abandoning its values**.

Across the city, residents have stepped up beyond expectations - working in partnership with community-based nonprofits, organizing neighbors, and serving as frontline responders to the consequences of disinvestment. We are the ones operating at ground zero, engaging directly with impacted communities and protecting neighborhood-level environmental health. Removing public oversight ignores this lived experience and weakens outcomes.

I am also deeply concerned about an **equity loophole** in the legislation. While the bill allows developers to pay an In-Lieu Fee in place of planting trees, it fails to clearly define “low tree canopy” neighborhoods. Without a strict, data-driven definition that includes **canopy cover metrics and environmental burden scores**, these funds risk being allocated without regard to actual environmental need, undermining the very equity goals the policy claims to advance.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **CONTINUE this item** until public appeal rights, constitutional protections, and clear environmental equity safeguards are fully restored.

Sincerely,

Teresa Dulalas

Resident - SoMa Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District 6

From: [Loren Craig Harrington](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 1:18:47 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for File No. 251211.

I am writing to OPPOSE the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please CONTINUE this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Craig Harrington
Twin Peaks SF

From: [Barbara Bagot-López](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [FelderStaff](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 10:29:24 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello, Chair Melgar & members of the Land Use Committee.

Please add my comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I OPPOSE the elimination of the public right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process--removing the voice of SF residents--is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

In addition, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please CONTINUE this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bagot-López

Resident of Bernal Heights and San Francisco for 49 years who appreciates street trees

From: [Nikhil Gowda](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 8:48:53 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Nikhil Gowda

West SoMa resident and home owner.

From: [Mc Mc 1](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: legislative File No. 251211. OPPOSE eliminating public appeal for tree removal
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 11:05:42 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,
Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.
I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.
Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.
Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.
Sincerely,
Mary McFadden
Anza Vista

From: [Frank Lorch](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 8:35:02 PM

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,
Frank Lorch
Sunset

From: [Andrea Biltagi](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 7:59:59 PM

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Andrea Biltagi

Tenderloin, 94102

From: [Laurel Myers](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 7:46:40 PM

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Laurel Myers, SoMA resident

From: [Amanda Rodriguez](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 6:57:16 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Amanda Rodriguez

Glen Park resident

From: [Rebecca Hardy](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 6:54:21 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining;" it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hardy, Potrero Hill

From: [Josh Jagerman](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 6:21:25 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Josh Jagerman

From: [Collin Tharp](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 5:20:43 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Collin Tharp

Potrero Hill

From: [Shalmali Bane](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 4:51:11 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Shalmali Bane, SOMA west neighborhood

From: [Abigail Kroch](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 4:35:52 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

- Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Abigail Kroch, SoMa resident

From: [Alice Rogers](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 4:21:11 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

As a decades-long tree advocate and FUF member, I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Additionally, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored. We need to get this right.

Respectfully,

Alice Rogers

.....

Alice Rogers
10 South Park St
Studio 2
San Francisco, CA 94107

arcomnsf@pacbell.net

From: [Anna Papitto](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 4:06:40 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely, Anna Papitto, Noe Valley

From: [Christine S.](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [DorseyStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 3:56:18 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction. The City of San Francisco needs to be adding more trees to beautify the sad streets in SF. I've been trying for 5 years just to get one tree planted after a car crashed into the gorgeous healthy ficus that adorned my street in SOMA. This is shameful. A missed opportunity to have a city that deserves to showoff its natural beauty.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Christine Segalas
District 6 (SOMA)

From: [Shamika Klassen](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 3:31:15 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shamika Klassen, Alamo Square Neighborhood

From: [Ruby Rieke](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 3:30:19 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely, Ruby Rieke Mission District

From: [Shaun Aukland](#)
To: [CPC-Commissions Secretary](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Dennis Phillips, Sarah \(CPC\)](#)
Cc: [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Opposition & CEQA Objection: File No. 251211 (Street Tree Ordinance)
Date: Monday, January 5, 2026 12:34:38 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear President So, Chair Melgar, Supervisors, and Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of [FairTrees.org](#) to formally oppose [File No. 251211](#) and to object to the Planning Department's CEQA determination. Please also add this to the legislative file.

1. CEQA Objection. The legislative file states this ordinance is "Not defined as a project... because it would not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment." We dispute this finding. The legislation eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Historical data proves that the appeals process has successfully preserved hundreds of mature trees that the City intended to remove (e.g., Mission Verde, 24th St).

If the appeals process prevents tree removal, then removing the appeals process will logically result in the destruction of trees that otherwise would have been saved.

This will have an obvious impact to the city's physical environment. A reduction in urban canopy is a physical change to the environment that increases heat islands and reduces air quality. This requires environmental review, not an exemption. As our organization has communicated before, Environment Justice Communities like SOMA, the Tenderloin, Bayview Hunter's Point, and others are largely *losing* canopy, not gaining it. Ongoing projects like the Folsom / Howard Streetscape projects that have removed dozens of trees, and only added marginally.

2. The "Equity" Justification is Not Defined. The "In-Lieu Fee" Loophole The bill allows developers to pay fees to plant trees in "neighborhoods with low canopy" but fails to define that term. Without a data-driven definition (like "Equity Priority Communities"), this creates a slush fund where fees generated in high-need districts like SoMa (2.7% canopy) can be diverted to wealthier areas. We have seen this **over and over**, with the federal Inflation Reduction Act grant, as well as Prop L funds. Our organization has been analyzing canopy data from US Forestry, and can provide this to make this a more data-driven process.

3. SF Citizens Lose Their Last Remaining Voice in Trees: Stripping residents of the right to appeal City decisions removes the only check and balance against administrative overreach, and eliminates due process.. This is not streamlining; it is silencing.

We urge you to CONTINUE this item until the CEQA determination is corrected and these amendments are made.

Sincerely,

Shaun Aukland
FairTrees.org

From: [Michael Nulty](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211
Date: Friday, January 2, 2026 11:12:47 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

The Alliance for a Better District 6 and many of its affiliate partners are writing in strong opposition to the proposed amendments in File No. 251211, which seek to weaken San Francisco's urban forestry protections by expanding in-lieu fees for street tree planting, exempting accessory dwelling units (ADUs) from planting requirements, eliminating appeals for tree removals by City departments and commissions, and shifting notices to online postings only. These changes prioritize development efficiency over environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the long-term health of our city. San Francisco's tree canopy is already critically low at 13.7%, and these amendments risk further erosion at a time when California grapples with climate change, persistent droughts, and catastrophic wildfires—while the City faces severe budget deficits projected to reach nearly \$1 billion in coming years. Below, we outline key points of opposition, drawing from the ordinance details, comparisons to other California cities, and broader environmental and fiscal concerns.

Key Points of Opposition:

1. Erosion of Mandatory Tree Planting and Immediate Greenery Benefits—Especially Critical Amid Budget Shortfalls:

- The proposal allows any development project to pay an in-lieu fee (currently around \$2,590 per tree) instead of planting required street trees, even when planting is feasible. This shifts from the current system, where waivers are granted only for impossibility, impracticality, or safety issues, and alternatives like sidewalk landscaping are limited.
- Exempting ADUs and Junior ADUs from tree requirements ignores their cumulative impact on urban density. New developments without on-site trees exacerbate urban heat islands, increase storm water runoff, and diminish local biodiversity—issues amplified by California's ongoing drought, which has led to water restrictions and heightened fire risks.
- In recent years, **new development has become one of San Francisco's primary alternative ways new trees get planted**, due to chronic underfunding of city agencies like Public Works' Urban Forestry Bureau. With historic budget deficits—including an \$800 million shortfall addressed in the FY 2025-2026 budget and projections of up to \$1 billion in future cycles—core urban forestry programs face constraints, reductions in

positions, and reliance on grants or voter-set-asides. In-lieu fees, deposited into the Adopt-A-Tree Fund, may fund future plantings but often result in delayed or off-site actions that fail to benefit the immediate community. Expanding these fees risks reducing even this key source of new trees, when we desperately need more planted now, not deferred payments that could be further strained by ongoing fiscal pressures.

2. Elimination of Public Appeals and Reduced Transparency:

- Under existing law, decisions on street tree removals (including hazard trees) by the Department of Public Works (DPW) or other City agencies are appealable first to the DPW Director and then to the Board of Appeals, with robust noticing via postings, newspapers, and notifications to abutters and organizations.
- The amendments make these decisions final and nonappealable, limiting public input and oversight. This is particularly concerning for non-hazard trees, where 15-day objection periods currently allow hearings.
- Replacing newspaper notices with website postings reduces accessibility for non-digital-savvy residents, potentially excluding vulnerable communities.
- In contrast, many other California cities maintain strong appeal processes to ensure accountability:
 - Beverly Hills: Appeals to the Planning Commission (Municipal Code Title 10, Chapter 3).
 - Pacifica: 10-day appeal period to Planning Commission, with further escalation to City Council (Title 4, Chapter 12).
 - Los Altos: 10-day public notification for appeals to City Clerk.
 - Mountain View: Appeals to Urban Forestry Board or City Council within 10 days.
 - Santa Cruz: Appeals to Parks and Recreation Commission for heritage trees.
 - Saratoga: 15-day appeal window for nearby homeowners.
 - San Luis Obispo: Appeals to Tree Committee.
 - Santa Monica: Reviews by Urban Forest Task Force.
 - Pasadena: Standard zoning code appeals for tree protections.
- These models demonstrate that appeals foster community trust and prevent arbitrary removals, unlike the proposed streamlining, which could lead to unchecked tree loss.

3. Exacerbation of Environmental and Climate Challenges:

- San Francisco's urban forest enhances walkability, livability, and sustainability by filtering air pollutants, sequestering carbon, and providing shade—essential amid California's wildfires, which have scorched millions of acres and degraded air quality statewide (e.g., the 2020 fires blanketed the Bay Area in smoke).

- Without mandatory planting, new developments contribute to climate change by increasing heat retention and energy use for cooling, while reducing natural defenses against drought-induced water scarcity.
- Trees clean the air of wildfire particulates and support resilience against extreme weather; removing appeal processes risks hasty removals that diminish this buffer. California needs more trees, not fewer, to combat these interconnected crises—yet this ordinance balances toward developer certainty over ecological necessity.

4. Inconsistency with Broader Policies and Public Welfare:

- The ordinance affirms compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), General Plan, and Planning Code Section 101.1, but these amendments undermine the spirit of sustainability and public welfare findings under Section 302.
- By prioritizing efficiency in development, it overlooks the long-term costs: poorer air quality, higher health risks from heat and pollution, and reduced property values in less green neighborhoods—compounded by budget constraints that already limit proactive planting.
- Alternative landscaping options (e.g., 75 sq ft per waived tree) are insufficient substitutes, as they lack the full ecological benefits of mature trees.

In summary, these amendments threaten to stall progress on expanding San Francisco's meager tree canopy, diminish public participation, reduce a vital source of new plantings amid fiscal challenges, and heighten vulnerability to climate threats. The Alliance for a Better District 6 and many of its affiliate partners urge you to reject File No. 251211 and instead reinforce protections that mandate on-site planting, preserve appeals, and prioritize urban greening. Our city's future depends on robust environmental policies, not shortcuts that favor short-term gains.

Sincerely,

Michael Nulty
Alliance for a Better District 6
Executive Director

Michael Nulty

P.O. Box 420782
San Francisco, CA 94142-0782
(415) 339-8327 - Direct
(415) 339-8779 - Alliance for a Better District 6
<http://abd6.cfsites.org/>

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#)
Cc: [BOS-Operations](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [De Asis, Edward \(BOS\)](#); [Entezari, Mehran \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: 2 Letters Regarding File No. 251211
Date: Tuesday, December 30, 2025 9:37:15 AM
Attachments: [2 Letters Regarding File No. 251211.pdf](#)

Hello,

Please see attached 2 letters regarding **File No. 251211:**

Ordinance amending the Public Works Code to allow development projects to satisfy street tree planting requirements through payment of an in lieu fee or providing alternative landscaping; exempt accessory dwelling units from street tree planting requirements; eliminate appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments and commissions; and update in lieu fee reporting requirements; amending the Administrative Code to create a separate account within the Adopt-A-Tree Fund to receive in lieu fees for street tree requirements; amending the Planning Code to update street tree applicability requirements; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; making findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1; and making public necessity, convenience, and welfare findings under Planning Code, Section 302.

Regards,

John Bullock
Office of the Clerk of the Board
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-5184
BOS@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

Disclosures: *Personal information that is provided in communications to the Board of Supervisors is subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act and the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance. Personal information provided will not be redacted. Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Board of Supervisors and its committees. All written or oral communications that members of the public submit to the Clerk's Office regarding pending legislation or hearings will be made available to all members of the public for inspection and copying. The Clerk's Office does not redact any information from these submissions. This means that personal information—including names, phone numbers, addresses and similar information that a member of the public elects to submit to the Board and its committees—may appear on the Board of Supervisors website or in other public documents that members of the public may inspect or copy.*

From: [San Francisco Tree Campaign](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments
Date: Friday, December 19, 2025 1:43:02 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed amendments in **File No. 251211**, which would weaken San Francisco’s urban forestry protections by:

- Allowing developers to satisfy street tree requirements through in-lieu fees or undefined “alternative landscaping,”
- Exempting ADUs and JADUs from tree planting requirements,
- Eliminating the public’s right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments and commissions, and
- Replacing existing public notice requirements with online postings only.

Taken together, these changes prioritize administrative convenience over environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the long-term health and resilience of San Francisco.

1. In-Lieu Fees Will Reduce Tree Planting at a Time We Can Least Afford It

San Francisco’s tree canopy is critically low—approximately **13–14%**, among the smallest of any major U.S. city. New development has become one of the *primary remaining mechanisms* through which new street trees are planted, largely because City planting capacity is chronically underfunded.

Allowing developers to opt out of planting trees by paying an in-lieu fee (currently ~\$2,600 per tree) will result in **fewer trees planted, full stop**. The fee does not cover the true cost of planting, watering, and replacing trees over their three-year establishment period, nor does it compensate for lost planting opportunities when new frontages are designed to permanently preclude trees.

This shift is especially troubling given the City’s ongoing fiscal crisis. With projected deficits approaching **\$1 billion**, Public Works and its Urban Forestry Bureau already lack the operational capacity to convert in-lieu fees into timely, neighborhood-level plantings. Deferred payments do not cool streets, clean air, or support public health.

Exempting ADUs and JADUs further compounds this problem. While small individually, their cumulative impact on density, heat islands, and storm water runoff is significant—particularly in neighborhoods already lacking canopy.

2. Eliminating Appeals for City-Initiated Tree Removals Removes Oversight—Not Red Tape

The proposal to eliminate appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments does **not** meaningfully expedite housing or private development. City-initiated removals are overwhelmingly associated with public works and infrastructure projects, not private construction.

Appeals serve a critical function: they require departments to justify removals publicly and have repeatedly led to **better outcomes**, including:

- Preservation of healthy trees,
- Revised designs that accommodate both infrastructure and canopy,
- Increased replacement ratios, and
- Innovative community partnerships such as **Mission Verde**, which now serves as a model for volunteer-supported tree watering and green jobs.

Removing appeals eliminates one of the City's only effective oversight mechanisms for urban forestry decisions and creates a real risk of abuse—encouraging developers to pressure City agencies to initiate removals on their behalf, at taxpayer expense, with no public recourse.

3. Reduced Public Notice Undermines Transparency and Equity

Replacing established notice requirements with website-only postings will disproportionately exclude residents who lack reliable internet access, have language barriers, or are otherwise disconnected from digital-only processes. Tree removals affect public space, neighborhood health, and climate resilience; they warrant robust, accessible notice and public participation.

Notably, many California cities—including Beverly Hills, Mountain View, Santa Cruz, Pasadena, and others—maintain clear appeal processes for tree removals. San Francisco would be moving *backward* by eliminating them.

4. These Amendments Conflict with Climate, Equity, and Public Health Goals

Urban trees are essential infrastructure. They reduce extreme heat, filter air pollution (including wildfire smoke), manage storm water, support biodiversity, and improve mental and physical health. Weakening planting requirements and oversight contradicts the City's Climate Action Plan, General Plan sustainability goals, and stated equity commitments—particularly as climate impacts intensify statewide.

Conclusion

File No. 251211 risks accelerating canopy loss, reducing public trust, and undermining San Francisco's climate resilience at precisely the wrong moment. I urge you to reject these amendments and instead pursue policies that:

- Preserve mandatory, on-site tree planting whenever feasible,
- Maintain the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals,
- Strengthen—not weaken—public notice requirements, and
- Invest in scalable City–community partnerships that expand planting and watering capacity.

San Francisco needs **more trees, more accountability, and more public engagement**, not fewer of each.

Respectfully submitted,

John Nulty co-chair San Francisco Tree Campaign

<https://sanfranciscotreecampaign.blogspot.com>

From: [Tenderloin Tree Campaign 2004](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211
Date: Friday, December 19, 2025 2:00:37 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Executive Summary and Analysis of Proposed Amendments Affecting San Francisco's Tree Canopy

Overview of Proposed Amendments

The proposed amendments under review in San Francisco include two primary changes:

1. **Street Tree Planting Requirements:** Developers may satisfy street tree planting obligations by either:

- Planting trees,

- Paying an in lieu fee (currently about \$2,590 per tree),

- Or providing alternative landscaping (a vaguely defined option that excludes street trees).

2. **Elimination of Public Appeals:** The public's right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments and commissions to the Board of Appeals would be removed, making such removals final and non appealable.

Key Concerns and Critique

1. Impact on San Francisco's Tree Canopy

Reduction in Actual Tree Planting: Allowing developers to pay fees or provide alternative landscaping instead of planting trees will likely reduce the number of new trees planted. The current in lieu fee barely covers the full cost of planting and maintaining trees, including replacement of dead or damaged trees.

