

BRIEF(S) SUBMITTED BY RESPONDENT DEPARTMENT(S)



London N. Breed
Mayor

Mohammed Nuru
Director

Carla Short
Superintendent

Urban Forestry
1155 Market St., 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103
tel 415-554-6700

sfpublicworks.org
facebook.com/sfpublicworks
twitter.com/sfpublicworks

Appeals of Public Works Order No. 201771

Appellants and Appeal numbers:

Joshua Klipp, 19-097

Zachary Karnazes, 19-099

Calle 24 Latino Cultural District Council, 19-100

Kindra Scharich, 19-101

Respondent's Brief

December 27, 2019

RE: Removal of 48 street trees along 24th Street, mostly with replacement. An

additional 17 street trees along 24th St. will also be planted.

The Director of Public Works held a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 5th, 2019 to consider Order No. 201124, the removal of fifty-two (52) street trees (51 Ficus / 1 Brisbane box) with replacement (unless otherwise noted) along 24th St., between Potrero Ave. and Mission St.

The Bureau of Urban Forestry (BUF) representative, Chris Buck, gave testimony explaining the decision to remove 52 street trees (51 ficus and 1 Brisbane box) along 24th Street. Urban Forestry staff with Public Works approved the removal of the street trees and the public protested. Mr. Buck explained the ways in which ficus trees with codominant stems with or without included bark have been failing City-wide and outlined the department's policy toward removal of ficus trees, which is contained in Public Works Order No. 183151, and was issued by the Director of Public Works in November of 2014.

Additional information about the structural concerns our Department has with ficus trees can be found in Appendix H and M, and throughout this brief.

Initially, the Department sought to remove 77 street trees, as stated at the first community meeting at the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital on March 20th, 2019, due to public safety concerns about the competing stems (codominant stems/trunks) with narrow angles of attachment and included bark, conditions that are present in most of the ficus trees along 24th St. in the heart of the Mission.

Following multiple community meetings and extensive outreach, based on the large amount of community feedback against the proposed removals, Public Works reduced the number of trees proposed for removal from 77 to 52 and proposed experimental/aggressive pruning of 25 of the ficus trees, that were previously recommended for removal.

The City's Urban Forestry Ordinance requires that removed trees be replaced unless there are locations where replacement is not possible because of lack of space from neighboring trees, interference with utility poles, or required clearances from intersections. These specific requirements are outlined in Director's Order 187246, which regulates the planting of street trees in San Francisco. For this reason, some of the trees proposed for removal are in sites that will not be allowed to be replanted. It is the Department's policy to look for replacement locations closest to the site of removed trees, and replacement trees will be planted in other locations, leading to a net increase of 17 trees along the street. The removed trees would be replaced by red maples and ginkgo trees. Any and all possible planting sites on 24th St., between Mission St. and Potrero Ave. have been reviewed, and the result is the 17 sites just referenced.

In response to the Department's hearing on June 5th, 2019, many written protests were submitted and over 50 people spoke in opposition to the removal of the trees. While a few people acknowledged the need to remove severely damaged or unhealthy trees, the majority of speakers detailed the negative effects that the removals would have on the community.

Themes that came up repeatedly during public testimony:

- Such a dramatic loss of tree canopy would have a detrimental health affect due to lack of shade/increased temperatures.
- Removing such a large number of trees runs counter to the City's environmental efforts to reduce global warming.
- The environmental and health benefits of newly planted trees would not be felt for many years, if not decades.
- The ficus trees are a symbol of the Mission District and hold special significance to residents.
- The City would never propose such a radical removal in wealthier neighborhoods.
- Replacement of the ficus trees with red maples and ginkgos ignores the cultural significance of the trees and threatens to speed the gentrification of the neighborhood.
- If the City had maintained the trees properly, the damage would not have been so severe, so the City should fix the problem rather than clear-cutting the trees.
- Technology should be available to maintain rather than cut down the trees.
- If the City decides that the ficus trees need to be removed, this should not happen all at once, but rather the removal should be spread out over time to lessen the impact.

Concerns were also raised whether the proposed tree removals had received CEQA clearance. Removal of hazardous and dying trees, and trees in poor condition, were considered in the Categorical Exemption granted in the 2014 Urban Forest Plan, (case no 2013.1517E) which also analyzed the cumulative impacts associated with the plan.

Following the hearing, based on the large amount of negative feedback received during public comment, Urban Forestry staff reviewed the 52 trees proposed for removal on site, to see if any additional

trees could be retained, and some of the structural issues mitigated through experimental/aggressive pruning. Based on this additional review, our Department identified only four (4) additional ficus trees that we believe can be pruned rather than removed.