Undefined "Alternative Landscaping": The term is vague and explicitly excludes street trees, which means no guaranteed net gain or even maintenance of the current canopy.

Operational Capacity Limits: The City's Public Works department and its nonprofit partner, Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF), lack sufficient resources and coordination capacity to meet tree planting and maintenance goals effectively.

Watering and Maintenance Challenges: Ongoing watering for about three years after planting is critical but underfunded. The \$19 million annual StreetTreeSF budget is legally restricted to maintenance of existing trees, not planting or watering new ones, limiting successful establishment of new trees.

2. Elimination of Public Appeals for City-Initiated Tree Removals

Loss of Oversight and Accountability: Removing the public’s right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments eliminates an important check on City actions, reducing transparency and public input.

No Real Efficiency Gain: Appeals currently take 6-8 weeks and are not a significant bottleneck to development. Eliminating appeals does not meaningfully expedite projects but removes public scrutiny.

Risk of Corruption and Reduced Public Input: Without appeals, developers might pressure the City to remove trees on public land to avoid scrutiny, shifting costs to taxpayers and reducing transparency.

Context: Importance of Urban Trees in San Francisco

Critical Role of Urban Forests: Urban trees contribute significantly to climate resilience, public health, and social equity by reducing urban heat, improving air quality, and enhancing community well-being.

San Francisco’s Tree Canopy Status: The city’s tree canopy covers about 13.7% of the urban area, one of the smallest among major U.S. cities. Protections mainly cover street trees and significant trees near sidewalks; trees in parks and private yards are largely unregulated.

Historical Policy Changes: Before 2017, property owners maintained street trees, limiting growth due to cost concerns. Proposition E (2017) shifted maintenance responsibility to Public Works with a dedicated budget, but this funding cannot be used for planting or watering new trees, only for maintenance and sidewalk repairs.

Financial and Operational Realities

Aspect	Current Situation	Impact of Proposed Amendments
In Lieu Fee Amount	Approximately \$2,590 per tree, barely covers planting and watering costs	Encourages fee payment over actual planting, reducing canopy growth
Tree Planting Funding	Patchwork, unreliable, mostly volunteer-driven	No new dedicated funding; watering remains a bottleneck
	Limited Public	Increased demand without

Operational Capacity	Works and FUF resources	capacity increase will hinder planting efforts
Public Oversight	Board of Appeals hears appeals on tree removals	Eliminating appeals removes public checks and balances

Answers to Your Specific Questions

What are the proposed alternatives?

Developers can satisfy street tree planting requirements by:

- Planting trees,
- Paying an in lieu fee,
- Or providing “alternative landscaping,” a vaguely defined option that excludes street trees and does not guarantee canopy growth.

How much is the in lieu fee?

The in lieu fee is currently approximately \$2,590 per tree.

What is the current tree canopy percentage?

San Francisco’s urban tree canopy is approximately 13.7%, one of the lowest among major U.S. cities.

Who is FUF?

Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) is a nonprofit partner organization that collaborates with the City’s Public Works department to plant and maintain urban trees in San Francisco. FUF plays a critical role in volunteer-driven tree planting and maintenance efforts but faces resource constraints.

Opposition Points and Broader Concerns

The amendments prioritize development efficiency over environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the long-term health of San Francisco’s urban forest.

Exempting accessory dwelling units (ADUs) from tree planting requirements ignores their cumulative impact on urban density and environmental quality. The elimination of public appeals and reduction of public notices to online postings only reduces transparency and public participation, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and digitally disconnected communities.

Other California cities maintain robust appeal processes for tree removals,

fostering community trust and preventing arbitrary removals. Given San Francisco's budget deficits and climate challenges, weakening tree protections risks exacerbating urban heat islands, storm water runoff, biodiversity loss, and public health issues.

Potential Alternatives and Solutions (Brief Mention)

The document suggests exploring balanced policy solutions that support both expedited development and urban canopy growth.

Possible approaches include:

- Increasing the in lieu fee to reflect true planting and maintenance costs,
- Defining and incentivizing meaningful alternative landscaping that includes canopy benefits,
- Securing dedicated funding for planting and watering new trees,
- Maintaining public appeal rights to ensure transparency and accountability,
- Enhancing operational capacity of Public Works and FUF through increased funding and coordination.

Conclusion

The proposed amendments, as currently drafted, pose significant risks to San Francisco's urban tree canopy by reducing actual tree planting, weakening public oversight, and failing to address critical operational and financial challenges. The elimination of public appeals undermines transparency and accountability without delivering meaningful efficiency gains. A more nuanced and balanced approach is essential to protect and grow San Francisco's urban forest while supporting sustainable development.

The in lieu fee in San Francisco is currently set at approximately **\$2,590 per tree**. This fee is designed to cover the city's estimated cost to plant and water a tree for three years. The rationale behind the fee is to allow developers to pay this amount instead of planting trees directly, with the city then responsible for planting and maintaining trees elsewhere.

However, this fee has been criticized as barely sufficient to cover the full costs involved, including planting, watering, and maintaining the trees over time. Because of this, there is concern that allowing developers to pay the fee instead of planting trees on-site may reduce the overall number of new trees planted and hinder the growth of San Francisco's urban canopy.

The fee is part of a broader discussion about balancing development needs with environmental sustainability and urban forestry goals in the city.

Improving operational capacity for urban tree planting and maintenance in San Francisco involves addressing several key challenges related to resources, coordination, funding, and community engagement. Here are detailed strategies that could enhance the city's ability to effectively plant and maintain its urban forest:

1. Increase Dedicated Funding and Resources

Secure New Funding Streams: Establish dedicated budgets specifically for tree planting and post-planting care (watering, pruning, replacement). Current funds like the \$19 million Street Tree SF budget are restricted to maintenance of existing trees, limiting new planting efforts.

Leverage Grants and Partnerships: Pursue grants from state and federal environmental programs, climate resilience funds, and private foundations to supplement city budgets.

Expand Staffing: Increase the number of trained arborists, horticulturists, and maintenance crews within Public Works and partner organizations like Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF).

2. Enhance Coordination and Project Management

Centralized Urban Forestry Unit: Create or strengthen a dedicated urban forestry division within Public Works with clear responsibility for planting, maintenance, and community outreach.

Cross-Department Collaboration: Improve coordination between Public Works, Recreation and Parks, Planning, and other relevant departments to streamline tree-related projects and avoid duplication or gaps.

Use of Technology: Implement GIS mapping, tree inventory databases, and project management software to track tree locations, health, watering schedules, and maintenance needs efficiently.

3. Improve Watering and Maintenance Capacity

Innovative Watering Solutions: Invest in irrigation infrastructure such as drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and smart watering systems to reduce labor and water use.

Volunteer and Community Programs: Expand volunteer watering programs and community stewardship initiatives, providing training and resources to residents and neighborhood groups.

Contractor Partnerships: Develop long-term contracts with specialized tree care companies to ensure consistent and professional maintenance services.

4. Policy and Regulatory Support

Adjust In Lieu Fees: Increase fees to reflect true costs of planting and maintenance, ensuring funds are sufficient to support operational needs.

Mandate Developer Contributions: Require developers to contribute not only planting fees but also ongoing maintenance funding or services.

Enforce Planting Requirements: Limit or carefully regulate alternatives to tree planting to ensure canopy growth goals are met.

5. Public Engagement and Education

Awareness Campaigns: Educate the public on the importance of urban trees and

how they can participate in planting and maintenance.

Community Partnerships: Collaborate with nonprofits, schools, and neighborhood groups to foster local stewardship and expand capacity.

Summary

Improving operational capacity requires a multifaceted approach combining increased funding, enhanced coordination, technological support, innovative maintenance practices, stronger policies, and active community involvement. These measures will help San Francisco meet its urban forestry goals, ensuring sustainable growth and health of its tree canopy amid development pressures and environmental challenges.

Improving operational capacity for urban tree planting and maintenance in San Francisco involves addressing several key challenges related to resources, coordination, funding, and community engagement. Here are detailed strategies that could enhance the city's ability to effectively plant and maintain its urban forest:

How much funding is needed?

To effectively support San Francisco's urban forestry goals, including planting, watering, maintenance, and staffing, recent estimates indicate that a fully funded citywide urban forestry program would require about \$20 million annually. This level of funding is necessary to overcome current resource constraints and ensure sustainable growth and health of the city's tree canopy.

From: [Wang, Jocelyn \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments
Date: Monday, December 29, 2025 8:40:15 AM

Not sure if you received this.

Best regards,
Jocelyn Wang
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
T: 415.554.7702 | F: 415.554.5163
jocelyn.wang@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

(VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS) To schedule a “virtual” meeting with me (on Microsoft Teams), please ask and I can answer your questions in real time.

Due to the current COVID-19 health emergency and the Shelter in Place Order, the Office of the Clerk of the Board is working remotely while providing complete access to the legislative process and our services

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Disclosures: Personal information that is provided in communications to the Board of Supervisors is subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act and the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance. Personal information provided will not be redacted. Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Board of Supervisors and its committees. All written or oral communications that members of the public submit to the Clerk's Office regarding pending legislation or hearings will be made available to all members of the public for inspection and copying. The Clerk's Office does not redact any information from these submissions. This means that personal information—including names, phone numbers, addresses and similar information that a member of the public elects to submit to the Board and its committees—may appear on the Board of Supervisors' website or in other public documents that members of the public may inspect or copy.

-----Original Message-----
From: San Francisco Tree Campaign <sfreetreecampaign@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 1:43 PM
To: Board of Supervisors (BOS) <boardofsupervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org>; Iomin, Jonas (CPC) <jonas.iomin@sfgov.org>
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed amendments in File No. 251211, which would weaken San Francisco's urban forestry protections by:

- * Allowing developers to satisfy street tree requirements through in-lieu fees or undefined “alternative landscaping.”
- * Exempting ADUs and JADUs from tree planting requirements,
- * Eliminating the public's right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments and commissions, and
- * Replacing existing public notice requirements with online postings only.

Taken together, these changes prioritize administrative convenience over environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the long-term health and resilience of San Francisco.

1. In-Lieu Fees Will Reduce Tree Planting at a Time We Can Least Afford It

San Francisco's tree canopy is critically low—approximately 13–14%, among the smallest of any major U.S. city. New development has become one of the primary remaining mechanisms through which new street trees are planted, largely because City planting capacity is chronically underfunded.

Allowing developers to opt out of planting trees by paying an in-lieu fee (currently ~\$2,600 per tree) will result in fewer trees planted, full stop. The fee does not cover the true cost of planting, watering, and replacing trees over their three-year establishment period, nor does it compensate for lost planting opportunities when new frontages are designed to permanently preclude trees.

This shift is especially troubling given the City's ongoing fiscal crisis. With projected deficits approaching \$1 billion, Public Works and its Urban Forestry Bureau already lack the operational capacity to convert in-lieu fees into timely, neighborhood-level plantings. Deferred payments do not cool streets, clean air, or support public health. Exempting ADUs and JADUs further compounds this problem. While small individually, their cumulative impact on density, heat islands, and storm water runoff is significant—particularly in neighborhoods already lacking canopy.

2. Eliminating Appeals for City-Initiated Tree Removals Removes Oversight—Not Red Tape

The proposal to eliminate appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments does not meaningfully expedite housing or private development. City-initiated removals are overwhelmingly associated with public works and infrastructure projects, not private construction.

Appeals serve a critical function: they require departments to justify removals publicly and have repeatedly led to better outcomes, including:

- * Preservation of healthy trees,
- * Revised designs that accommodate both infrastructure and canopy,
- * Increased replacement ratios, and
- * Innovative community partnerships such as Mission Verde, which now serves as a model for volunteer-supported tree watering and green jobs.

Removing appeals eliminates one of the City's only effective oversight mechanisms for urban forestry decisions and creates a real risk of abuse—encouraging developers to pressure City agencies to initiate removals on their behalf, at taxpayer expense, with no public recourse.

3. Reduced Public Notice Undermines Transparency and Equity

Replacing established notice requirements with website-only postings will disproportionately exclude residents who lack reliable internet access, have language barriers, or are otherwise disconnected from digital-only processes. Tree removals affect public space, neighborhood health, and climate resilience; they warrant robust, accessible notice and public participation.

Notably, many California cities—including Beverly Hills, Mountain View, Santa Cruz, Pasadena, and others—maintain clear appeal processes for tree removals. San Francisco would be moving backward by eliminating them.

4. These Amendments Conflict with Climate, Equity, and Public Health Goals

Urban trees are essential infrastructure. They reduce extreme heat, filter air pollution (including wildfire smoke), manage storm water, support biodiversity, and improve mental and physical health. Weakening planting requirements and oversight contradicts the City's Climate Action Plan, General Plan sustainability goals, and stated equity commitments—particularly as climate impacts intensify statewide.

Conclusion

File No. 251211 risks accelerating canopy loss, reducing public trust, and undermining San Francisco's climate resilience at precisely the wrong moment. I urge you to reject these amendments and instead pursue policies that:

- * Preserve mandatory, on-site tree planting whenever feasible,
- * Maintain the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals,
- * Strengthen—not weaken—public notice requirements, and
- * Invest in scalable City-community partnerships that expand planting and watering capacity.

San Francisco needs more trees, more accountability, and more public engagement, not fewer of each.

Respectfully submitted,

John Nulty co-chair San Francisco Tree Campaign

<https://sanfranciscotreecampaign.blogspot.com>

<<https://url.avamn.click/s/2/6/U/>> <https://sanfranciscotreecampaign.blogspot.com>____YXAQcNuSniZHO2CmE6bzpiMGMySdU8OWY4NimE4ZTU1y2E1NJMsGGbY2YsYac2Yjs3QFm3q6d0TUZm1+0THZGZAM2YfNDhkyRmZTHbZThbNjYsYmYsNzY2YDzZmFwQTY4NmcH2WQzYmGCGM3NWUysMzE4NTp0Q9G6Tg<

From: [Tenderloin Tree Campaign 2004](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211
Date: Friday, December 19, 2025 2:00:36 PM

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Executive Summary and Analysis of Proposed Amendments Affecting San Francisco's Tree Canopy

Overview of Proposed Amendments

The proposed amendments under review in San Francisco include two primary changes:

1. **Street Tree Planting Requirements:** Developers may satisfy street tree planting obligations by either:

- Planting trees,

- Paying an in lieu fee (currently about \$2,590 per tree),

- Or providing alternative landscaping (a vaguely defined option that excludes street trees).

2. **Elimination of Public Appeals:** The public's right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments and commissions to the Board of Appeals would be removed, making such removals final and non appealable.

Key Concerns and Critique

1. Impact on San Francisco's Tree Canopy

Reduction in Actual Tree Planting: Allowing developers to pay fees or provide alternative landscaping instead of planting trees will likely reduce the number of new trees planted. The current in lieu fee barely covers the full cost of planting and maintaining trees, including replacement of dead or damaged trees.

Undefined "Alternative Landscaping": The term is vague and explicitly excludes street trees, which means no guaranteed net gain or even maintenance of the current canopy.

Operational Capacity Limits: The City's Public Works department and its nonprofit partner, Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF), lack sufficient resources and coordination capacity to meet tree planting and maintenance goals effectively.

Watering and Maintenance Challenges: Ongoing watering for about three years after planting is critical but underfunded. The \$19 million annual StreetTreeSF budget is legally restricted to maintenance of existing trees, not planting or watering new ones, limiting successful establishment of new trees.

2. Elimination of Public Appeals for City-Initiated Tree Removals

Loss of Oversight and Accountability: Removing the public’s right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments eliminates an important check on City actions, reducing transparency and public input.

No Real Efficiency Gain: Appeals currently take 6-8 weeks and are not a significant bottleneck to development. Eliminating appeals does not meaningfully expedite projects but removes public scrutiny.

Risk of Corruption and Reduced Public Input: Without appeals, developers might pressure the City to remove trees on public land to avoid scrutiny, shifting costs to taxpayers and reducing transparency.

Context: Importance of Urban Trees in San Francisco

Critical Role of Urban Forests: Urban trees contribute significantly to climate resilience, public health, and social equity by reducing urban heat, improving air quality, and enhancing community well-being.

San Francisco’s Tree Canopy Status: The city’s tree canopy covers about 13.7% of the urban area, one of the smallest among major U.S. cities. Protections mainly cover street trees and significant trees near sidewalks; trees in parks and private yards are largely unregulated.

Historical Policy Changes: Before 2017, property owners maintained street trees, limiting growth due to cost concerns. Proposition E (2017) shifted maintenance responsibility to Public Works with a dedicated budget, but this funding cannot be used for planting or watering new trees, only for maintenance and sidewalk repairs.

Financial and Operational Realities

Aspect	Current Situation	Impact of Proposed Amendments
In Lieu Fee Amount	Approximately \$2,590 per tree, barely covers planting and watering costs	Encourages fee payment over actual planting, reducing canopy growth
Tree Planting Funding	Patchwork, unreliable, mostly volunteer-driven	No new dedicated funding; watering remains a bottleneck
	Limited Public	Increased demand without

Operational Capacity	Works and FUF resources	capacity increase will hinder planting efforts
Public Oversight	Board of Appeals hears appeals on tree removals	Eliminating appeals removes public checks and balances

Answers to Your Specific Questions

What are the proposed alternatives?

Developers can satisfy street tree planting requirements by:

Planting trees,

Paying an in lieu fee,

Or providing “alternative landscaping,” a vaguely defined option that excludes street trees and does not guarantee canopy growth.

How much is the in lieu fee?

The in lieu fee is currently approximately \$2,590 per tree.

What is the current tree canopy percentage?

San Francisco’s urban tree canopy is approximately 13.7%, one of the lowest among major U.S. cities.

Who is FUF?

Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) is a nonprofit partner organization that collaborates with the City’s Public Works department to plant and maintain urban trees in San Francisco. FUF plays a critical role in volunteer-driven tree planting and maintenance efforts but faces resource constraints.

Opposition Points and Broader Concerns

The amendments prioritize development efficiency over environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the long-term health of San Francisco’s urban forest.

Exempting accessory dwelling units (ADUs) from tree planting requirements ignores their cumulative impact on urban density and environmental quality.

The elimination of public appeals and reduction of public notices to online postings only reduces transparency and public participation, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and digitally disconnected communities.

Other California cities maintain robust appeal processes for tree removals,

fostering community trust and preventing arbitrary removals. Given San Francisco's budget deficits and climate challenges, weakening tree protections risks exacerbating urban heat islands, storm water runoff, biodiversity loss, and public health issues.

Potential Alternatives and Solutions (Brief Mention)

The document suggests exploring balanced policy solutions that support both expedited development and urban canopy growth.

Possible approaches include:

- Increasing the in lieu fee to reflect true planting and maintenance costs,
- Defining and incentivizing meaningful alternative landscaping that includes canopy benefits,
- Securing dedicated funding for planting and watering new trees,
- Maintaining public appeal rights to ensure transparency and accountability,
- Enhancing operational capacity of Public Works and FUF through increased funding and coordination.

Conclusion

The proposed amendments, as currently drafted, pose significant risks to San Francisco's urban tree canopy by reducing actual tree planting, weakening public oversight, and failing to address critical operational and financial challenges. The elimination of public appeals undermines transparency and accountability without delivering meaningful efficiency gains. A more nuanced and balanced approach is essential to protect and grow San Francisco's urban forest while supporting sustainable development.

The in lieu fee in San Francisco is currently set at approximately **\$2,590 per tree**. This fee is designed to cover the city's estimated cost to plant and water a tree for three years. The rationale behind the fee is to allow developers to pay this amount instead of planting trees directly, with the city then responsible for planting and maintaining trees elsewhere.

However, this fee has been criticized as barely sufficient to cover the full costs involved, including planting, watering, and maintaining the trees over time. Because of this, there is concern that allowing developers to pay the fee instead of planting trees on-site may reduce the overall number of new trees planted and hinder the growth of San Francisco's urban canopy.

The fee is part of a broader discussion about balancing development needs with environmental sustainability and urban forestry goals in the city.

Improving operational capacity for urban tree planting and maintenance in San Francisco involves addressing several key challenges related to resources, coordination, funding, and community engagement. Here are detailed strategies that could enhance the city's ability to effectively plant and maintain its urban forest:

1. Increase Dedicated Funding and Resources

Secure New Funding Streams: Establish dedicated budgets specifically for tree planting and post-planting care (watering, pruning, replacement). Current funds like the \$19 million Street Tree SF budget are restricted to maintenance of existing trees, limiting new planting efforts.

Leverage Grants and Partnerships: Pursue grants from state and federal environmental programs, climate resilience funds, and private foundations to supplement city budgets.

Expand Staffing: Increase the number of trained arborists, horticulturists, and maintenance crews within Public Works and partner organizations like Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF).

2. Enhance Coordination and Project Management

Centralized Urban Forestry Unit: Create or strengthen a dedicated urban forestry division within Public Works with clear responsibility for planting, maintenance, and community outreach.

Cross-Department Collaboration: Improve coordination between Public Works, Recreation and Parks, Planning, and other relevant departments to streamline tree-related projects and avoid duplication or gaps.

Use of Technology: Implement GIS mapping, tree inventory databases, and project management software to track tree locations, health, watering schedules, and maintenance needs efficiently.

3. Improve Watering and Maintenance Capacity

Innovative Watering Solutions: Invest in irrigation infrastructure such as drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and smart watering systems to reduce labor and water use.

Volunteer and Community Programs: Expand volunteer watering programs and community stewardship initiatives, providing training and resources to residents and neighborhood groups.

Contractor Partnerships: Develop long-term contracts with specialized tree care companies to ensure consistent and professional maintenance services.

4. Policy and Regulatory Support

Adjust In Lieu Fees: Increase fees to reflect true costs of planting and maintenance, ensuring funds are sufficient to support operational needs.

Mandate Developer Contributions: Require developers to contribute not only planting fees but also ongoing maintenance funding or services.

Enforce Planting Requirements: Limit or carefully regulate alternatives to tree planting to ensure canopy growth goals are met.

5. Public Engagement and Education

Awareness Campaigns: Educate the public on the importance of urban trees and

how they can participate in planting and maintenance.

Community Partnerships: Collaborate with nonprofits, schools, and neighborhood groups to foster local stewardship and expand capacity.

Summary

Improving operational capacity requires a multifaceted approach combining increased funding, enhanced coordination, technological support, innovative maintenance practices, stronger policies, and active community involvement. These measures will help San Francisco meet its urban forestry goals, ensuring sustainable growth and health of its tree canopy amid development pressures and environmental challenges.

Improving operational capacity for urban tree planting and maintenance in San Francisco involves addressing several key challenges related to resources, coordination, funding, and community engagement. Here are detailed strategies that could enhance the city's ability to effectively plant and maintain its urban forest:

How much funding is needed?

To effectively support San Francisco's urban forestry goals, including planting, watering, maintenance, and staffing, recent estimates indicate that a fully funded citywide urban forestry program would require about \$20 million annually. This level of funding is necessary to overcome current resource constraints and ensure sustainable growth and health of the city's tree canopy.

From: [San Francisco Tree Campaign](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments
Date: Friday, December 19, 2025 1:43:04 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed amendments in **File No. 251211**, which would weaken San Francisco’s urban forestry protections by:

- Allowing developers to satisfy street tree requirements through in-lieu fees or undefined “alternative landscaping,”
- Exempting ADUs and JADUs from tree planting requirements,
- Eliminating the public’s right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments and commissions, and
- Replacing existing public notice requirements with online postings only.

Taken together, these changes prioritize administrative convenience over environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the long-term health and resilience of San Francisco.

1. In-Lieu Fees Will Reduce Tree Planting at a Time We Can Least Afford It

San Francisco’s tree canopy is critically low—approximately **13–14%**, among the smallest of any major U.S. city. New development has become one of the *primary remaining mechanisms* through which new street trees are planted, largely because City planting capacity is chronically underfunded.

Allowing developers to opt out of planting trees by paying an in-lieu fee (currently ~\$2,600 per tree) will result in **fewer trees planted, full stop**. The fee does not cover the true cost of planting, watering, and replacing trees over their three-year establishment period, nor does it compensate for lost planting opportunities when new frontages are designed to permanently preclude trees.

This shift is especially troubling given the City’s ongoing fiscal crisis. With projected deficits approaching **\$1 billion**, Public Works and its Urban Forestry Bureau already lack the operational capacity to convert in-lieu fees into timely, neighborhood-level plantings. Deferred payments do not cool streets, clean air, or support public health.

Exempting ADUs and JADUs further compounds this problem. While small individually, their cumulative impact on density, heat islands, and storm water runoff is significant—particularly in neighborhoods already lacking canopy.

2. Eliminating Appeals for City-Initiated Tree Removals Removes Oversight—Not Red Tape

The proposal to eliminate appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments does **not** meaningfully expedite housing or private development. City-initiated removals are overwhelmingly associated with public works and infrastructure projects, not private construction.

Appeals serve a critical function: they require departments to justify removals publicly and have repeatedly led to **better outcomes**, including:

- Preservation of healthy trees,
- Revised designs that accommodate both infrastructure and canopy,
- Increased replacement ratios, and
- Innovative community partnerships such as **Mission Verde**, which now serves as a model for volunteer-supported tree watering and green jobs.

Removing appeals eliminates one of the City's only effective oversight mechanisms for urban forestry decisions and creates a real risk of abuse—encouraging developers to pressure City agencies to initiate removals on their behalf, at taxpayer expense, with no public recourse.

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Notably, many California cities—including Beverly Hills, Mountain View, Santa Cruz, Pasadena, and others—maintain clear appeal processes for tree removals. San Francisco would be moving *backward* by eliminating them.

4. These Amendments Conflict with Climate, Equity, and Public Health Goals

Urban trees are essential infrastructure. They reduce extreme heat, filter air pollution (including wildfire smoke), manage storm water, support biodiversity, and improve mental and physical health. Weakening planting requirements and oversight contradicts the City's Climate Action Plan, General Plan sustainability goals, and stated equity commitments—particularly as climate impacts intensify statewide.

Conclusion

File No. 251211 risks accelerating canopy loss, reducing public trust, and undermining San Francisco's climate resilience at precisely the wrong moment. I urge you to reject these amendments and instead pursue policies that:

- Preserve mandatory, on-site tree planting whenever feasible,
- Maintain the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals,
- Strengthen—not weaken—public notice requirements, and
- Invest in scalable City–community partnerships that expand planting and watering capacity.

San Francisco needs **more trees, more accountability, and more public engagement**, not fewer of each.

Respectfully submitted,

John Nulty co-chair San Francisco Tree Campaign

<https://sanfranciscotreecampaign.blogspot.com>

From: [Ken Rackow](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Tree removal appeals
Date: Monday, January 12, 2026 8:26:42 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has *nothing* to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant *more* trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Ken Rackow, San Francisco

From: [Robert Ogilvie](#)
To: [Board of Appeals \(PAR\)](#); [White, Ben \(MYR\)](#)
Cc: [Patricia Handeland](#); [Matt Friese](#); [Chandra Friese](#); [Peter Fortune](#); [Thomas Butler](#)
Subject: Fwd: File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.
Date: Monday, January 12, 2026 9:06:55 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To Members of the Board of Appeals:

San Francisco Beautiful asks that you reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16. San Francisco Beautiful (SFB) started in 1947 when its founder, Friedel Klusmann, led the successful charge to defeat the then Mayor's attempt to get rid of all of the City's cable cars. Since then, SFB, along with its 15,000+ current followers, have pursued SFB's mission to protect and enhance the unique beauty and livability of San Francisco. This includes our tree canopy.

San Francisco's tree canopy is an absolutely vital part of the City's beauty and livability and we already have one of the smallest tree canopies of any major U.S. city. This proposed amendment would result only in making our "smallest canopy" even smaller. We think that this is unacceptable. It is for this reason that SFB is opposed to File #251211, and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does nothing to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has nothing to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

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San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Respectfully,

--

Robert Ogilvie
Chief Executive Officer
San Francisco Beautiful
<https://sfbeautiful.org/>

SAN FRANCISCO
Beautiful

PLEASE do the right thing and REJECT this proposed amendment. We can--and must--do much better for our City

Regards,

--

Robert Ogilvie
San Francisco Beautiful

<https://sfbeautiful.org/>

From: [Judy Irving](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: [White, Ben \(MYR\)](#); [Short, Carla \(DPW\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Please Recommend a NO VOTE on Lurie's proposal to strip appeal rights on tree issues
Date: Monday, January 12, 2026 10:21:50 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear members of the Board of Appeals,

I've appeared before you several times over the years, and all of those appeals had to do with street trees. I was involved in a tree appeal for a City-initiated removal of all the trees along Columbus Avenue adjacent to Washington Square Park, and we successfully negotiated a compromise with DPW that saved four of those seven trees and planted seven more. The Mission Verde project — a program that the Board of Supervisors has itself lauded — never would have happened if the public did not have a right to appeal.

As you know, appeals aren't just adversarial; they can be an opportunity to create a better solution, which is exactly what concerned citizens have done with your guidance.

Taking away our right to appeal tree removals would result in an even-more-diminished tree canopy than we already have. Our City's stated goal is to *increase* the number of trees, but this wrong-headed legislation would do the opposite by applying to all city commissions and departments. [City and County of San Francisco - File #: 251211](#)

Removing the public's right to appeal has nothing to do with streamlining, and everything to do with the fact that SFRPD broke the law, illegally removed trees, and got caught red-handed by YOU: the Board of Appeals. Thank you for that!

Please send a letter to the Mayor's office and the Board of Supervisors opposing this misguided effort to reduce accountability and silence the public (proposed to the BOS on 12/9/25).

Regards,

Judy Irving

Producer/Director

The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill
Cold Refuge
Pelican Dreams
Dark Circle

www.pelicanmedia.org

From: [Lance Carnes](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Item 8, Special Item File No. 251211
Date: Monday, January 12, 2026 11:40:42 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has *nothing* to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant *more* trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Sincerely,

Lance Carnes, San Francisco resident

From: [Debolina Dutta](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: [Ben.White@sfgov.org](#)
Subject: City-initiated tree removal permits
Date: Monday, January 12, 2026 11:49:10 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does *nothing* to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

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San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. The tree removal permits are antithetical to what SF stands for: Livable city, leader in environmental awareness, and being on the vanguard of climate change initiatives.

I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Sincerely,
Debolina Dutta
She/Her/Hers

From: [Joshua Klipp](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: [Longaway, Alec \(BOA\)](#); [Lamarre, Julie \(BOA\)](#)
Subject: For 1/14 Meeting Agenda Item #8
Date: Monday, January 12, 2026 1:03:56 PM
Attachments: [protect-san-francisco-trees_signatures_202601120846.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board of Appeals,

For this Wednesday's meeting, Agenda Item #8, I'm sharing a (growing, ongoing) petition currently signed by over 700 San Franciscans. This petition is in opposition to File 251211 in whole, but there are dozens of petition comments specifically opposing the proposal to remove the Public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals.

Please add this to your file and for consideration on this upcoming agenda item.

Thank you, and thank you for setting this important issue on the Board's agenda.

Best, Josh

--

Josh Klipp, Esq.

Certified Access Specialist with the California Division of the State Architect (CAsp-812)
Accessibility for Built and Virtual Environments. made-welcome.com

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San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

723 people have signed a petition on Action Network telling you to Protect San Francisco Trees!.

Here is the petition they signed:

Mayor Lurie and Supervisor Wong's proposals for San Francisco's street trees are disastrous. We already have the smallest urban canopy of any major city in the U.S., and our failure to invest in our City trees has allowed even this small tree canopy to decline. We ask you to not allow Developers to have the choice of planting trees or paying an inadequate fee. This will lead to even fewer trees on City streets.

And we ask you not to eliminate the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. These appeals, for City projects, have nothing to do with expediting development. Additionally, these appeals have lead to innovative results, such as Mission Verde - one of the most innovative City/Community partnerships that resulted in 3x more trees being planted along the Mission District's cultural corridor. Eliminating this right to appeal will result in City projects removing trees en masse without oversight, and will incentivize private developers to persuade the City to remove trees on the taxpayer dime.

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

You can view each petition signer and the comments they left you below.

Thank you,

Joshua Klipp

1. Joshua Klipp (*ZIP code: 94107*)

2. K Desby (*ZIP code: 94118*)

3. Bryan Dillingham (*ZIP code: 94107*)

4. Natalie Downe (*ZIP code: 94019*)

5. Shaun Aukland (*ZIP code: 94103*)

I object to the removal of any resident voice in appealing tree removals. There is a well-documented history of departmental overreach, non-compliance with laws, and general laziness that the appeals process is intended to provide a check on.

6. Sara Alexander (*ZIP code: 94118*)

Please take a long time to become trees. Let's protect the ones we have. They are precious....

7. Shawna McGrew (ZIP code: 94122)

8. Robert Hall (ZIP code: 94117)

9. David Romano (ZIP code: 94121)

Trees and the tree canopy are critical to the livability of the City. We need to increase and enhance our tree canopy, plant more trees and keep the trees we have.

10. Natalia Peschiera (ZIP code: 94110)

I'm signing this petition as a long time resident of SF and a member of mission verde because I am very concerned with the proposed changes to legislation that will negatively impact our relatively small and struggling urban forest canopy. The trees are a vital piece of our communities' health and wellbeing. We must do better for the trees and the people who live amongst them - For today and generations to come.

11. John Mendoza (ZIP code: 94110)

12. Judy Irving (ZIP code: 94133)

Removing the public's right to appeal has nothing to do with streamlining, and everything to do with the fact that SFRPD broke the law, illegally removed trees, and got caught red-handed by the Board of Appeals. What's worse, if City-initiated tree removals aren't appealable, this incentivizes private developers to get the City to do its tree removals for them, on the taxpayer dime.

13. Roz Arbel (ZIP code: 94118)

Please do not remove the community's right to save SF's already dwindling urban canopy! I never thought I would see the day when our city's Democratic process would be threatened in such a way. As the petition says, it's not about streamlining the building of affordable housing, it's about preserving the nature that already exists in our city. And when you remove a healthy, mature tree, you're not only removing the tree, you're removing the nature that depends on its existence - including humans.

14. Jacqueline Nauman (ZIP code: 94018)

Cities need greenery. Take that away and not only is the air quality affected, the city dwellers are negatively affected. There are more reasons than air for having trees visible in urban areas. Read up on Barcelona and how badly that city is affected by no parks or greenery. This is a horrible idea to turn SF into a concrete jungle!!

15. Nancy Shanahan (ZIP code: 94133)

16. Renee Lazear (ZIP code: 94116)

17. Bridget Maley (ZIP code: 94123)

18. SON-SF ~ Save Our Neighborhoods SF (ZIP code: 94116)

19. Melinda MacNaughton (ZIP code: 94018)

Not Ok to Silence the public about tree concerns. Trees are most important for our survival with climate change and providing what minor habitat SF has left. Not Ok to put developers first over a struggling environment.