The four (4) additional trees now to be retained, but pruned experimentally/aggressively:

2836 24th St (tree no. 2): Remove very large eastern stem that is being damaged by autos and has a weak attachment, and perform canopy reduction to rest of tree;

2850 24th St. (tree no. 1): Main stem union is wide and the site is not replantable due to the bus zone. The tree has other structural issues, but experimental/aggressive pruning would reduce potential failures;

3200 24th St. (tree no. 1): Remove the large stem damaged by autos. The tree is smaller than the others and if it is retained, along with 3230 (tree no. 1), it would preserve a row of 4 trees;

3230 24th St. (tree no. 1): Relatively small ficus that was heavily shaded by larger tree that failed/split apart during a storm. The tree has large gaps in canopy but could be pruned.

List of 48 trees approved for removal on 24th Street:

2700 (removal of 3); **2726-2736** (no replacement/stop sign); **2701-2749** (3 trees); **2752** (no replacement-street light); **2782-2786**; **2792-2794** (remove 2, replace 1/stop sign/intersection); **2773-2781**; **2751**; **2800** (possible replacement/shift bike rack); **2804**; **2824-2826**; **2836-2838** (tree no. 1); **2839-2847**; **2850** (tree no. 2); **2858-2860**; **2870**; **2872-2876**; **2878-2880** (no replacement); **2863-2869** (replace in front of 2871/street light); **2893-2899**; **2900**; **2904**; **2912-2916**; **2917-2919** (dead Brisbane box tree); **2966-2970** (remove

2/replace 1 at 2962); **3000-3008; 3013; 3024** (2 trees); **3032-3034; 3041-3047; 3049-3055** (no replacement/stop sign); **3050-3058; 3062-3068; 3069-3075; 3078-3080; 3088-3090; 3156-3158; 3175-3181; 3160; 3260-3264** (no replacement/bus zone); **3278-“3290”** (no replacement; bus zone, where plaza begins).

List of 29 trees that were previously being considered for removed, but will be retained, and pruned in an aggressive/experimental manner to address potential stem failures:

2718-2722; 2726-2734 (2 trees); 2701-2749 (tree no. 2 & 3); 2754; 2778; 2790; 2773-2781 (tree no. 2 & 3); 2809; 2833; 2836-2838 (tree no. 2); 2839-2847; 2850 (tree no. 1); 2851-2857 (tree no. 2); 3044; 3035-3039; 3050-3058 (tree no. 2); 3070-3076; 3092-3098; 3166-3168 (tree no. 1 & 2); 3172-3176; 3182-3194 (tree no. 1 & 2); 3200 (tree no. 1); 3225; 3230 (tree no.1)

Replacement Tree and Planting Plan

During the community meetings and while reviewing the trees together, many members of the public spoke loudly that they would like the city to show some good faith efforts to replant existing empty tree basins along 24th St. Since that time, approximately seven (7) empty planting sites have been planted with 36” box size trees. Appendix H details our notes and plans for each tree and planting site on 24th St. from Mission to Potrero.

Tree Removal and Tree Pruning Process

Public Works is committed to replanting the replacement trees within three (3) months of removal. The trees will be a minimum 24” box size at the time of planting. This will also require the

removal of stumps, making sidewalk repairs, and shifting tree planting sites to meet our minimum clearances from utilities. Approximately eleven (11) street trees can't be planted in their current or immediate surroundings due to these required clearances. We will commit to replanting 1 for 1 replacement trees, looking to replant the eleven (11) replacement trees in locations as close to the original sites as possible.

The twenty-nine (29) trees that will now be retained, will be pruned during the same time that the neighboring trees are being removed. See Appendix D, for the detailed removal and planting plan.

Funding for replacement trees

Public Works agrees with the appellants that planting more trees and fulfilling all aspects of our Urban Forest Plan is a critical element to address climate change and make San Francisco a more livable environment. The appellants and other advocates city-wide, have assisted Public Works by bringing this issue of funding of both replacement trees and new trees to the attention of the greater public and our elected officials.

The lack of funding for replacement trees City-wide, was brought up repeatedly at hearings over the last year and what follows is more specifics about the funding sources for the next year.

Supporting the city's urban forest is reflected as a priority in the Mayor's Proposed Budget for FY 2019-2020. This budget does not decrease funding for street trees, it significantly increases the funding over prior years. Specifically, it proposes funding new street tree plantings at a total of \$2.3 million in FY 2019-2020. We should be expanding our street tree population and this continued investment will support this effort. A total of \$2 million will fund replacement street tree plantings.