20. Courtney Damkroger (*ZIP code: 94109*)

21. Lisa Arjes (*ZIP code: 94122*)

22. Laurew Frishman (*ZIP code: 94018*)

23. Judith Berkowitz (*ZIP code: 94110*)

24. Dorothy Pasquinelli (*ZIP code: 94018*)

25. DANIEL MATAROZZI (*ZIP code: 94110*)

Pls. stop the destruction of our urban forrest by rejecting this developer friendly regulation.

26. Angelina Matarozzi (*ZIP code: 94110*)

27. Charlotte Mooney (*ZIP code: 94118*)

28. Claire Mills (*ZIP code: 94123*)

29. Barbara Heffernan (*ZIP code: 94123*)

Save our trees and stop this nonsense

30. Marie Sorenson (*ZIP code: 94110*)

31. Karen Breslin (*ZIP code: 94127*)

32. Janet Monfredini (*ZIP code: 94127*)

This speaks for itself. Trees make all the difference.....

33. SHARON HAWLEY (*ZIP code: 94110*)

34. Sigrid Bull-McCarthy (*ZIP code: 94122*)

We need more trees not less. If there is a sick and dying tree that poses a threat, it should be replaced with 3 new trees when removed. But no willy nilly tree removal. A concrete jungle is not the city we want. Protect green spaces and protect trees. Keep our right to have a say in what we want for our city!!

35. John Nulty (*ZIP code: 94142*)

36. Nancy Federico (*ZIP code: 94122*)

This is my right! SFRPD is breaking the law!

37. Wayne Johnson (ZIP code: 94114-2417)

38. Sarah Bellrichard (ZIP code: 94110)

39. Ruth Malone (ZIP code: 94121)

40. Katherine Petrin (ZIP code: 94133)

41. Greg Giachino (ZIP code: 94133)

This move has to be a joke, right?

42. Tomasita Medál (ZIP code: 94122)

43. Lynne Burwell (ZIP code: 94118)

44. Jamie Wong (ZIP code: 94116)

45. Marcus Wong (ZIP code: 94116)

46. Erica Zweig (ZIP code: 94122)

Another giveaway to developers - there should be greater requirements for developers to increase and enhance SF Green infrastructure! Its a minor hoop to jump and pocket change cost to developers to plant around their new concrete structures. An absurd giveaway!

47. KEN RACKOW (ZIP code: 94109)

48. Esfir Shrayber (ZIP code: 94122)

Please protect our trees , our oxygen. We need them.

49. Linda Lawrence (ZIP code: 94804)

Protect our urban canopy!

50. Aaron Goodman (ZIP code: 94127)

See Glen Park Trees, see Excelsior Trees, Mc Laren Park Trees, and Parkmerced Trees along right of way.

51. Mark Peters (ZIP code: 94114)

52. Doug Comstock (ZIP code: 94117)

53. Mark Beyer (ZIP code: 94110)

We need trees! We want trees! Please allow YOUR constituents a voice.

54. Tes Welborn (ZIP code: 94117-1802)

55. Rita Da Luz (ZIP code: 94114)

People deserve to be heard. Furthering a concrete jungle isn't in the best interest of SF in the long run.

56. Leslie Smith (ZIP code: 94611)

57. Patricia Taber (ZIP code: 94114)

San Francisco has, for a major city, the fewest number of trees than most US cities. Shameful, we should embrace trees not only for their esthetics but also for their positive contribution to our environment.

58. Elizabeth Kiefling (ZIP code: 94110)

Preserving our urban forest is fundamental to the health and prosperity of San Francisco's community, culture and well being.

59. Mary Anne Giglio (ZIP code: 94018)

60. Rell Sanderson (ZIP code: 94114)

61. Stephanie Peek (ZIP code: 94116)

62. Dinorah Salazar (ZIP code: 94112)

63. peggy huff (ZIP code: 94133)

Eliminating this right to appeal will result in City projects removing trees en masse without oversight, and will incentivize private developers to persuade the City to remove trees on the taxpayer dime.

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

64. Steve Wilkerson (ZIP code: 94127)

65. Scott Feeney (ZIP code: 94110)

I've come out on volunteer shifts to water trees with Mission Verde, trees that wouldn't be there without the tree removal appeal process. We love our street trees and want more, not less. And since large scale development often tears up the sidewalk anyway, planting trees at that time just makes sense, it's more efficient! Please reject this legislation and help grow our tree canopy, not shrink it.

66. kim snead (ZIP code: 94117)

67. Dave Osgood (ZIP code: 94105)

Significant trees are currently slated for removal along Howard Street for largely cosmetic reasons.

We need our right to appeal these misguided decisions.

68. Mahdi Rahimi (ZIP code: 94110)

69. bea manuel (ZIP code: 94112)

70. Jeff Daniel (ZIP code: 94116-2613)

71. Floriana Spezza (ZIP code: 94122)

72. Maggie Grabmeier (ZIP code: 94110)

Please commit to keeping San Francisco green! As a Mission Verde volunteer, I love to see the community out enjoying our trees. It makes our neighborhoods healthier and more beautiful. It's so important for San Franciscans to feel our connection to nature! Thank you for listening!

73. STEVE WARD (ZIP code: 94122)

74. Michael Nulty (ZIP code: 94142-0846)

In contrast, many other California cities maintain strong appeal processes to ensure accountability: Beverly Hills: Appeals to the Planning Commission (Municipal Code Title 10, Chapter 3).

Pacifica: 10-day appeal period to Planning Commission, with further escalation to City Council (Title 4, Chapter 12).

Los Altos: 10-day public notification for appeals to City Clerk.

Mountain View: Appeals to Urban Forestry Board or City Council within 10 days.

Santa Cruz: Appeals to Parks and Recreation Commission for heritage trees.

Saratoga: 15-day appeal window for nearby homeowners.

San Luis Obispo: Appeals to Tree Committee.

Santa Monica: Reviews by Urban Forest Task Force.

Pasadena: Standard zoning code appeals for tree protections.

These models demonstrate that appeals foster community trust and prevent arbitrary removals, unlike the proposed streamlining, which could lead to unchecked tree loss.

75. RADOGO ULUINADAVE (ZIP code: 94102)

76. Tricia Downey (ZIP code: 94122)

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

77. Paula L (ZIP code: 94121)

78. Harold Miller (ZIP code: 94188)

Help us save the trees

79. SUSAN BRYAN (ZIP code: 94102)

80. Gwendalina Carrera (ZIP code: 94044)

We need MORE trees in SF, not fewer.

81. paul wermer (ZIP code: 94115)

Trees bring health benefits and environmental benefits AND create the more appealing streetscapes that tourists appreciate

82. Carol Brownson (ZIP code: 94115)

83. Deborah Gallegos (ZIP code: 94112)

We need more tree plantings in every neighborhood to provide all the medicinal properties that trees have to offer in the environment.

84. Belinda Irons (ZIP code: 94105)

Please do not remove trees on Howard St.

85. tom fenwick (ZIP code: 94122)

This tree reform makes no sense. Just make it easier and faster to get a permit to plant the trees

86. Katharine Demgen (ZIP code: 94105)

87. Avrum Shepard (ZIP code: 93291)

88. Matt Laroche (ZIP code: 94122)

89. Carla Schlemminger (ZIP code: 94123)

90. Ann Rubin (ZIP code: 94133)

91. Stephen Davis (ZIP code: 94044-1517)

Please maintain the public's right to appeal tree removals in San Francisco. Construction is necessary for the city, of course, but it should not destroy existing trees. Mature trees do so much good for removing CO2, providing habitat for birds, and improving the urban scenery.

92. Margaret O'Brien (ZIP code: 94121)

93. Tony Tantillo (ZIP code: 94105)

94. John Anderson (ZIP code: 94115)

Particular consideration should be given to the remaining coast live oaks, such as the ones on the south block of Laurel St. Architects have a long history of ignoring the natural world, an unfortunate legacy of colonialism. As a city, we should do better.

95. Cathwrine Dodd (ZIP code: 94131)

Trees are life. They bring shade, oxygen and charm to the city. That are home to birds. They take

generations to grow. Greed of politicians and the Developers who support them must not continue. Also oppose the ATT Tower in the canopy behind the police academy. The construction will kill off entire parts of forest.

96. Maximilienne Ewalt (ZIP code: 94112)

To: San Francisco Board of Supervisors

From: Maximilienne Ewalt

Mayor Lurie and Supervisor Wong's proposals for San Francisco's street trees are disastrous. We already have the smallest urban canopy of any major city in the U.S., and our failure to invest in our City trees has allowed even this small tree canopy to decline. We ask you to not allow Developers to have the choice of planting trees or paying an inadequate fee. This will lead to even fewer trees on City streets.

And we ask you not to eliminate the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. These appeals, for City projects, have nothing to do with expediting development. Additionally, these appeals have lead to innovative results, such as Mission Verde - one of the most innovative City/Community partnerships that resulted in 3x more trees being planted along the Mission District's cultural corridor. Eliminating this right to appeal will result in City projects removing trees en masse without oversight, and will incentivize private developers to persuade the City to remove trees on the taxpayer dime.

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

97. Linda Weiner (ZIP code: 94110)

98. Peter Fortune (ZIP code: 94133)

99. Mearu Takatsu (ZIP code: 94123)

REJECT Mayor Lurie's and

Supervisor Wong's proposed amendment to the Public Works Code -- reject File #2151211 amendment to the SF Public Works Code Article 16.

100. Elias Berbari (ZIP code: 94116)

101. Catherine Chase (ZIP code: 94111)

It is important to keep the tree canopy we have and add to it if at all possible.

102. deanne delbridge (ZIP code: 94123-1175)

Thank you for starting this, Joshua. Every effort to save our trees in San Francisco is totally worth it and you and only a small handfull of others continue this work by yourselves. Please let me know how to reach you.

103. Linda Shaffer (ZIP code: 94121-3255)

104. Anna Esquivel (ZIP code: 94116)

It's disturbing that the tree canopy in San Francisco is less than half the national average. This city needs to do better to protect and preserve the trees are in place!

105. Judi Gorski (ZIP code: 94116)

106. Chandra Frieze (ZIP code: 95476)

107. Barbara Delaney (ZIP code: 94122)

108. Holly Watts (ZIP code: 94116)

109. DOUGLAS ENGMANN (ZIP code: 94109)

Keep the appeals process for the public to object to tree removal

110. Cath Ann Giacomini-McDonald (ZIP code: 94116)

111. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94103)

112. Kerrie Walsh (ZIP code: 94116)

113. Maureen McVerry (ZIP code: 94107)

This is important rule that protects everyone in the city - do not cut down mature trees.

114. Lauren Meredith (ZIP code: 94121)

Trees are great for people who was to breathe, those who want to see something beautiful around them, those who want to heal quicker after illness... I really hate that they are killed for construction convenience.

115. Heather Davies (ZIP code: 94116)

Please do not change the review process for tree removal. It is essential for SF bird populations to retain this canopy. Trees are part of our beloved cultural landscape. Trees help lower the effects of urban heat islands. Trees take decades to mature and are not readily replaceable. Public review and input on tree removal should be retained.

116. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94122)

117. Laurette Tanner (ZIP code: 94122)

Trees help create the air we breathe

118. Rebecca Robertson (ZIP code: 94105)

119. Jonathan Maguire (ZIP code: 94116)

120. Merrill Randol (ZIP code: 94118)

121. Al hawley (ZIP code: 94118)

Alan wong this legislation is idiotic. You claim it is to provide in lieu fees for planting trees in high need

areas. YOUR DISTRICT is a HIGH NEEED AREA! Many of your streets lack adequate street trees. This and your work to allow more parking is in direct conflict with planning code seeking to improve permeability initially started because people were paving over all of the front right of way to park making your district one of the worst offenders for stormwater runoff and pollution.

122. Jascenta Napier (ZIP code: 94105)

123. Linda Bartlett (ZIP code: 04115)

Please save any trees and do not remove. We love the trees and they help our community to be beautiful and places for birds to build nests and survive.

124. aaron brick (ZIP code: 94134)

125. Margot Garey (ZIP code: 94115)

More, NOT less trees in San Francisco.

126. george williams (ZIP code: 94122)

127. Alan Shaw (ZIP code: 94103)

128. Rosa Maline (ZIP code: 94122)

Trees help to make streets and cities beautiful.

129. Sharon Harrison (ZIP code: 94118)

130. Peter Rothe (ZIP code: 94127-1848)

plant more trees

131. Norma Gengler (ZIP code: 94115)

Save our trees!

132. Eric Shackelford (ZIP code: 94116)

133. Karen Auby (ZIP code: 94116)

My supervisor, Mr Wong, is against trees and parks but very interested in adding more parking.

134. Jim Hannah (ZIP code: 94114)

Thanks for bringing this to our attention. More trees

135. Joel Sayre (ZIP code: 94122)

More Trees!

136. Diana Hazas (ZIP code: 94112)

Prioritize trees!!

137. Flannery Alber (ZIP code: 94116)

138. Mary Klipp (ZIP code: 94131)

139. Lance Carnes (ZIP code: 94133)

Last Name Carnes
Email lacarnes@gmail.com
Zip/Postal Code 94133

Comments

You may receive email updates from Joshua Klipp, the creator of this petition.

Protect San Francisco Trees!
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

It's one thing to streamline permits. It's another thing to harm the minimal green infrastructure SF has. Mayor Lurie wants to allow developers to choose between planting trees, or paying an inadequate fee to the City to do it instead. This means not only do we lose trees, but developers can permanently design over spaces that might have accommodated trees in the future.

Additionally, Mayor Lurie seeks to remove the public's right to appeal when a City department initiates a tree removal. This isn't about housing or development. This would include, for example, when SFMTA sought to remove every tree on Van Ness (~200) for the new bus lane. Or when SFDPW sought to remove every tree on 24th Street (~77) between Mission and Potrero. Or when Better Market Streets sought to remove every tree on Market Street for its new sidewalks (~700). If the public didn't have the right to appeal, these trees would be gone. Because of the appeals process, trees were saved, plans were revised, and City-community partnerships were formed.

Removing the public's right to appeal has nothing to do with streamlining, and everything to do with the fact that SFRPD broke the law, illegally removed trees, and got caught red-handed by the Board of Appeals. What's worse, if City-initiated tree removals aren't appealable, this incentivizes private developers to get the City to do its tree removals for them, on the taxpayer dime.

Tell Mayor Lurie that we can - and must - do better. For our trees, for the planet, and for our future.
Petition by
Gravatar
Joshua Klipp
San Francisco, California

To: San Francisco Board of Supervisors
From: Lance Carnes

Mayor Lurie and Supervisor Wong's proposals for San Francisco's street trees are disastrous. We already have the smallest urban canopy of any major city in the U.S., and our failure to invest in our City trees has allowed even this small tree canopy to decline. We ask you to not allow Developers to have the choice of planting trees or paying an inadequate fee. This will lead to even fewer trees on City streets.

And we ask you not to eliminate the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. These

appeals, for City projects, have nothing to do with expediting development. Additionally, these appeals have lead to innovative results, such as Mission Verde - one of the most innovative City/Community partnerships that resulted in 3x more trees being planted along the Mission District's 24th Street cultural corridor. Eliminating this right to appeal will result in City projects removing trees en masse without oversight, and will incentivize private developers to persuade the City to remove trees on the taxpayer dime.

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

City trees are SF assets (and beautiful greenery) that all citizens depend on for a living and beautiful means of keeping SF's air fresh and our environment green and thriving.

Removing taxpayers' ability to protest the removal of trees via hearings at DPW and Board of Appeals curtails our rights as citizens, to protect these important and health-giving assets.

Please keep current appeal processes in place.

Thank you,
Lance Carnes

140. Rosario Cervantes (*ZIP code: 94112*)
Greenery and growth of our city over developers any time

141. Nan Kornfeld (*ZIP code: 94122*)

142. Chloe Gonzalez Coyle (*ZIP code: 94124*)

143. Beth Patty (*ZIP code: 94122*)
Please keep our city green

144. Jeffrey Beck (*ZIP code: 94122*)

145. Deidra White (*ZIP code: 94118*)

146. Susan Spellman (*ZIP code: 94116*)

147. Lori Liederman (*ZIP code: 94122*)

148. Lael Robertson (*ZIP code: 94107*)

149. Kerri Finn (*ZIP code: 94118*)
Save our trees. We need shade, shelter, oxygen, beauty, preserving living things and homes for our neighboring critters. Leave nature only.

150. Usha Moss (*ZIP code: 94114*)

151. Patricia Sur (ZIP code: 94121)

152. Molly Hayden (ZIP code: 94117)

153. Cathy Morgan (ZIP code: 9413)

154. Judy Minton (ZIP code: 94107)

155. Christine Innes (ZIP code: 94107)

156. Alice Cassman (ZIP code: 94117)

Please protect the trees!

157. karen LARSEN (ZIP code: 94107)

We need our trees and have already lost too many. Please re-consider letting developers cut down trees without public input.

158. Kelly Vance (ZIP code: 94117)

159. Helen Vander Wende (ZIP code: 94122)

160. Jaimie VanPernis (ZIP code: 94118)

Save the trees!

161. Marguerite Felts (ZIP code: 94112)

162. Nikita Van beek (ZIP code: 94121)

163. James Estey (ZIP code: 94131)

Keep the trees and add a few more.

164. Cade Peterson (ZIP code: 94121)

165. Robin Grossinger (ZIP code: 94705-1082)

166. Susan Cronin Parano (ZIP code: 94121)

Because these trees are lovely and should not be cut down! A redwood especially ! We need more green!

167. JOAN M BRONER (ZIP code: 94122)

We need all trees & those trees need to stay!

168. Mara Sohm (ZIP code: 94115)

169. Paul Dohrmann (ZIP code: 94122)

Save trees and make the city more green.