Additionally, the Board of Supervisors added \$1 million in funding for new trees this year. Public Works receives other funds for tree planting, but these primary sources above will ensure that we can address planting the required replacement trees. We have the funding to plant the required replacement trees and the additional planting sites that we have identified.

Preparation for Board of Appeals Hearing

In preparation for the Board of Appeals hearing, Urban Forestry staff evaluated the ficus trees to determine if any changes in the conditions of the trees had occurred since our most recent review in the summer. We found only two substantial changes:

3070 24th St. Tree no. 1 (Tree ID 598)

The vigor of the tree is now in decline. We will prune the tree experimentally and monitor its response. It has fair to poor structure and damage to one of the main stems over the road. Previously the canopy vigor appeared healthy and vigorous.

3032 24th St. Tree no. 1 (Tree ID 224695)

The vigor and canopy health of this tree has improved. The structure is fair and the overall size of the tree is smaller, so at this time, the tree's condition is no longer a concern and the tree will be retained.

Appellants Joshua Klipp and Kindra Scharich reached out to Public Works in advance of the hearing to ask if Public Works was willing or available to meet. The other two Appellants Calle 24 and Zachary Karnazes were invited to the meeting as well. At the meeting, Urban Forestry staff explained

that we would need to adhere to our existing recommendations with just the two changes above noted.

Appellant Scharich emphasized the impact that the removal of just one ficus has had on her quality of life, the removal of a tree not directly adjacent to her home, and that removal of more ficus trees, including one directly in front of her apartment would have even more drastic impacts to her quality of life and to those of the community.

Appellant Klipp reiterated his concerns about the climate emergency declared by the City and interest in seeking greater environmental mitigations in the face of so many removals. Ideas that were discussed were biomass replacement, the planting of all empty basins within the Mission, within three years, and additional planting of potential new sites on the immediate side streets, among other ideas.

Appellants Klipp and Scharich also expressed concern that the two replacement species, ginkgo and maple, were deciduous trees and not evergreen, and the removal of so many evergreen ficus will change the character of 24th St. During the meeting, Urban Forestry staff explained that the replacement species involved multiple community meetings, a commitment up front by Public Works that we would adhere to the outcome of that process with the community, and at this time Public Works believes that altering the replacement species will undermine public trust. The community wanted to make sure that there was a clear replacement plan for the ficus trees as they began requiring removal. At the time, other evergreen species were considered but ultimately, they were not selected. This community-driven process involved heavy involvement with Calle 24.

Concerns raised in Appellants' Briefs

Joshua Klipp

Appeal 19-097

Concerns raised by the Appellant

- Accelerated tree removals in the face of Climate Emergency
- City not adequately budgeting funds to replace trees 1:1,
- Let alone to add add'l trees needed to implement urban forest plan or tackle Climate Emergency
- Removal of 48 ficus on 24th, huge impact to community
- SF Env't and BOS resolution re: Climate Emergency

Requests:

- Staggered removals, based on tree-by-tree determination that a tree is a hazard and safety risk to humans
- Implement a biomass replanting strategy (1 inch of trunk per inch of trunk removed)
- Plant and water trees in all empty basins in the Mission District, w/in next 3 years

Feedback from Public Works

Public Works agrees that street trees play a critical role in mitigating and addressing the global climate emergency. In the last ten years, appreciation for and the management of San Francisco's Urban Forest has experienced its own sea change. Public Works historically only maintained approximately 1/3 of the street trees, and largely along the main transit corridors. Fronting property owners were on their own regarding street trees. Friends of the Urban Forest was created in 1981 to help encourage property owners and communities to plant and care for street trees – in the face of the City's limited commitment.

Budget cuts to Public Works' annual budget began extending our own maintenance cycles to upwards of 13 to 15 years between visits. This was untenable and former Director Edward Reiskin initiated the transfer of maintenance responsibility from Public Works, to adjacent property owners, for the 1/3 of street trees maintained by the City. This was done with great reluctance and largely due to dire circumstances.

In just the last eight years, this lack of maintenance has been reversed. The 2016 ballot initiative Proposition E (Healthy Trees, Safe Sidewalks) passed with a 79% voter approval and the City of San Francisco (Public Works, Bureau of Urban Forestry) became responsible for maintaining all the street trees on July 1, 2017. Unfortunately, Street Tree SF, the implementation of Proposition E by Public Works, does not include funding for replacement tree planting or new planting sites. Earlier in this Brief we provided details about these funding needs. We believe the City's declaration of a climate emergency is what has led to recent commitments from the Mayor's office, to help find funding for replacement trees and new trees for the coming year. However, longer term funding will still need to be addressed in order to continue implementing the City's Urban Forest Plan.