170. Bradley Golden (ZIP code: 94117)

Something's wong, Lurie-ing the public to lose out to developers over trees is no bueno.

171. Kyung Choi (ZIP code: 94116)

SF needs more trees to keep the fresh environment as they produce oxygen far more than Carbon dioxide.

The developers are destroying SF's healthy, natural environment!

172. Blair Czarecki (ZIP code: 94109)

173. Brian Reyes (ZIP code: 94122)

174. Alan Carpenter (ZIP code: 94114)

175. Carolyn Kincaid (ZIP code: 94112)

176. Sharon Wilensky (ZIP code: 94122)

177. Don Ino (ZIP code: 94121)

Corporate developers cannot have carte blanche in disregarding neighborhood charm.

178. Rasa Moss (ZIP code: 94114)

179. David Kerby (ZIP code: 94114)

180. Michael Rothmann (ZIP code: 94133)

181. Susan Cieutat (ZIP code: 94102)

182. Jen dougherty (ZIP code: 94122)

Please stop destroying our beautiful city

183. Robert Sutton (ZIP code: 94127)

184. Sheila Fischer Kiernan (ZIP code: 94131)

185. Diem Tran (ZIP code: 94105)

186. Rebecca Misner (ZIP code: 94131)

187. Carolyn Johnston (*ZIP code: 94127*)

188. Ariane Eroy, Ph. D. (*ZIP code: 94121*)

Realtors, Developers, Investors too often care nothing about the people, or our City, or our beleaguered planet. Their buildings will not give us oxygen or sequester carbon dioxide. Yet Mayor Lurie and the Board has yet to stop them.

We demand that our politicians stop currying favor to the Wealthy, to Corporations, and to Developers. For their ethos is take-the-money-and run; their modality is selling our city to the highest bidder; and their corruption involves wheeling-and-dealing until the City collapses from their greed. Such short-sightedness proves that corporate Democrats ignore the Climate Emergency in favor of augmenting their campaign coffers -- at everyone's peril!

Wake up! Humanity is facing an existential crisis that will not be resolved by itself. Such a crisis demands that we focus on healing our environment as the number one issue of our time.

"_Our planet is trying to tell us something. But we don't seem to be listening. My dear friends, the American Museum of Natural History is the ideal place to make the point: This great museum tells the amazing story of our natural world--the vast forces that have shaped forces on life over billions of years. And Humanity is just one, small blip on the radar. But like the meteors which wiped out the dinosaurs, we are having an outsized impact. In the case of climate, we are not the dinosaurs. We are the meteor. We are not only in danger. We are the danger. But we are also the solution. This world over billions of years humanity is just a small blip. In the case of climate change, we are not the dinosaurs; we are the meteor. We are not in danger: We are the danger... But we are also the solution.

Antonio Guterres
UN Secretary General
June 2024

"When you destroy Mother Nature, you destroy yourself."
Maitreya

189. Scott Simons (*ZIP code: 94107*)

Really, no oversight, we might as well annex San Mateo to get more trees

Whenever I go to another city, the first thing I see is trees, and what a delight that is

Why the uphill struggle for the simplest of beauty and health

Can't we even agree on this?

190. Madhavan Rangaswami (*ZIP code: 94118*)

191. Xenia Rangaswami (*ZIP code: 94115*)

192. Anjali Rangaswami (*ZIP code: 94118*)

193. Paula Katz (*ZIP code: 94116*)

194. Bev Lips (ZIP code: 94121)

195. Irma Lewis (ZIP code: 94107)

To: SF Board of Supervisors

From: Irma Lewis

The current proposals for San Francisco's street trees are disastrous. SF has the smallest urban canopy of any major city in the U.S., and our failure to invest in our City trees has allowed even this small tree canopy to decline. This has direct, measurable health impacts, particularly our most vulnerable. We ask you to not allow Developers to have the choice of planting trees or paying a fee. This will lead to even fewer trees on City streets.

We ask you not to eliminate the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. These appeals, for City projects, don't impede development. They've actually led to innovative results, such as Mission Verde - one of the most innovative City/Community partnerships that resulted in 3x more trees being planted along the Mission District's cultural corridor. Eliminating this right to appeal will result in City projects removing trees en masse without oversight, and will incentivize private developers to persuade the City to remove trees on the taxpayer dime.

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

196. Thomas Herz (ZIP code: 94131)

197. Laura Griffiths (ZIP code: 94131)

198. Eva Daniel (ZIP code: 94115)

199. Lauren Jarrell (ZIP code: 94122)

Please do not allow this legislation to happen. We have already lost so many trees and have a very small urban canopy for a city of our size.

200. Anastasia Glikshtern (ZIP code: 94122)

We need the trees.

And the city is engaged in deforestation - in parks and open spaces. the street trees are under assault too...

201. Jessica Kalafati (ZIP code: 94114)

202. Anton Kalafati (ZIP code: 94114)

203. Raisa Chudnovskaya (ZIP code: 94118)

204. Eugene Bachmanov (ZIP code: 94118)

205. Susanna Klebaner (ZIP code: 94121)

206. Svetlana Savchuk (ZIP code: 94122)

207. Peter Glikshtern (*ZIP code: 94110*)

208. Elizabeth Gould (*ZIP code: 94114*)

209. Benjie Lasseau (*ZIP code: 94109*)

Save the trees please!

210. Michael Goodsmith (*ZIP code: 94109*)

211. Lorraine Petty (*ZIP code: 94115*)

The Lurie/Wong legislation is destructive to our trees, our neighborhoods, and the health of our people, as well as the power of citizens to oversee and overrule developer and government abuse.

212. Galina Gorodetsky (*ZIP code: 94552*)

213. Susan Vaughan (*ZIP code: 94121*)

214. Chrisanne Bradley (*ZIP code: 94131*)

Protect the trees!

215. Tod Elkins (*ZIP code: 94131*)

We must protect our trees in SF!

216. Patrick Villano (*ZIP code: 94117*)

217. Sem Lederman (*ZIP code: 94116*)

218. Janet Kessler (*ZIP code: 94114*)

219. Diana Scott (*ZIP code: 94116*)

Developers, like the MTA, like to cut trees to enable there projects. Planners need to consider the air we breathe as a planning priority. WE NEED OUR RIGHT TO APPEAL bad planning proposals, to insure this!

220. Daniel Detorie (*ZIP code: 94109*)

221. Diane Rivera (*ZIP code: 92011*)

Protect San Francisco Trees

222. Wendy Lowinger (*ZIP code: 94122*)

223. Jason jungreis (*ZIP code: 94121*)

224. Tim Bailey (*ZIP code: 94115*)

225. Sandy Weil (ZIP code: 94116-1160)

226. Dennis Rubenstein (ZIP code: 94110)

We need to protect what few trees we have in our city

227. Michele Liapes (ZIP code: 94109)

228. Christine Patch-Lindsay (ZIP code: 94122)

229. Noel Kelton (ZIP code: 94107)

Ty! And good luck; we need our trees!

230. Linda Zimmerman (ZIP code: 94116)

very unhappy with tree management on all levels in SF. I pay big taxes and feel my opinions should be heard. SF is looking less and less green.

231. judith zimrin (ZIP code: 94133)

we need more trees

232. Robert Heisler (ZIP code: 94116)

Lurie is gradually morphing into his real self: a fellow billionaire developer-enabling Maga republican. He has no regard for the wishes of the majority of the people of San Francisco and now that he is ensconced is steamrolling forward the maga machine in San Francisco.

233. Theresa potente (ZIP code: 94117-1703)

234. Betsy Eddy (ZIP code: 94131)

I feel that removing the public's write to appeal tree removal is a gift to developers and will encourage more developers to put buildings close to sidewalks. Please vote to preserve our green canopy.

235. Bree Brown (ZIP code: 94118-1435)

236. E B (ZIP code: 94110)

237. Carl Wendorf (ZIP code: 94127)

238. Howard Wong (ZIP code: 94133)

239. Claudette Brooks (ZIP code: 94124)

240. Rebecca Diaz (ZIP code: 94116)

241. Laurie Wen (ZIP code: 94110)

242. Carolyn Doran (ZIP code: 94116)

More trees, but maintain the sidewalks. Less parking. People have to wake up to climate change and tree desert pockets of dangerous heat

243. Claudia Kindler (ZIP code: 94112)

244. Erik Greenfrost (ZIP code: 94124)

245. Elaine Chan-Scherer (ZIP code: 94122)

Trees add so much character to the City. They increase property value. They clean the air. Old trees are valuable in ways that touch the soul. Protect the trees!

246. Maureen Gonzalez (ZIP code: 941105913)

247. Andrea Galvin (ZIP code: 94121)

Please protect and expand San Francisco's tree canopy! Trees beautify the city, provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, provide increasingly needed shade in the warmer months (and rain protection in winter, are shown to improve people's mental health and sense of well being, and do more to calm traffic on streets than all the BS Muni is wasting our money on. We should be investing in more trees, not making it easier to chop them down.

248. Kayla Dzurek (ZIP code: 94112)

249. Lucy Hilmer (ZIP code: 94121)

250. Bruce Allen (ZIP code: 94132)

251. Elsa Townsend (ZIP code: 94109)

Remember how bad the air quality gets when forests are burning? Tree canopies provide a vital way of purifying smoky air!

252. Arthur Adams (ZIP code: 94121)

253. Laurie Chaprack (ZIP code: 94116)

254. Carolyn White (ZIP code: 94131)

Trees and green space are critical elements of our city., for the health and well being of all people.

255. Leslie Koelsch (ZIP code: 94114)

256. Roger Underhill (ZIP code: 94132)

257. Kathleen Hallinan (ZIP code: 94147-0124)

258. sara coe (ZIP code: 94110)

259. Nadine May (ZIP code: 94118)

260. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94133)

261. Cathryn Lewis (ZIP code: 94122)

WE need our trees as they are the key to our health and welfare.....practically and aesthetically.....please protect our city!! WE voted for you Mayor Lurie and now we need to count on you to do the right thing!!

262. Patricia Acosta (ZIP code: 94114)

cities need trees! They make a city more beautiful and more livable! And they make our air cleaner. Let's have more oak trees, and thus help the pollinators thrive! this is so important.

263. Michael McCauslin (ZIP code: 94112)

San Francisco trees are precious!

264. Nancy Spangler (ZIP code: 94127)

Maintain the Green Canopy.

265. Judith Dancer (ZIP code: 94132)

Trees are an important part of our ecosystem for breathing and wellbeing. Our ancestors had it right! Keep the trees and stand for beauty!

266. Victoria Duffett (ZIP code: 94116)

There has been a shocking - and frankly ugly - amount of tree clearing around the city. I urge restraint from such great swaths of tree removals!

267. Kim Smith (ZIP code: 94117)

We need trees.

268. Richard & Gail Manso (ZIP code: 94109)

269. Diane Navarro (ZIP code: 94134)

Save our trees

270. Gandhia Andrews (ZIP code: 94132)

271. Dennis Ainslie (ZIP code: 94121)

272. Lois Brady (ZIP code: 94123)

273. Denise Selleck (ZIP code: 94122)

274. Laure Cleveland (ZIP code: 49770)

Except for the non-native, invasive, fire-hazard, eucalyptus! Please replace them with native trees. Thanks.

275. Helen Strain (ZIP code: 94132)

276. Susan richmond (ZIP code: 94118)

Trees in San Francisco are essential to its beauty and good for wind mitigation, shade, etc. It has taken decades to get them planted (thank you, Friends of the Urban Forest) and must not be destroyed.

277. Ana Malinow (ZIP code: 94117)

278. David Richardson (ZIP code: 94131)

279. Olga Ryerson (ZIP code: 94110)

Don't remove our right to appeal to the Board of Appeals.

280. Bud Ryerson (ZIP code: 94110)

I hope I'm not too late. Please let me know what else I can do.

281. Barbara Kivowitz (ZIP code: 94131)

282. Monika Pietraszek (ZIP code: 94122)

Please protect our tree and tree canopy.

283. Micah Barth-Rogers (ZIP code: 94121)

284. Karla McElroy (ZIP code: 94122)

Pls. Mayor Lurie & Borad of Supervisors don't permit this legislative change. People 1st! Let our voices be heard, it's the democratic thing to do... Karla - SF Resident

285. Stephen McGurin (ZIP code: 94118)

286. Kathleen McCowin (ZIP code: 94116)

Stop cutting down our trees!

287. Herb Leong (ZIP code: 94134)

288. Amy Meyer (ZIP code: 94121)

289. Christine Hall (ZIP code: 94117)

290. Ramona Draeger (ZIP code: 94117)

291. C K (ZIP code: 94044)

292. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94121)

293. Frances Rapoport (ZIP code: 94904)

Our urban environments will slowly become sterile and perhaps toxic without the plants and trees our ancestors flourished with

294. Suzanne Dumont (ZIP code: 94127)

Trees are a critical part of the respiratory health of San Franciscans. Do not allow profit driven developers decide the fate of our precious trees.

295. Tracy Castle (ZIP code: 94131)

296. Wesley Saunders (ZIP code: 94112)

297. Shannon King (ZIP code: 94115)

Trees are absolutely key to the beauty of a city. All you have to do is look at Paris. Their trees are well organized in species and trimmed regularly. We need more trees not less.

298. Gretchen Turner (ZIP code: 94112-1307)

No right to appeal a removal. They could take out beautiful, established trees that are decades old to make for better residential "views", while the rest of us suffer with no shade!

299. Marilyn Tredinnick (ZIP code: 94127)

Trees are so important to our city. Please build our city for the future, not just the present.

300. Barry Hermanson (ZIP code: 94116)

Josh,

Thanks very much for your work on growing and protecting the urban canopy.

Barry

301. James Parke (ZIP code: 94122)

It has been a long hard slog to increase the livability of San Francisco. Key to that is increasing the arboreal canopy for its aesthetics and for the healthy rain capture for our aquifer. More green space equals more healthy clean water to drink. This is not a Trump state, people matter and we want a green haven from real estate seas of concrete.

302. Charles Bush (ZIP code: 94115)

We are rapidly losing our already too small tree canopy.

303. Janie Lucas (ZIP code: 94110)

304. Yolanda Catzalco (ZIP code: 94110)

305. Leslie de Taillandier (ZIP code: 94109)

306. Daniel Strickland (ZIP code: 94114)

Our trees help make San Francisco beautiful and a more desirable place to live and work. We need to protect them.

307. Stephen Gorski (ZIP code: 94116)

308. Jane Bliss (ZIP code: 94117)

309. Kim Russo (ZIP code: 94122-2923)

Please keep our city green. We need trees! They are good for us and the wildlife in our city.

310. Calvin Lau (ZIP code: 94115)

311. Bette Stockton (ZIP code: 94133)

312. David Fairley (ZIP code: 94110)

313. Lisa Signoff (ZIP code: 94122)

Please save our trees!

314. ALEX KRINEY (ZIP code: 94117)

315. Norma Yazbek (ZIP code: 94137)

316. Georges Yazbek (ZIP code: 94127)

317. Dori Yazbek (ZIP code: 94127)

318. Helen Ferentinos (ZIP code: 94114)

Keep trees where they are. And, when possible, add MORE TREES!

319. Dorothy Niccolls (ZIP code: 94121)

320. Connie Begg (ZIP code: 94122)

321. Olena Beyer (ZIP code: 94127-1037)

322. Irene Nishimura (ZIP code: 94102)

Trees help clean the environment of greenhouse gases. We should encourage the planting of trees.

323. Kelly Torres (ZIP code: 94134)

Stop runaway developers!! Our trees matter and so does permitting to build. That's why the system is in place and it should NOT be altered for greedy developers and their supporters

324. Ray Rauen (*ZIP code: 94134*)

325. Erica Chiarucci (*ZIP code: 94122*)

326. James Collector (*ZIP code: 94118*)

Trees are priceless and no policy should result in SF having fewer trees over time.

327. Noa Beharav (*ZIP code: 94127*)

328. Jeanne Choy Tate (*ZIP code: 94110*)

329. Joel VanderWerf (*ZIP code: 94103*)

I have lived for almost 30 years in SoMa, which had nearly zero trees in 1996. Over the years dedicated volunteers have organized plantings and gotten property developers to contribute. We now have much prettier streets, which visitors frequently compliment. This is not about "streamlining". It's about quality of life, city pride, and welcoming visitors.

330. Melinda Dart (*ZIP code: 94112*)

It is wrong to allow developers to deplete our tree canopy. Doing so will degrade our environment all over the city. Please stand up for our right to be connected to nature, birds, life. Don't turn our whole city into a high rise.

331. Marigrace Cohen (*ZIP code: 94116*)

332. elaine benoit (*ZIP code: 94112*)

No, No, No. We need more trees. We need the right to appeal tree removal.. No to developers having trees removed at taxpayers expense.

333. Lisa Platt (*ZIP code: 94123*)

334. Gae Conte (*ZIP code: 94123*)

335. Deborah J. Nosowsky (*ZIP code: 94131*)

336. gene hwang (*ZIP code: 94103*)

337. Ellen Stephens (*ZIP code: 94127*)

338. Denise Chu (*ZIP code: 94134*)

They wiped out all the trees at the dead end of Raymond Ave. Truly disgusted and no notice. It was like a massacre.

339. JoAnn Yates (ZIP code: 94116)

I am particularly annoyed with Supervisor Wong supporting this initiative. D4 may easily have the least number of trees in the city, trees that are extremely important for our health as has been demonstrated by science over and over again. Do not make it easier to remove trees.

340. Kindra Scharich (ZIP code: 94109)

341. Mary Cervantes (ZIP code: 94121)

Please protect the trees!!! For the future wellbeing of humankind.

342. Maria Sousa (ZIP code: 94131)

343. John Ripley (ZIP code: 94110)

344. Doreen Gotelli (ZIP code: 94080)

345. Mary McAllister (ZIP code: 94116)

San Francisco is a cold, windy place, which was treeless prior to settlement. It has been systematically destroying its urban forest for decades. Stop San Francisco's war on trees.

346. Betty Jo Swanson (ZIP code: 94133-2021)

347. Jennifer Cook (ZIP code: 94123)

Mayor Lurie, you must do better for the future of our beautiful city. The city's trees are our reminders of nature's beauty - they aid in our happiness & the planet's well-being.

348. Don Bliss (ZIP code: 94110)

349. Laura Maguire (ZIP code: 94124)

SF already has one of the smallest tree canopies of a major metropolitan area in the US and needs to focus on adding a lot more trees and quickly. With increasingly extreme weather caused by global warming, any measure to streamline the removal of trees, when there is an urgent need to plant trees, would be shortsighted to say the very least. Making it easy to remove trees should not be a priority for this mayor. Please focus on what we urgently need—a much greater tree canopy.

350. Christopher Plaskett (ZIP code: 94110)

351. Diana Gilbert (ZIP code: 94134)

352. Anastasia Yovanopoulos (ZIP code: 94114)

353. Ryan Boswell (ZIP code: 94110)

We need to maintain and grow the green spaces in this city to be able to have healthy, livable streets and communities. Walking down a street lined with trees versus walking down a glass and concrete corridor are wildly different experiences, and a lifeless streetscape makes a neighborhood feel less

welcoming and comfortable. City departments and developers should not have unquestioned power to harm our communities like this.

354. sofia vilsker (ZIP code: 94122)

355. Dan Hasegawa (ZIP code: 94015)

356. Karen Schulkin (ZIP code: 94127)

357. Rupinder Baidwan (ZIP code: 94122-2557)

358. MARLAYNE Morgan (ZIP code: 94109)

359. Nathalie Paven (ZIP code: 94117)

360. Stan Hayes (ZIP code: 94133)

361. Susan Karpenko (ZIP code: 94122)

Trees are essential to keeping our air clean and provide protection and food for wildlife. Progreen!

362. Raphael Stricker (ZIP code: 94127)

363. Margaret Stroad (ZIP code: 94127)

364. Jacqueline Westby (ZIP code: 94112)

365. Mahin Charles (ZIP code: 94110)

366. Patricia Carazo (ZIP code: 94112)

367. Peter Walbridge (ZIP code: 94107)

368. Anna Abeyta (ZIP code: 94112)

Trees are important for the air quality of our city. Please continue to allow citizens to appeal the removal of trees by developers and others that might want to remove trees. Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

369. Barbara Handler (ZIP code: 94110-5112)

PLEASE stop turning SF into Manhattan. YES, we need housing, but throwing up all these ugly, identical looking high rises in pretty & old neighborhoods and then also cutting down the trees ruins the entire character of SF AND is terrible for the climate and our air here.

370. Marilyn Ho (ZIP code: 94134)

Your organization is supposed to save trees one at a time. Right now we are close to the loss of 400

trees in the Park within about 2 years. I don't know how clear cuttings of a glove are possible. I hope your organization can come up with a guideline to relate it to the new Mayor's office. This tree-cutting activity is not limited to McLaren Park. There are alarming numbers of trees being taken down for weak reasons, i.e. fire, safety, and sunlight for future native plants. I have a friend who is a McLaren Collective volunteer who planted a native garden in the park and watched it being neglected and died. Is there a timeline for replanting any of the trees? So far I haven't seen anything.

Climate Change is a real threat and cutting down a large number of trees that's been here for 75 yrs is not a solution. We can stop this madness.
Thank you for your attention.

371. An anonymous signer (*ZIP code: 94107*)

372. Nancy Keane (*ZIP code: 94118-3523*)

We need more trees, not fewer trees! I'd support a new law requiring developers to double the number of existing trees.

373. James Edwards (*ZIP code: 94131*)

374. Amanda Rodriguez (*ZIP code: 94110*)

Trees are vital for all of our health. Please prioritize them!

375. Ronnie Zuckerberg (*ZIP code: 94131*)

376. Carol Faulkner (*ZIP code: 94116*)

377. Megann Sept (*ZIP code: 94110*)

378. Christel Henderson (*ZIP code: 94124*)

379. Rosana Castrillo Diaz (*ZIP code: 94110*)

380. Francisco Beltran (*ZIP code: 94121*)

381. Bill Snyder (*ZIP code: 94121*)

382. Rachel Aloy (*ZIP code: 94118*)

383. Barbara Butler (*ZIP code: 94116*)

Protect San Francisco trees and continue to create a future with more trees!

384. Marc Duffett (*ZIP code: 94116*)

If property owners are required to pay for the upkeep and replacement of sidewalks, then they should at least have the right to appeal the fate of the trees that are so important to the shared character of our neighborhoods and the city at large.

385. Carolyn Shuman (ZIP code: 94127-1128)

386. Lisa Bayan (ZIP code: 94118)

We need trees not concrete.

The public should have a voice

387. Jua Burciaga (ZIP code: 94112)

388. Linda Twigfire (ZIP code: 94107)

389. Gretchen Addi (ZIP code: 94127)

390. Susan Bostrom-Wong (ZIP code: 94121)

I hav planted 6 street trees in San Francisco through Urban Forest. We need more trees in our city. Protect what everyone have now and in the future.

391. Laurie Dunlap (ZIP code: 94115)

We need MORE trees, no fewer. Protect our trees and plant more.

392. Elizabeth Doyle (ZIP code: 94112-1335)

We need more trees in San Francisco, and they should be part of any new planning project. The public should be allowed to appeal when tree removals affect them.

393. laureen bergeron (ZIP code: 94110)

394. shoshanah dobry (ZIP code: 94124)

We need tree canopy for the overall health of the City. If a developer decides to remove a tree then they should pay a \$10K fine/tree & plant the same # of trees in a comparable space before they can move forward on that particular project.

395. Douglas Flinn (ZIP code: 94116)

396. Elizabeth DiMicco (ZIP code: 94127)

397. Steve Lumley (ZIP code: 94127)

398. Thomas Yaussy (ZIP code: 94114)

399. sue denlinger (ZIP code: 94131)

400. Dorothy Ruggles (ZIP code: 94127)

Please do not allow this unchecked and unwarranted tree cutting around the city.

401. Laura Kemp (ZIP code: 94134)

As a neighbor who has been actively involved in helping plant trees in my neighborhood and my street, I am for planting more street trees in our urban areas. Trees are necessary for a healthier environment, our personal and collective wellbeing, and help bring beauty and grace to our concrete spaces. Any proposal to remove the city's urban tree canopy without community input is preposterous and undemocratic. I am strongly opposed. Thank you.

402. stacy thompson (ZIP code: 94117)

403. martin zanfardino (ZIP code: 94133-2957)

404. Dianne Prichard (ZIP code: 94117)

What is their reasoning for God's sake? Partnered with developers? Very suspicious. Especially, if they don't care about input from voters. Cutting down healthy trees in SF is a diminution of lifestyle.

405. Susan Mullaney (ZIP code: 94122)

This is a really horrible loophole for developers that harms the rest of us. Once the sidewalk can't accommodate a tree well the opportunity will never come back. And removing the right to appeal is too totalitarian for our city.

406. Momoko Otani (ZIP code: 94123)

407. Callie Floor (ZIP code: 94117)

408. Michael Rich (ZIP code: 94112)

We need nature.

409. Revel P (ZIP code: 94116)

410. Dory Culver (ZIP code: 94109-2304)

411. Elaine Bonn (ZIP code: 94116)

412. Phillip Battaglia (ZIP code: 94114)

413. Victor Stern (ZIP code: 94127)

414. Margaret Sletteland (ZIP code: 94133)

415. Caroline Strongman (ZIP code: 94122)

416. Debolina Dutta (ZIP code: 94112)

This makes no sense. Why would the city make it less livable by removing and then allowing developers the opportunity to bypass planting trees. There are numerous social, environmental and quality of life benefits that's trees bring.

This is yet another way Mayor Lurie is NOT the people's mayor and rather developers' mayor.

417. Sandy S.Alvarez (ZIP code: 94122)

Please keep our city with lungs and green areas for our overall health.

418. Mitch Dalition (ZIP code: 94117)

419. Darlene Horton (ZIP code: 94107)

Please develop a sustainable plan to maintain and increase trees, even with new developments.

420. Deetje Boler (ZIP code: 94115-4261)

The change to this process that is needed, if any, would be 1) to increase the penalty for any tree removals to the point that there would be fewer proposed and 2) to encourage (maybe even fund) neighborhood residents (perhaps focused on teens?) to foster new plantings on their streets.

421. Debra Levin (ZIP code: 94114)

We need more trees not less- it's crucial to the beauty & health of San Francisco

422. Nathan Lang (ZIP code: 94121)

423. Karen Metro (ZIP code: 94116)

424. Kasia Shopov (ZIP code: 94122)

425. Richard Darrough (ZIP code: 94117)

It's obvious that SF has too few trees.

Good planning will provide them along with the badly needed affordable housing.

426. Kayleigh Henson (ZIP code: 94121)

I find it astounding how little is required of real estate developers for the privilege of doing business in SF and the millions upon millions they reap in profits. Yet for some reason the city seems entirely willing to let them off the hook for even the smallest of benefits. The idea that they can pay a negligible fee so they don't have to plant some trees says something deeply sad about the mayor's priorities. And the developers. And the soul of this city. Who, other than a movie villain, wants fewer trees in urban settings. Please don't move forward with this.

427. Joan Varrone (ZIP code: 94114)

Trees have so many benefits to a tree canopy and we must protect the trees.

428. Laura Burciaga (ZIP code: 94112)

429. Shoshana Lavinghouse (ZIP code: 94118)

430. Dolores Perez Heilbron (ZIP code: 94109)

Please stop these developers from causing further destruction to the natural growth of trees! Thank you.

431. Cindy Navarro (ZIP code: 94112)

432. Regina Sneed (ZIP code: 94109)

There used to be a street tree advisory committee that took the role of protecting our canopy of trees in the city. With climate change we need more trees and green spaces for air quality, reduction of heat etc.

433. Jamie Delman (ZIP code: 94103)

434. Rosemary Booth (ZIP code: 94118)

Never remove the public's right to appeal.

435. Yasuyo Satoh (ZIP code: 94109)

Tokyo is one of the highly populated cities. They still keep trees. They make the city look beautiful and refreshing.

436. Kristap Baltin (ZIP code: 94114)

437. Terry Baum (ZIP code: 94114)

438. Yuko Franklin (ZIP code: 94131)

439. Alessandra Kameron (ZIP code: 94109)

I affirm the importance of retaining the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removal in San Francisco. We have every reason to expect that the number of removed trees would easily eclipse the number that would be planted to replace them. Similarly, we are already losing, due to age and disease, trees that are not being replaced. Giving potentially unrestricted preference to developer dollars will only compound this condition.

440. Janet Freeman (ZIP code: 94121)

441. Cynthia Joe (ZIP code: 94109)

442. Victoria Kirby (ZIP code: 94109)

Trees are so important, especially in a city. We need more trees, not less!

443. Bianca Molgora (ZIP code: 94110)

444. Chris Bunga (ZIP code: 94117)

445. Denise O'Sullivan (ZIP code: 94118)

Trees are beautiful and healing.

446. joyce fishman (ZIP code: 94109)

447. Robin Phillips (ZIP code: 94131)

448. Vera Genkin (ZIP code: 94116)

449. Gail Colombo (ZIP code: 94127)

We need trees, leave them alone. And do not dare to remove the citizen's right to appeal! Fascism has no place in America.

450. Sophia Andary (ZIP code: 94121)

451. David Eldred (ZIP code: 94122)

We need trees and the PUBLIC right to make policy and decisions.

452. Suzanne Smith (ZIP code: 94109)

453. Cathy Cohn (ZIP code: 94122)

454. Karen Tarantola (ZIP code: 94127)

455. Lynn Morgenstern (ZIP code: 94901)

456. iona Ali (ZIP code: 94112)

457. Nancy Edmonson (ZIP code: 94132)

PLANT More Trees! Do Not Cut Them Down. We need green, not dirt.

458. Marlene Tran (ZIP code: 94134)

Given the urgency of global warming and for the beautification of our cities, we must preserve all our precious trees. Never allow the cutting of any grandfather trees!

459. Winnie Tsang (ZIP code: 94134)

Please DON'T cut down any of our beautiful trees in our City. Let them thrive.

460. Hatun Noguera (ZIP code: 94127)

461. Margaret Goeden (ZIP code: 94116)

I oppose this misguided effort to reduce accountability and silence the public, regarding the public's ability to request review of tree removal by the city. Thank you

462. Bronwyn Gundogdu (ZIP code: 94122)

I am very upset with the ongoing removal of trees throughout the city, and very upset with this plan to stop the appeals process re: tree removal. San Francisco is a high density city - and in many areas an ugly tree desert. The Mayor and the Board of Supervisors should be protecting our already scant tree coverage and promoting increased greening of our city.

463. Tony Villa (ZIP code: 94122-2807)

Park and Rec is out of control! They are bleeding the city of money and are poorly run.

464. Mary OConnell (ZIP code: 94123)

465. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94122)

Urban forests keep cities alive in multiple ways.

466. Kyle DeWolfe (ZIP code: 94109)

The State wants more housing, the residents of San Francisco want more trees!

467. Nancy Donnelly (ZIP code: 94121)

Please don't cut the trees down during demolition at the old hospital on Sacramento street! Work around them!! We need them!

468. Heather Estes (ZIP code: 94116)

Of course we need the right to appeal removing trees!

469. Joshua Prieto (ZIP code: 94122)

470. Shamika Klassen (ZIP code: 94115)

471. Savannah Schoelen (ZIP code: 94122)

472. Qian Wan (ZIP code: 94103)

Trees are needed

473. Christine Segalas (ZIP code: 94107)

474. Kristina Cooper (ZIP code: 94107)

What a terrible plan!! We need to PLANT trees not remove them

475. Sebastian Forst (ZIP code: 94114)

476. Samara Laxineta (ZIP code: 94121)

477. Anna Papitto (ZIP code: 94131)

478. Alice Rogers (ZIP code: 94107)

479. Debbie Bowman (ZIP code: 94107)

480. Abigail Kroch (ZIP code: 94107)

481. Rose Arrieta (ZIP code: 94110)

Please don't silence us. Support our planet and our future.

482. Shalmali Bane (ZIP code: 94103)

483. Joseph Barrett (ZIP code: 94127)

484. Collin Tharp (ZIP code: 94107)

485. Adam Lippe (ZIP code: 94122)

486. Elena Giacomani (ZIP code: 94110)

487. Teja Pattabhiraman (ZIP code: 94117)

488. Marisa Johnson (ZIP code: 94115)

Please do not cut down any planted mature trees that can be saved. Takes years with newly planted.

489. Jen Fowler (ZIP code: 94131)

490. Harold Klingsporn (ZIP code: 94109)

Residents need a voice in such changes to liveability

491. W Chan (ZIP code: 94102)

Trees in cities are a great benefit for those who walk or roll. They also beautify our communities and increase real estate values. Keep the trees promised by the developers!

492. Josh Jagerman (ZIP code: 94103)

493. KATINA ANTOINE (ZIP code: 94107)

Respect nature. Leave the trees alone, the community has a right to object this action.

494. Josh Bruck (ZIP code: 94131)

Don't take away the right to appeal the cutting of trees!

495. Rebecca Hardy (ZIP code: 94107)

496. Patrick Monette-Shaw (ZIP code: 94109)

In addition to removing the public's right to appeal tree removals, Mayor Lurie's "Commission Streamlining Task Force" has recommended eliminating the "Urban Forestry Council" completely, and assigning the Forestry Council's oversight duties to the Commission on the Environment — if (a big if) the Environment Commission deigns to take on the oversight functions of the Forestry Council. The Streamlining Task Force also simultaneously recommended taking the Environment Commission out of the City Charter, moving it to the Administrative Code, and converting it from a "regulatory body" to an "advisory body," slapping a three-year sunset date on the Environment Commission, and taking

budget approval authority over the Environment Department away from the Environment Commission. Applying a sunset date opens the door to the Environment Commission being shut down by the Board of Supervisors anytime in the future.

The Urban Forestry Council was created by the Board of Supervisors 22 years ago in July 2003 under the "Precautionary Principle" to manage trees in San Francisco by emphasizing public participation in the preservation and expansion of the urban forest before causing actual environmental harm — including through illegal tree removal and greedy developers avoiding responsibility to protect and expand our urban canopy.

In addition to writing the Board of Supervisors about stopping the Mayor's removal of citizen appeals of tree removals, also consider writing separately to the Board of Supervisors asking them to overturn the Streamlining Task Force's decision to eliminate the Urban Forestry Council and decision to take the Environment Commission out of the City Charter and apply a sunset date to the Environment Commission!

Through public pressure and advocacy, the Streamlining Task Force just overturned its initial decision to eliminate the "Reentry Council," showing public pressure works. Contact the Streamlining Task Force at CommissionStreamlining@sfgov.org to overturn eliminating the Urban Forestry Council too!

After all, any District Supervisor who approves any of the Mayor's tree removal or commission reform "streamlining" goals should face recall from office, just as Joel Engardio was recalled!