Public Works has helped implement the City's Urban Forest Plan every step of the way. Proposition E would not have passed with a 79% approval had we not been heavily involved in maintaining 1/3 of the City's street trees to begin with, and we were also longtime supporters of completing a complete tree census for the first time (led by the Planning Department), and assisting with the financing study performed by AECOM, as Public Works, the Planning Department, and many other stakeholders began drafting the City's Urban Forest Plan, which was adopted in the Fall, of 2014.

Staff with the Bureau of Urban Forestry began pursuing their careers managing trees decades before San Francisco declared its own climate emergency a few months ago. Street trees are a critical component to a livable urban environment.

Regarding greater mitigations due to the loss of mature tree canopy along 24th St:

- Public Works has identified any and all available planting locations along 24th St. between Mission and Potrero Ave (approximately 17 new planting sites)
- These planting sites will be planted at the time that the replacement trees are being planted, and completed in the same three-month time frame
- Regarding planting of all empty basins in the Mission in the next three years: we believe this is achievable, and we will begin planting empty basins within the first two blocks of 24th St. this year
- Regarding phased or slowing of the tree removals, we have requested that the contractor not move on to the next block until they have completed the removal of trees and stumps on each block. Then our staff will make sidewalk repairs and shift the locations of replacement trees
- We have shortened the tree replacement turnaround time by 50%, from six months to three months

We believe Appellant Klipp's advocacy, making sure that City leaders do not declare a climate emergency without making sure that funding for street trees is part of the solution to combatting climate change, has already produced results that will benefit our urban forest, this year in 2020.

Kindra Scharich

Appeal 19-101

Concerns raised by the Appellant

- Trees are an amazing environmental and community asset
- Why are our recommendations for removal at odds with the Arbor Pro census data?

- Replacement trees don't compensate for the canopy that is lost
- Replacement trees are not evergreen
- Public Works is inflating the threat of ficus failures
(section of analysis, with chart and figures)
- Greater than 7,000 ficus, only 147 removed?
- Health benefits the trees provide
- Climate Emergency
- Environmental benefits
- Cites Public Works' core values
 - Why aren't we respecting their cultural asset?
- The trees mean so much to the community & neighbors

Feedback from Public Works

Public Works appreciates the opportunity to have met in person with Appellant Scharich to discuss tree management both City-wide, and along the 24th St. corridor. Meeting with Kindra Scharich and listening to how much the removal of just one ficus tree next to her building has impacted her immediate quality of life, reminded us in a very personal way, how the removal of a single tree impacts so many people in San Francisco.

Throughout this brief, we have provided some direct and indirect responses to the concerns that were raised by Appellant Scharich. We are on the same page about the importance of street trees and we have heard loud and clear, all year, from residents of the Mission, about the importance of ficus trees to the streets of the Mission. Appendix H was included to show some context to the issues we're facing with trying to manage ficus trees in San Francisco, which includes much of the media coverage that has

appeared online. We have a duty to prevent ficus trees from failing, now that we know they have poor structure and a strong likelihood of failure.

Calle 24 Latino Cultural District Community Council

Appeal 19-100

Concerns raised by the Appellant

- Cease removal of the trees within the Latino Cultural District (LCD)
- Citing trees' cultural importance and historic associations w/the LCD and 24th St. Neighborhood Commercial Dev. Plan
- Unique beauty, and identifiable as the 24th St. corridor
- Removal of trees, contrary to Latino Cultural District and their right to self-determination and planning
- Public Works imposing the removals without collaboration or respect for the LCD
- 1970s and 1980s, Lower 24th Street Merchants Association
- Revitalization committee
- 2014: designated the Calle 24 Latino Cultural District (Calle 24)

Due to gentrification, displacement, cultural erasure in neighborhood

One goal is to preserve the community's cultural assets

- For nearly 40 years the trees have served as identity marker rivaling La Rambla in Barcelona, Spain
- The trees are a result of a long-term collaborative planning process between Planning, Lower 24th Street Merchants, and the community.
- Public improvement components, planted in 1975
- No adequate replacement for trees of this size

- The trees contribute to walkability, quality of life, welcome visitors, hold up the holiday lights, and protection from rain and sun
- Trees are not landmarked themselves, but if a building is potentially eligible for listing on the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) – same deference could be given to the trees
- Potential landmark trees under Sec 810 of the Urban Forestry Ordinance
- Any removal should be halted immediately to allow time to determine if the trees meet the qualifications for landmark status
- Detailed descriptions of site contributions, and social/environmental benefits

Requests:

- The BOA Commissioners to respect the history, culture, and people of the LCD
- Preserve and protect the trees while diligent process evaluates historic status of the trees and their danger as a “hazard tree” as defined under Sec 802.
- Removal in reference to the 2014 tree removal criteria for Ficus trees is an abuse of power
- Only the trees are being assessed, not the impact it would have on the community
- Mitigate the concerns through pruning
- Address sidewalk damage with rubberized sidewalks
- Without exploring these options, City is signaling that cost-savings are more important than a state recognized district’s heritage, continuity and identity.
- Public Works is imposing its will upon an historically marginalized community
- Diminishes their right to cultural identity, continuity, self-determination and planning
- Engage w/the Supervisor, Planning Department, Urban Forestry Council, to conduct investigation into the trees’ qualification as landmark trees

Feedback from Public Works

Public Works does not initiate the removal of street trees unless there is a compelling need to do so. Pruning and retention of street trees is always the first management option that is considered. This is at least the 3rd significant tree removal review/process that has occurred since the ficus trees were planted in the 1970s. In 1998, meetings and hearings were held to address the ficus trees on 24th St. Public Works was receiving complaints from the community, about blocked storefront signage, the density of the canopies, the repeated sidewalk damage, and the narrowness of the sidewalks in a dense urban environment. The issues back in 1998 were not related to the potential for large stem/branch failures to occur – the public safety concerns at that time were focused on repeated sidewalk damage caused by the trees' roots and the canopy density/lack of light. The trees have been getting pruned and additional lighting was installed by the PUC a few years ago.

Public Works has demonstrated a willingness to repair the sidewalks multiple times at the same tree site, over and over, as long as the repairs do not destabilize the root systems of the trees, and we have demonstrated a commitment to prune the trees away from the buildings and above the storefront signage. Over the last ten years however, large ficus trees across the City have a more serious public safety issue occurring to them, and it is the failure, and potential failure, of large branches/stems.

While La Rambla of Barcelona has been designed and redesigned for over 500 centuries or more, the planting of ficus trees in the 1970s on 24th St., in the heart of the Mission, was San Francisco's first attempt at creating an urban forest along 24th St. Ficus trees were planted across the City around the same time, and in other Cities, as well, most notably in the Los Angeles area where the sidewalks are much wider, and there is more room to accommodate both their large canopies and large root systems that develop as the trees mature. The practice of pruning street trees to improve structure, to reduce future, potential stem/branch failures when the trees were much younger, was not practiced by municipal urban forest

managers earlier in the life of these trees, here in San Francisco. Other Cities in California with a lot of ficus trees may have adopted these pruning practices much earlier in the management of their ficus trees.

We now know that large ficus trees with codominant stems, with narrow angles of attachment, with or without included bark, have a strong likelihood of failure. We regret the impact this removal will have on the community but we need to address these public safety concerns.

For these reasons we reached out in advance, to the community and to the Supervisor's office, to begin the public outreach process. We scheduled a meeting at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital in March and based on the vocal opposition to the proposed removals at that community meeting, we re-evaluated the trees based on the request from the community: to retain as many trees as possible through drastic pruning, if necessary. This has allowed us to reduce the number of trees proposed for removal from 77 to 48. Twenty-nine ficus trees will be retained during this next three to five-year maintenance cycle, and instead, pruned aggressively. This is not a great long-term solution to managing these 29 trees, and we will need to re-evaluate their condition in three to five years when we are performing our next maintenance cycle.

Regarding the suitability of Landmarking the ficus trees, Public Works is heavily involved with the Landmarking process for trees in San Francisco, as a member of the Urban Forestry Council, and our Department is responsible for maintaining Landmark Trees within the public right-of-way. We support the Landmark tree program in general and take pride in maintaining the Landmark Trees that are under our maintenance responsibility. Our Department does not believe that the ficus trees along 24th St. are candidates for receiving Landmark tree status.

While we are in agreement that the trees are a great asset to the community, which is why San Francisco had developed high standards for the removal of street trees and lengthy, robust tree removal permitting requirements by both property owners and our own agency, the trees are not remarkable

examples of the species, and both the limited growing conditions (narrow sidewalks/busy pedestrian corridor, narrow streets), and the trees' poor structural conditions, will greatly limit their size and future growth potential.

We respect that Calle 24 views the ficus trees as cultural assets to the community.

Zachary Karnazes

Appeal 19-099

Concerns raised by the Appellant

- Physical posting notices were not made fully accessible to disabled public
- Notified PW and other City officials re: accessibility issues multiple times
- Notices do not include people who are blind, w/low vision, severe mobility impairments, or who are bedridden for long periods of time
- Notices are hard to read for various reasons
- Lack of accessibility means he was unable to attend the June 5th hearing
- We had adequate time to address these concerns with an online database of proposed removals
- A lot of documentation re: emails not responded to
- Upset about our lack of replacement trees at 3500 Mission
- Hidden process for removal of public trees
- Poor track record of caring for newly planted trees

Requests:

- Deny permission to remove the trees, based on failures to replant, establish & protect replacement trees

- Comply with request to create an online database, to improve accessibility

Feedback from Public Works

For several years Public Works staff has been discussing our own desire to post proposed tree removals on our website (an “online database” of removals). On October 21, 2019 Public Works began posting trees proposed for removal across the City, onto its website. See Appendix J. This can be found at <http://sfpublicworks.org/tree-removal-notifications> . At present, this requires our Public Information Officer and/or Clerk to manually post the information onto the website; we hope to develop a more automated way to do this in the future. Feedback from the Mayor’s Office on disability has been very positive; they are not requesting anything further, though we hope to continue to work on improvements, such as higher resolution images. Public Works has its own full-time ADA/Disability Access Coordinator and a full-time assistant. These are important issues to Public Works, and improved transparency will benefit the both public and Public Works. There is no doubt that Appellant Karnazes’ complaints and inquiries allowed Public Works to better prioritize making this happen.

- The hearing notices that were placed on the trees and nearby utility poles, were in both Spanish and English
- We agree that posting the notices online, in real time, is more inclusionary for those with severe mobility impairments or whom are bedridden for periods of time
- We have also organized the listings by the 11 Supervisorial Districts so that the public can view the removal notices by District

Regarding a lack of responsiveness from Public Works, we have assigned our Public Information Officer, Nancy Sarieh, to serve as a point person to help us handle the inquiries that we receive from Mr. Karnazes. Improvements have been made in the last month.

Regarding the lack of replacement trees at 3500 Mission St., unfortunately this did fall through the cracks. However, the site is unique. These were not empty tree basins/missing trees, this site is where San Jose Ave joins Randall and there is a large grouping of very large eucalyptus trees. With thousands of empty tree basins across the City, we have had to focus on the worst first, and these replacement locations were not originally in the sidewalk, but among large crowding trees within the open space area, where we would not receive complaints on a regular basis. We have recently planted the replacement trees by locating them within the sidewalk public right-of-way, on Mission St., so that they are more visible. Trees that have been contested by the public will be prioritized.

Recommendation:

Our Department needs to maintain public safety and the goal is to prevent tree failures, not to respond to them, particularly when a specific issue has been identified, as is the case with stem and branch failures with ficus trees. San Franciscans value street trees and have mandated their protection for decades. Our goal is to not wait until someone is injured by a branch or tree failure. When confronted by serious community concerns about these tree removals, we have listened and demonstrated a willingness to reduce the number of ficus trees proposed for removal, *if we believe we can still maintain public safety*. We have reduced the number of proposed removals by 29 trees.

After consideration of correspondence and testimony provided at the hearing, the decision of the Director was to approve the removal of 48 street trees along 24th Street with replacement. There is room to plant an additional 17 street trees along 24th St. which will also be done as part of the replacement tree plantings. The replacement tree sizes will be 24" box size trees. The species will be both red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*). The replacement trees and necessary sidewalk repairs will be completed within three months after the removal of the trees and stumps have occurred. The trees will be removed and the stumps grinded/removed, before the tree contractor moves onto the next block.

San Francisco Public Works asks the Board of Appeals to uphold Order No. 201771, our decision to remove the forty-eight (48) street trees with replacement with 24" box size replacement trees within three months of removal. Based on our most recent evaluation, this request is now reduced to forty-seven 47 street trees. We will also plant 17 additional trees – any and all available planting sites/spaces between Mission St. and Potrero Ave. We will also commit to planting replacement trees as close to the removed trees as possible (Appendix B).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Chris Buck", written in a cursive style.

Chris Buck

Urban Forester

Bureau of Urban Forestry

San Francisco Public Works

Enclosures:

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APPENDIX

A

City and County of San Francisco



London N. Breed, Mayor
Mohammed Nuru, Director

San Francisco Public Works

GENERAL - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

City Hall, Room 348
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, S.F., CA 94102
(415) 554-6920 www.SFPublicWorks.org



Public Works Order No: 201771

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Findings:

The Bureau of Urban Forestry (BUF) representative, Chris Buck, gave testimony explaining the decision to remove 52 street trees (51 ficus and 1 Brisbane box) along 24th Street. BUF staff approved the removal of the street trees and the public protested. Mr. Buck explained the problems caused by ficus trees and outlined the department's policy toward removal of ficus trees, which is contained in DPW Order No. 183151.