— Patrick Monette-Shaw

497. Richie Vasquez (*ZIP code: 94103*)

498. Teresa Palmer (*ZIP code: 94117-1219*)

499. Arthur Paul Cartier (*ZIP code: 94117-1219*)

500. Laurel Myers (*ZIP code: 94107*)

501. Diana Anderson (*ZIP code: 94117*)

Trees give us livability in an increasingly concrete city. They reduce heat in summer, block some wind tunnels and exchange carbon dioxide for oxygen. They take a LONG TIME to GROW- but only an hour to destroy

502. Andrea Biltagi (*ZIP code: 94102*)

503. Frank Lorch (*ZIP code: 94122*)

504. Nicky Trasvina (*ZIP code: 94132*)

Please stop this attack on SF residents, SF trees, and SF birds. San Francisco, as beautiful as it is, still needs our trees for a healthier environment! We also need to follow the law when it comes to protecting our trees from any City department or developer whose intention is to destroy this vital environmental factor that contributes to the health and beauty of San Francisco. What would Saint Francis say ? !

505. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94103)

506. Jayme Kogel (ZIP code: 94103)

507. Paul Giese (ZIP code: 94103)

508. Wendy Oakes (ZIP code: 94117)

He just lost my vote. This is disgusting

509. Norm Ishimoto (ZIP code: 94116-1246)

We have had a Mayten in front of our house since, hmmm, 30 years? From a FUF campaign. SFPW has been erratic at irregular intervals, thankfully infrequent, in its attentions. Wife and I would be highly upset if we came home from shopping and found our Mayten was a stump or badly trimmed.

510. Linda R Miller (ZIP code: 94121)

PLEASE DO NOT CUT DOWN ANY TREES - THE BIRDS NEED THEM FOR MANY REASONS AND PEOPLE NEED BEAUTY AND SHADE.

511. Catherine Valentine (ZIP code: 94127-2143)

512. Nikhil Gowda (ZIP code: 94103)

File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban

513. Daniel Dokovna (ZIP code: 94103)

Protect our trees.

514. Kelly Fitzgerald (ZIP code: 94116)

Plant trees!

515. Zachariah Spellman (ZIP code: 94116)

We need our trees to breathe the breeze.

516. Jake Hanft (ZIP code: 94114)

517. Barbara Save PRATO (ZIP code: 94131-1161)

Save our beautiful native __. I was shocked to see Washington Park without that tree. WHY? Please now replace with a __.

518. Julia Ready (ZIP code: 94114)

Cutting trees to

Improve sidewalks passage - can be replaced with trees that have a better root system.

519. Sybil Meyer (ZIP code: 94131)

SF doesn't need less foliage!

520. Leah Edwards (ZIP code: 94103)

521. Nancy Burrill (ZIP code: 94109-6553)

522. Eric Oesterling (ZIP code: 94115)

523. Carole Issel (ZIP code: 94127-2212)

I was born in San Francisco 82 years ago. The public must have the right to appeal when the City initiates a tree removal. Greenery purifies our air and gives space to our wildlife. Too many trees have been destroyed by the City already. We have to protect them.

524. Loren Jones (ZIP code: 94127)

525. Kasey Rios (ZIP code: 94102)

To be the vibrant world-class city San Francisco aims for we must increase investment in forest canopy.

This means: protecting the trees we have, planting trees proportionate to development and respecting public process.

526. Terence Craig (ZIP code: 94109)

Removing the right to appeal would, of course, streamline new development, but at a considerable cost to beauty of the city. I say keep the right of appeal.

527. David Singer (ZIP code: 94103)

528. Keith Robert Saggars (ZIP code: 94133)

529. Elissa Matross (ZIP code: 94114)

I love trees

530. Shawn Agarwal (ZIP code: 94103)

Trees are a part of our community and neighbors shouldn't be stripped of our rights to advocate for them if necessary to protect them.

531. Annie Pearson (ZIP code: 94121)

Daniel Lurie is just here for the billionaires. Gross.

532. Victoria Isyanova (ZIP code: 94132)

533. Linda Hayashi (ZIP code: 94118)

534. Tom Duffy (ZIP code: 94127)

We need more trees not less. It's terrible what Parks and Rec is doing at Golden Gate Parkl. They took down a healthy 150 year old tree in the middle of Hellman meadow that was joy to behold. They also cut down many of the trees around the meadow. They are denuding Lake Merritt on the side

opposite to Fort Funston.

535. Brian Glennon (*ZIP code: 94132*)

Trees over developers!

536. Philip Schwartz (*ZIP code: 94107*)

537. Maryann Hrichak (*ZIP code: 94117*)

538. Jeanine Hawk (*ZIP code: 94116*)

Trees are an important part of our neighborhoods. Don't let developers buy out.

539. Juliette Hayes (*ZIP code: 94118*)

540. Mahon McGrath (*ZIP code: 94110*)

541. Angela DePaul (*ZIP code: 94133*)

542. Ton-Yun Fang (*ZIP code: 94114*)

543. Ann MacAndrew (*ZIP code: 94112*)

544. Alexander Koodrin (*ZIP code: 94131*)

545. Sebra Leaves (*ZIP code: 94110*)

Why do you want to cut the trees that are sequestering the carbon that would otherwise go into the air and are a major source for cooling our city?

546. Allyson Browne (*ZIP code: 94131*)

547. Marc Brenman (*ZIP code: 94110*)

548. Shelby Morales (*ZIP code: 94015*)

Our trees and green spaces provide immeasurable benefit to the air we breathe and the wild birds and other critters which enrich our lives. They must be responsibly stewarded, not sold out to developers who's primary concern is their bottom line.

549. Poppy Gilman (*ZIP code: 94122*)

550. Richard Rothman (*ZIP code: 94121*)

551. carole holt (*ZIP code: 94122*)

552. Steve Ensminger (ZIP code: 94117)

Why do city department hate trees so much?

553. Paula Lynch (ZIP code: 94131)

554. Joan Anyon (ZIP code: 94114)

555. Thomas Baker (ZIP code: 94131)

The presence of trees has been shown to improve urban environments.

556. Susan Weisberg (ZIP code: 94133)

557. Rosemary Jarrett (ZIP code: 94105)

Environmental mitigation requires more trees, not fewer.

Development must require trees,

Not a fee.

558. Gabrielle Jenny (ZIP code: 94114)

Who will take care of the trees eventually

559. carlita martinez (ZIP code: 94110)

We must respect and encourage our natural world, trees, to survive in the urban jungle of San Francisco..

Trees are for our health and safety. Do Not remove the public right to appeal!

560. Rachel Smith (ZIP code: 94127)

561. Joanne McGrail (ZIP code: 94127)

562. David Mold (ZIP code: 94123)

563. Clare B (ZIP code: 94122)

564. Laura Ehlert (ZIP code: 94111-2322)

565. Kathleen White (ZIP code: 94122)

We need more trees in SF not fewer. Increase street tree care and keep developer tree requirement!

566. Rochelle Kimball (ZIP code: 94110)

You like oxygen. You need trees to make it.

567. Maria Sanchez (ZIP code: 94110)

Trees are the lungs of the city, and beautify wherever they are located.

568. Caroline Ayres (ZIP code: 94103)

Trees are critical to fresh air and keeping temperatures down in the city. For those of us that don't have a garden or yard street trees are critical for sanity and health.

569. Mike O'Donnell (ZIP code: 94127)

S.F. school children should take part in planting seedlings of various native trees and, at the end of the school year, either turn them over to an agency or community group to plant them where possible. The City's tree canopy should expand, not dwindle.

570. Kevin Green (ZIP code: 94116)

571. Christine Beard (ZIP code: 94122)

Healthy trees should not be removed without public notice, and the public should reserve the right to oppose any such removal.

572. AjaiNicole Duncan (ZIP code: 94131)

573. Tom Heinz (ZIP code: 94109)

I love trees and I want to have a say in when they are to be removed or eliminated from a project. I don't want to block progress, but I want to be sure trees are part of the plan.

574. Karen Fishkin (ZIP code: 94117)

Trees are precious, as is the right of the public to speak on issues that affect their quality of life. Remember, "BY the people."

575. Alice Mosley (ZIP code: 94117)

576. Joy North (ZIP code: 94116)

577. Darrell Jan (ZIP code: 94116)

People should not be able to simply pay inadequate fees to remove trees.

578. Joel Darnel (ZIP code: 94122)

Let us be green!

579. Johanna hart (ZIP code: 94116)

we need trees

580. Beth Custer (ZIP code: 94110-5208)

Please leave San Francisco's beautiful tree canopies alone.

581. Mary Skinner (ZIP code: 94127)

582. Deborah Murphy (ZIP code: 94122-1505)

583. Cindy Abbott (ZIP code: 94044)

584. Linda Dallin (ZIP code: 94110)

585. Sara Goetz (ZIP code: 94110)

586. Jeneal Granieri (ZIP code: 94122)

Please let people question some tree removal for reasons other than health of the tree.

587. Diana Taylor (ZIP code: 94111)

588. Nancy McAuliffe (ZIP code: 94127)

589. Pat Caverro (ZIP code: 94115)

590. Joseph Phair (ZIP code: 94127)

591. Lisa Kirvin (ZIP code: 94112)

592. David Pennebaker (ZIP code: 94109)

Please add my name to the petition.

593. Christina Cundari (ZIP code: 94121)

There are many reasons why trees are a critical part of cities infrastructure. They provide oxygen, shade and increase property values. Climate change is real. Studies have shown that neighborhoods without trees have lower property values and higher crime rates. Stop taking away rights of people to protest removals of trees. Developers make obscene wealth already. They can easily work around trees but their solution is always to permanently chop down every tree they see for the temporary period they're doing construction. This has to stop!

594. Valerie Gruber (ZIP code: 94102)

Please preserve the tree removal appeal process, a vital process for community engagement. Local residents, workers and businesses know our trees and the climate protection and neighborhood revitalization they contribute to. When old trees are removed, newly planted trees are struggling to survive the harsher climate and winds, as can be seen for example on Van Ness. Appealing a tree removal permit is one of the few remaining tools we have for better environmental outcomes.

595. Alexandra Alznauer (ZIP code: 94133)

596. Disne Navatro (ZIP code: 94134)

597. Patrick Cadam (ZIP code: 94127)

598. Jared McCray (ZIP code: 94115)

599. Alyssa McCray (ZIP code: 94115)

600. Lefteris Eleftheriou (ZIP code: 94116)

I have noticed a surprising number of trees being removed from our parks and wooded area, such as in Stern Grove and along Lake Merced. Trees are vital for life, providing oxygen, absorbing carbon dioxide, filtering air and water, preventing soil erosion, cooling urban areas, conserving energy, and offering crucial habitat for biodiversity, all while boosting human physical/mental health and increasing property values.

601. Vivian Imperiale (ZIP code: 94127)

602. Mark Shahinain (ZIP code: 94110)

The blocks in our city with trees are so special and alive compared to those that don't. we should do everything we can to expand our urban canopy.

603. LaPriel Rossi (ZIP code: 94122)

604. Timothy Green (ZIP code: 94110)

605. Mary Tse (ZIP code: 94122)

606. Jill Mistretta (ZIP code: 94133)

607. Jane Praysilver (ZIP code: 94018)

608. Florette Yen (ZIP code: 94131)

609. Robert Cherny (ZIP code: 94122)

610. Glenn Rogers (ZIP code: 94132)

Save the trees!

611. Carol Faulkner (ZIP code: 94116)

612. Martha Abbene (ZIP code: 94123)

613. Michael Bardin (ZIP code: 94122)

Urban trees are an essential service, and the City must protect them!

614. Steven Hayashi (ZIP code: 94122)

615. Eva (ZIP code: 94105)

616. Beth Phelps (ZIP code: 94109)

Please save our trees!

617. Karen Dold (*ZIP code: 94109*)

618. Mike Andrewjeski (*ZIP code: 94121*)

619. Peter Frings (*ZIP code: 94115*)

620. Jennifer Cooper (*ZIP code: 94127*)

621. Alicia Velez-Rivers (*ZIP code: 94121*)

Please do not continue to cut down trees. They make a neighborhood look good and allows birds _ to have a home. _ and we need them.

622. Beth Levitan (*ZIP code: 94122*)

Please, we need and want our trees!

623. Ray Trautman (*ZIP code: 94122*)

624. Neil Chazin (*ZIP code: 94112*)

Green cover is an important part of our city - which is for all of its residents, not just developers or the mayor or even really the board, to decide on in a vacuum. Something of this magnitude has to be decided on in a larger forum, if any change is to happen.

Also, as an aside, the amount of money paid should be large AND a tree planted somewhere else in the city BEFORE WORK CAN START, for something like this to make sense.

625. Patricia Sonnino (*ZIP code: 94109*)

We need street trees. If the issue is tree type in different areas, the city could have guidelines that both suggest species and unify the planting on specific streets. The planting in San Francisco is very random.

626. Winifred Montgomery (*ZIP code: 94124*)

SF has among the lowest level of tree coverage among major US cities. We must prioritize adding trees and build in mandates for developers to ensure further plantings.

627. Diane Wilson (*ZIP code: 94122*)

628. Patricia Lord (*ZIP code: 94123*)

We must have the right to appeal!!

629. Lisa Mandelstein (*ZIP code: 94118*)

I want more trees in SF!

630. Paula Lynch (ZIP code: 94132)

Don't do this. We need our trees and if you put them into other hands we'll end up with cement!

631. Lee Gerard (ZIP code: 94114)

Protect public right to appeal any tree removal

632. Zee Rand (ZIP code: 94118)

We must preserve the few trees left in our City. In fact we need to plant more in various communities so they can absorb the toxins created by Laurie & his gang.

633. CARYL ITO (ZIP code: 94112)

634. Lola Bice (ZIP code: 94110)

635. Allegra Heath-Stout (ZIP code: 94103-2719)

636. JONATHAN MORRIS (ZIP code: 94107)

in the early 60s Nikita Khrushchev visited SF and remarked "where are all your trees?" I've never been to Moscow, but I gather there are many more trees than in SF. We need more trees in the city, not less just so that developers can "plant" more concrete

637. Dawn Griffin (ZIP code: 94121)

The wildlife that depend on those trees would be decimated! The trees keep our air clean and add to the charm that is distinctly San Francisco

638. Ellen Creese (ZIP code: 94127)

639. Beverly Ashworth (ZIP code: 94122-2936)

We need to keep the trees. They will last longer and do more good than we will on this earth.

640. J S (ZIP code: 94121)

Public citizens rights to appeal is a RIGHT! SFRPD has broken a law.

641. Elizabeth Leone (ZIP code: 94102)

642. Eric Noble (ZIP code: 94110)

643. Barbara Bratton (ZIP code: 94112-1222)

644. Barbara J R Jones (ZIP code: 94121)

I strongly support public right to challenge developers' proposed removal of what minimal tree canopy remains in SF. Low income neighborhoods have the fewest trees and suffer worse health outcomes as a result.

645. Joe Luttrell (ZIP code: 94133)

646. Charlene Ozawa (ZIP code: 94123)

647. Brian Dunleavy (ZIP code: 94123)

648. jacqueline shapiro (ZIP code: 14221)

649. Elizabeth Loo (ZIP code: 94131)

650. CHRISTINE KIESSLING (ZIP code: 94127)

651. Nancy Wolf (ZIP code: 94118)

Stop cutting down trees!!!

652. M O'Sullivan (ZIP code: 94116)

653. Gay Gardner Berk (ZIP code: 94116)

654. Polly Kwong (ZIP code: 94122)

Protect our right, also protect the trees.

655. Nina Henninger (ZIP code: 94112)

656. Lawrence Helman (ZIP code: 94122)

657. Julia Bauer (ZIP code: 94102)

We need as many plants and trees as possible in our neighborhoods. They plant them and take them up as well as destructive people destroying them. Let us have some beauty in the Tenderloin.

658. Sarah Houston (ZIP code: 94133)

Charge them \$100,000 per tree and we've got a deal. If you want to remove trees and greenery from our beautiful city the price needs to be steep. Find the middle ground. If you want to pay, it's going to cost you.

659. Judy Doane (ZIP code: 94115)

660. Julie McKenzie (ZIP code: 94122)

661. Roger Eaton (ZIP code: 94132)

It won't hurt to slow down tree removal.

662. Jeannine Zenti (ZIP code: 94110)

We need more trees in SF, not less

663. Karen Schwartz (ZIP code: 94114)

664. Kathryn Mullins (*ZIP code: 94116*)

665. Erick Arguello (*ZIP code: 94110*)

666. Shelly Willard (*ZIP code: 94127*)

When walking in neighborhoods, which I do often, I notice that I cannot wait to get off of the streets crowded with cars, but I linger and breathe deeper and take in nature's beauty, when I am on a tree-lined street. I am certain those residents love coming home and the property values on those streets are higher simply due to the existence of trees, particularly mature tall trees. Trees enhance our wellbeing through their serene beauty.

667. Hillary Turner (*ZIP code: 94114*)

We need trees!

From: [gregorypmiller](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Item 8 Special Item file no. 251211 - Please Oppose this Legislation
Date: Monday, January 12, 2026 2:39:01 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

Please oppose the Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals.

This is a 'solution' looking for a problem. There have not been rampaging residents who fight every single tree removal in San Francisco. San Francisco is not over-burdened with a hazardous tree canopy. If it were, those trees can already be pruned or removed. In fact, San Francisco has a very low number of trees compared with most cities.

Of course, developers don't like anything that costs them money or takes more time. Frankly, the cost of leaving a hole in the sidewalk (which actually saves money on concrete) and planting a very small tree is negligible when compared to the overall expense of building in San Francisco.

This proposed amendment has nothing to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to increase power at the Executive level, silence the public, eliminate oversight, and encourage corruption. Furthermore, it discourages innovative City-Community initiatives to plant and maintain the urban forest. What is the point of a community member working on a planting project, if one rogue department head can come in at any time and cut down all the trees based on his or her personal preferences?

You have been instrumental in saving many of our trees in the past, and your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant more trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so).

Please do whatever you can to stop this damaging legislation.

Sincerely,

Greg Miller

Patrick Monette-Shaw

975 Sutter Street, Apt. 6
San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: (415) 292-6969 • e-mail: pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net

January 12, 2026

Board of Appeals

John Trasviña, President
Jose L. Lopez, Vice President
Rebecca Saroyan, Commissioner
Robin Abad Ocubillo, Commissioner

49 South Van Ness
Suite 1475 (14th Floor)
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Testimony for Board of Appeals Meeting January 14, 2026
Agenda Item 8 Special Item (Board of Supervisors File #251211)

Dear President Trasviña and Members of the Board of Appeals,

Regarding Board of Supervisors File #251211, “**Public Works, Administrative, Planning Codes – Street Trees**,” I urge the Board of Appeals to reject Mayor Lurie and freshman District 4 Supervisor Alan Wong’s misguided proposal to eliminate the rights of San Franciscans from being able to appeal removal of street trees.

I urge the Board of Appeals to oppose eliminating appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments and commissions.

Please take a position on this proposed legislation and authorize a letter be sent on your behalf to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor, setting forth your recommendations and position on this misguided legislation.

In addition to removing the public’s right to appeal tree removals, Mayor Lurie’s “*Commission Streamlining Task Force*” has recommended eliminating the “*Urban Forestry Council*” completely, and assigning the Forestry Council’s oversight duties to the Commission on the Environment — if (a big if) the Environment Commission deigns to take on the oversight functions of the Forestry Council. The Streamlining Task Force also simultaneously recommended taking the Environment Commission out of the City Charter, moving it to the Administrative Code, and converting it from a “*regulatory body*” to an “*advisory body*,” slapping a three-year sunset date on the Environment Commission, and taking budget approval authority over the Environment Department away from the Environment Commission. Applying a sunset date opens the door to the Environment Commission being shut down by the Board of Supervisors anytime in the future.

The Urban Forestry Council was created by the Board of Supervisors 22 years ago by Ordinance #171-03 in July 2003 under the “*Precautionary Principle*” to manage trees in San Francisco by emphasizing public participation in the preservation and expansion of the urban forest before causing actual environmental harm — including through illegal tree removal and greedy developers avoiding responsibility to protect and expand our urban canopy.

It was created in Chapter 12 of the **Environment Code** to manage, protect, and enhance the City’s urban forest as critical and essential, high-value infrastructure. §1200(a) of the Environment Code states that the Urban Forestry Council is “*to protect the community interest and ensure that San Francisco realizes the full range of tree benefits into the future.*”

As well, the “*Urban Forestry Ordinance*” was also added as Article 16, §800 *Urban Forestry Ordinance* of the San Francisco **Public Works Code** 30 years and 6 months ago on May 19, 1995 by Board of Supervisors Ordinance #165-95. §803, *Urban Forestry Council; Additional Powers and Duties*, added duties and functions of the Urban Forestry Council to advise the Director of the Public Works Department in an advisory capacity, including paragraph §803(a)(7) on “*Making recommendations to the Director on appeals of applications for tree removal.*”

After operating successfully for 22 to 30-plus years on a lean cost of just \$109,000 annually, the Board of Supervisors should not allow the Commission Streamlining Task Force to simply eliminate the Urban Forestry Council created by Board of Supervisors Ordinance #165-95 and Ordinance #171-03.

January 12, 2026

Testimony for Board of Appeals Meeting January 14, 2026, **Item 8 Special Item (Board of Supervisors File #251211)**

Page 2

The Board of Appeals should consider advocating against altering the Environment Code and Public Works Code to allow the Mayor and the Commission Streamlining Task Force to run roughshod over 22 to 30 years of existing precedent preserving our urban canopy!

San Franciscans expect our City government will preserve our rights to appeal decisions regarding removal of street trees. We have ***not*** elected Mayor Lurie to trample on the rights of San Franciscans!

The Board of Appeals should follow Supervisor Dorsey's lead preventing elimination of the Mission Bay TIF CAC; please urge the Streamlining Task Force to keep the Urban Forestry Council and its role supporting appeals of tree removals!

As Dorsey wrote on January 5: "*The Mission Bay TIF CAC is working as intended.*" So, too, is the Urban Forestry Council working as intended. Both bodies must be retained, just as the Reentry Council was retained.

The proposed Ordinance states that appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments and commissions will be eliminated. That's just wrong to deprive San Franciscans of our right to appeal poor Planning Department decisions to the Board of Appeals.

Please forward a negative Recommendation to the full Board of Supervisors that the proposed Ordinance be closed without further action, for the reasons stated.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Patrick Monette-Shaw

Columnist/Reporter

Westside Observer Newspaper

cc: Julie Lamarre

cc: Julie Lamarre, Executive Director, Board of Appeals

Alec Longaway, Legal Assistant, Board of Appeals

Xiomara Mejia, Legal Clerk, Board of Appeals

From: [Kathy Howard](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Item 8. Special Item File No. 251211 Please oppose 251211.
Date: Monday, January 12, 2026 3:01:41 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board of Appeals,

Please oppose BOS File 251211 – regarding street trees.

This legislation is an unwarranted effort to deprive the public of the right to prevent the loss of one of our great public benefits, the trees on public land.

Our urban forest provides environmental benefits (absorbs storm water, cleans the air, provides oxygen, and provides habitat for those creatures who manage to survive in the city) as well as providing beauty and a sense of calm to San Francisco’s residents.

The fate of our public trees should not rest solely with a city department that might use this opportunity to destroy a large number of trees. There are some businesses and people who view trees as inconvenient; there are those who hate specific species of trees and would cut them all down at once, given the opportunity. There are others who think that a city of concrete is preferable to having living green spaces. If put in a position of authority, these people will take advantage of this legislation and remove as many of our public trees as they can. This has already been illustrated in the efforts of various departments to willy-nilly remove trees in the past. This destruction has only been stopped by the public stepping up and by you, the Board of Appeals, listening and preventing the destruction. All it would take is one department head who basically does not like trees for San Francisco to lose large swaths of our urban forest.

Of course, the argument from the tree-cutters is always that new trees will be planted. To which I ask a simple question – how many years does it take to grow and replace the magnificent and environmentally beneficial canopy of a 20 year old tree? Of course, the response is 20 years! And that is only if the tree manages to survive the harsh urban environment, lack of care, and vandalism that plague our public trees.

Furthermore, I take exception at this effort to deprive the Board of Appeals of your right to consider and judge on these matters. This is part of a movement by those in power to remove decision-making from the Commission and the public and to further concentrate power in the Office of the Mayor. There is a move right now to eliminate city commissions on the grounds that there are “too many.” As if giving the public a voice in our government were a bad thing.

I encourage you to take every action within your power to stop this legislation.

Sincerely,
Katherine Howard, ASLA
Sunset District

From: [Nick Ferris](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: [Lurie, Daniel \(MYR\)](#)
Subject: OPPOSITION - Board of Appeals (Item 8, Special Item File No. 251211)
Date: Monday, January 12, 2026 4:14:57 PM
Attachments: [THD Board of Appeals \(Opposotion Item 8, Special Item File No. 251211\) .pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

President Trasvina and Commissioners,

On behalf of the more than 500 members of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers, we **strongly urge** the Board of Appeals to **OPPOSE** the proposed legislation (File No. 251211). That legislation would eliminate appeals to the Board for tree removals undertaken by City departments and commissions.

Such elimination would do little to affect permitting efficiency. Less than 2% of appeals to the Board last year involved tree removals.

We are disappointed that the Mayor has proposed to eliminate the public's right to appeal.

This is wrong. Such a right is fundamental to good government and the democratic process, and must be protected wherever and whenever it is threatened.

We further oppose the legislation's enabling of development projects to pay an in-lieu fee instead of planting required Street Trees. Planning use of Street Trees is most effective at the time of project design. We note that, as stated in the staff report: "San Francisco's tree canopy... is one of the smallest of any major city in the United States."

We are particularly concerned that the Mayor failed to consult the Board of Appeals regarding this legislation.

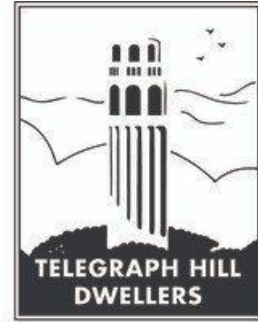
We ask that the Board of Appeals formally request that such consultation take place, and that the current right of appeal to the Board be retained.

Sincerely,

Nick Ferris
President, Telegraph Hill Dwellers

January 12, 2026
Via Email

Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1475
San Francisco, CA 94103



RE: OPPOSITION - Board of Appeals (Item 8, Special Item File No. 251211)

President Trasvina and Commissioners,

On behalf of the more than 500 members of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers, we **strongly urge** the Board of Appeals to **OPPOSE** the proposed legislation (File No. 251211). That legislation would eliminate appeals to the Board for tree removals undertaken by City departments and commissions.

Such elimination would do little to affect permitting efficiency. Less than 2% of appeals to the Board last year involved tree removals.

We are disappointed that the Mayor has proposed to eliminate the public's right to appeal.

This is wrong. Such a right is fundamental to good government and the democratic process, and must be protected wherever and whenever it is threatened.

We further oppose the legislation's enabling of development projects to pay an in-lieu fee instead of planting required Street Trees. Planting use of Street Trees is most effective at the time of project design. We note that, as stated in the staff report: "San Francisco's tree canopy... is one of the smallest of any major city in the United States."

We are particularly concerned that the Mayor failed to consult the Board of Appeals regarding this legislation.

We ask that the Board of Appeals formally request that such consultation take place, and that the current right of appeal to the Board be retained.

Sincerely,

Nick Ferris
President, Telegraph Hill Dwellers

From: [David Romano](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org; [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Opposed to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments),
Date: Monday, January 12, 2026 4:27:27 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does nothing to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits.

Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde.

Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant more trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza.

San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. Trees are important to the health of our City.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

David Romano
San Francisco CA 94121
415 729-6027

From: [Diana Scott](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: ben.white@sfgov.org; [WongStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Lurie, Daniel \(MYR\)](#)
Subject: IN OPPOSITION to amendments to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendment), Item 8 on agenda of 1/12/26 meeting
Date: Monday, January 12, 2026 4:31:19 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I call upon you to reject the Board of Supervisors' street tree amendments (File 251211), and especially, the proposal to remove residents' right to appeal City-initiated tree removal. Unfortunately, there's a precedent for allowing removal to enable transit projects, and fortunately, another one to stop it on Geary Blvd. I urge this Board to take a closer look at how rampant tree-cutting destroys neighborhood quality of life and the air we breathe (more vital as recent transit changes where I live in the Outer Sunset have funneled traffic onto residential streets).

Eliminating the public's right to appeal tree removal does NOT expedite permitting for housing and development, according to your Board's own FY2025 Report showing almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of them involved tree removal permits. Trees can't speak for themselves, so residents whom they benefit need the right to speak before they're cut!

This unwelcome amendment to abridge residents' right to repeal tree removal suggests plans in the works to shred the City's urban canopy!

Your data also suggests that eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals won't improve efficiency in permitting but will only silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-community initiatives that such appeals have enabled, with planners moving to accommodate trees. As we watch other rights being removed on the national stage, let's not remove appeal rights in San Francisco.

Eliminating the right to appeal City tree-cutting permits to this Board green-lights accelerated, massive tree removal in nearly every City neighborhood. Trees, particularly the tall, mature, slow-growing ones, enhance quality of neighborhood life, after decades of growth, offering shade and wildlife habitat. They absorb carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from air pollution, which is released into the atmosphere when cut. Do we need other reminders of climate chaos we're experiencing? (Even as the MTA attempts to promote use of transit and permits robotic cars, a Dec.11 '25 NYT forecast predicted air pollution won't go away!).

The RIGHT TO APPEAL city-initiated tree removal has ITSELF spurred more tree-planting in past years. That the San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did) suggests that trees are a low priority on THAT agency's list - as among other powerful City agencies that minimize the value of this critical resource: the City's urban tree canopy.

Trees must be incorporated to the greatest extent possible -- not removed - in planning for new housing development. It CAN BE DONE if you preserve residents' rights to appeal tree removal decisions. In these chaotic times, finding refuge from dizzying political and climate chaos and incessant news cycles among trees is, according to physicians, especially critical to urban public health -- mental and physical.

Thank you for seriously considering San Francisco residents' need to preserve trees, and especially their right to appeal before you to oppose specific permits to destroy them.

Sincerely,

Diana Scott
3657 Wawona St.
San Francisco, CA 94116

From: [Mary Ann Klipp](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Subject: Tree Removal Legislation
Date: Monday, January 12, 2026 5:14:26 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To Whom It May Concern, including the Mayor,
It is very important that there be a check on city building and development which risks the rash and needless destruction to San Francisco's already meager tree canopy.

The trees ad very real flood control, air cleansing, natural habitat, and spectacular beauty to our city. They are taken very, very for granted!

I understand the need to reduce the contractual time to get the much needed housing. However, the thoughtless and often brutal removal of healthy, mature trees lacks respect for the very people who will inhabit that same housing!

Please maintain the public input in these matters! They are on the ground, in the neighborhoods and can relate the very real effects of rash decisions and are left to live with empty, scarred sidewalks, treeless streets, ugly city scapes.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.
Mary Klipp
Twin Peaks

From: [LINDA SHAFFER](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Oppose Board of Supervisors File 251211
Date: Monday, January 12, 2026 6:18:06 PM

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Public Comment for BOA meeting Wed. Jan 14, 2026

Members of the Board,

Please carefully consider the appeal to this proposed legislation. I see little to be gained and a great deal to lose from removing the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Yes, the city needs housing. The city also needs trees. In the past, constructive and cooperative solutions have been found to address both needs.

As others have pointed out, this kind of appeal makes up a small percentage of all appeals but is of great importance. Trees are not just obstacles to construction. They are also out collective lungs. Proposals to remove them should be subjected to the highest possible level of scrutiny.

Thank you,
Linda Shaffer
San Francisco, CA

To: Land Use & Transportation Committee + SF Planning Commission

Fr: Russel Morine / Resident of Visitacion Valley

Re: File No. 251211 (Street Tree Ordinance). **In opposition to removing the right to appeal**

Supervisors, Planning Commissioners

Jan. 12. 2026

The proposal to amend Article 16 of the Public Works Code combines two issues that are entirely unrelated. Establishing an in-lieu fee for new tree planting has no connection to eliminating the public's right to appeal departmental decisions on tree removals. **These matters deserve to be separated so they can be evaluated and deliberated on their own merits.**

Regarding the in-lieu fee, I have no strong position; its impact appears likely to be nominal either way.

However, **I strongly oppose eliminating the public's right to appeal a departmentally approved tree removal. Please reject this part of the amendment in its entirety.** It is unclear why this change is even being proposed or who stands to benefit from it.

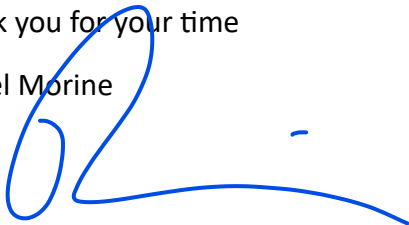
The public's ability to request one final hearing is an **important safeguard that ensures accountability** in the City's management of our shared urban forest. For example, when multiple trees are slated for removal, the final decision should not rest solely with the same departments that initiated those removals. Without the possibility of an appeal, there would be no incentive to dialogue and possibly come to a compromise.

The Board of Appeals provides a necessary and independent check on what can at times be heavy-handed City oversight of tree removals. **Removing this avenue of appeal offers no public benefit.**

I urge you to reject this portion of the amendment.

Thank you for your time

Russel Morine

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Russel Morine', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Visitacion Valley resident

From: [Luda and Sem Lederman](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Subject: appeal
Date: Monday, January 12, 2026 8:30:30 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners, I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments), and specifically the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does nothing to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits. Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has nothing to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde. Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant more trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so). San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

"

From: [Shaun Aukland](#)
To: [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Public Comment - Special Hearing Jan 14 - Opposition to Jurisdiction Stripping (File 251211)
Date: Monday, January 12, 2026 10:20:59 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Board of Appeals,

I am writing on behalf of [FairTrees.org](#) to urge you to formally oppose the provision in Board of Supervisors File No. 251211 that eliminates your jurisdiction over City-initiated tree removals.

While this proposal is being sold as "streamlining," we view it as a dangerous deregulation that invites corruption and removes the only independent check on administrative overreach.

1. It Creates a "Developer Loophole". We are deeply concerned that this legislation creates a perverse incentive structure. If private tree removals remain appealable (to you) but City-initiated removals become "final and non-appealable," developers will simply pressure City departments to initiate removals on their behalf.

This turns City agencies into a shield for private interests.

It allows controversial projects to bypass your Board entirely by shifting the "applicant" from the developer to the Bureau of Urban Forestry.

2. The UN Plaza Precedent Proves Oversight is Necessary. This Board knows better than anyone that City departments cannot always be trusted to police themselves. The recent incident at UN Plaza, where Rec & Park admitted to knowingly bypassing the law to meet a donor deadline, demonstrates exactly why your oversight is mandatory. If the right to appeal is removed, that kind of administrative lawlessness becomes the standard operating procedure.

3. Equity Communities Lose Their Voice. For neighborhoods like SOMA West, which suffer from some of the lowest canopy cover in the city, the appeal process is often the only tool residents have to pause aggressive clearing for "infrastructure improvements." Stripping this right silences the communities that are already bearing the brunt of environmental injustice.

We ask that this Board vote to send a formal letter to the Board of Supervisors opposing File No. 251211 until your jurisdiction is restored. Do not let them legislate your oversight out of existence.

Sincerely,

Shaun Aukland
[FairTrees.org](#)