Initially, the department sought to remove 77 street trees, as stated at the first community meeting for reasons that included poor health and safety concerns (such as instability caused by split branches and trunks). Following multiple community meetings and extensive outreach, based on the large amount of community feedback against the proposed removals, BUF reduced the number of trees proposed for removal from 77 to 52 and proposed experimental/aggressive pruning on 25 of the ficus trees. He noted the requirement that the City replace removed trees, but noted that in this case there are locations where replacement is not possible because of lack of space, interference with utility poles, etc. For that reason, he said that some of the tree basins will be filled in but that trees will be planted in other locations, leading to a net increase of 17 trees along the street. The removed trees would be replaced by red maples and ginkgo trees.

Several written protests were submitted and over 50 people spoke in opposition to the removal of the trees. While a few people acknowledged the need to remove severely damaged or unhealthy trees, the vast majority of speakers detailed the negative effects that the removals would have on the community. Themes that came up repeatedly:

- Such a dramatic loss of tree canopy would have a detrimental health affect due to lack of shade/increased temperatures.
- Removing such a large number of trees runs counter to the City's environmental efforts to reduce global warming.
- The environmental and health benefits of newly planted trees would not be felt for many years, if not decades.



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- The ficus trees are a symbol of the Mission District and hold special significance to residents.
- The City would never propose such a radical removal in wealthier neighborhoods.
- Replacement of the ficus trees with red maples and ginkgos ignores the cultural significance of the trees and threatens to speed the gentrification of the neighborhood.
- If the City had maintained the trees properly, the damage would not have been so severe, so the City should fix the problem rather than clear-cutting the trees.
- Technology should be available to maintain rather than cut down the trees.
- If the City decides that the ficus trees need to be removed, this should not happen all at once, but rather the removal should be spread out over time to lessen the impact.

Concerns were raised whether the proposed tree removals had received CEQA clearance. Removal of hazardous and dying trees was considered in the Categorical Exemption granted in the 2014 Urban Forest Plan, (case no 2013.1517E) which also analyzed the cumulative impacts associated with the plan.

Following the hearing, based on the large amount of negative feedback received during public comment, Urban Forestry staff reviewed the 52 trees proposed for removal on site, to see if any additional trees could be retained, and some of the structural issues mitigated through experimental/aggressive pruning. Based on this review, four of the 52 trees proposed for removal will now be retained:

2836 24th St (tree no. 2): Remove very large eastern stem that is being damaged by autos and has a weak attachment, and perform canopy reduction to rest of tree;

2850 24th St. (tree no. 1): Main stem union is wide and the site is not replantable due to the bus zone. The tree has other structural issues, but experimental/aggressive pruning would reduce potential failures;

3200 24th St. (tree no. 1): Remove the large stem damaged by autos. The tree is smaller than the others and if it is retained, along with 3230 (tree no. 1), it would preserve a row of 4 trees;

3230 24th St. (tree no. 1): Relatively small ficus that was heavily shaded by larger tree that failed/split apart during a storm. The tree has large gaps in canopy but could be pruned.

Recommendation:

After consideration of correspondence and testimony provided at the hearing, the decision is to approve the removal of 48 street trees along 24th Street with replacement. There is room to plant an additional 17 street trees along 24th St. which will also be done as part of the replacement tree plantings. The replacement tree sizes will be both 24" box and 36" box size trees, depending on required space from utilities and species availability. The species will be both red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*). The replacement trees and necessary sidewalk repairs shall be completed within three months after the removal of the trees and stumps have occurred. The trees will be removed and the stumps grinded/removed, before the tree contractor moves onto the next block.

List of 48 trees approved for removal on 24th Street:

2700 (removal of 3); 2726-2736 (no replacement/stop sign); 2701-2749 (3 trees); 2752 (no replacement-street light); 2782-2786; 2792-2794 (remove 2, replace 1/stop sign/intersection); 2773-2781; 2751; 2800 (possible replacement/shift bike rack); 2804; 2824-2826; 2836-2838 (tree no. 1); 2839-2847; 2850 (tree no.

2); 2858-2860; 2870; 2872-2876; 2878-2880 (no replacement); 2863-2869 (replace in front of 2871/street light); 2893-2899; 2900; 2904; 2912-2916; 2917-2919 (dead Brisbane box tree); 2966-2970 (remove 2/replace 1 at 2962); 3000-3008; 3013; 3024 (2 trees); 3032-3034; 3041-3047; 3049-3055 (no replacement/stop sign); 3050-3058; 3062-3068; 3069-3075; 3078-3080; 3088-3090; 3156-3158; 3175-3181; 3160; 3260-3264 (no replacement/bus zone); 3278-"3290" (no replacement; bus zone, where plaza begins).

List of 29 trees that were previously being considered for removed, but will be retained, and pruned in an aggressive/experimental manner to address potential stem failures:

2718-2722; 2726-2734 (2 trees); 2701-2749 (tree no. 2 & 3); 2754; 2778; 2790; 2773-2781 (tree no. 2 & 3); 2809; 2833; 2836-2838 (tree no. 2); 2839-2847; 2850 (tree no. 1); 2851-2857 (tree no. 2); 3044; 3035-3039; 3050-3058 (tree no. 2); 3070-3076; 3092-3098; 3166-3168 (tree no. 1 & 2); 3172-3176; 3182-3194 (tree no. 1 & 2); 3200 (tree no. 1); 3225; 3230 (tree no.1)

Appeal:

This order may be appealed to the Board of Appeals within 15 days of August 26th, 2019.

Board of Appeals

1650 Mission, Room 304

San Francisco, CA 94103 (between Van Ness and Duboce Avenues)

Phone: 415.575.6880 Fax: 415.575.6885

Regular office hours of the Board of Appeals are Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm. Appointments may be made for filing an appeal by calling 415-575-6880. All appeals must be filed in person. For additional information on the San Francisco Board of Appeals and to view the Appeal Process Overview, please visit their website at <http://sfgov.org/bdappeal/>

X

DocuSigned by:

Nuru, Mohammed

Nuru, Mohammed

Director



London N. Breed, Mayor
Mohammed Nuru, Director

GENERAL - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

City Hall, Room 348
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, S.F., CA 94102
(415) 554-6920 ■ www.SFPublicWorks.org



Public Works Order No: 200996

TREE REMOVAL HEARING NOTICE

POSTING PERIOD (30 days) From: 5/3/2019 Through: 6/1/2019

The Director of Public Works will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 5th, 2019 commencing at 5:30 p.m. in Room 416 of City Hall, located at 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, to consider the following:

Removal of fifty-one (51) street trees (Ficus) with replacement (unless otherwise noted) along 24th Street between Potrero Ave. & Mission St., adjacent to the locations listed below.

Staff has approved the removals and the public has protested

2700 (removal of 3); 2726-2736 (no replacement/stop sign); 2701-2749 (3 trees); 2752 (no replacement-street light); 2782-2786; 2792-2794 (remove 2, replace 1/stop sign/intersection); 2773-2781; 2751; 2800 (possible replacement/shift bike rack); 2804; 2824-2826; 2836-2838 (2 trees); 2839-2847; 2850 (2 trees/no replacement/bus zone/street light); 2858-2860; 2870; 2872-2876; 2878-2880 (no replacement); 2863-2869 (replace in front of 2871/street light); 2893-2899; 2900; 2904; 2912-2916; 2917-2919; 2966-2970 (remove 2/replace 1 at 2962); 3000-3008; 3013; 3024 (2 trees); 3032-3034; 3041-3047; 3049-3055 (no replacement/stop sign); 3050-3058; 3062-3068; 3069-3075; 3078-3080; 3088-3090; 3156-3158; 3175-3181; 3160; 3200-3216; 3230-3236; 3260-3264 (no replacement/bus zone); 3278-"3290" (no replacement; bus zone, where plaza begins).

Interested parties are encouraged to attend. Persons unable to attend the public hearing may submit written comments regarding the subject matter to the Bureau of Urban Forestry, 1680 Mission Street, 1st floor, San Francisco, CA 94103. These comments will be brought to the attention of the hearing officer and made a part of the official public record.

Further information, if desired, on this matter may be obtained prior to the hearing by phoning the Bureau of Urban Forestry at (415) 554-6700.



San Francisco Public Works
Making San Francisco a beautiful, livable, vibrant, and sustainable city.



London N. Breed, Alcalde
Mohammed Nuru, Director



No. de Orden de Obras Públicas: 200996

AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PARA LA ELIMINACIÓN DE ÁRBOLES

PERÍODO DE PUBLICACIÓN (30 días) Desde: 3 de mayo de 2019 Hasta: 1 de junio de 2019

El Director de Obras Públicas celebrará una audiencia pública el miércoles 5 de junio de 2019 a partir de las 5:30 p.m. en la Sala 416 del Ayuntamiento, ubicada en 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, para considerar lo siguiente:

Eliminación de cincuenta y dos (52) árboles de la calle (51 ficus / 1 boj cepillo) con reposición (a menos que se indique lo contrario) a lo largo de 24th Street entre Potrero Ave. y Mission St. adyacente a las ubicaciones mencionadas a continuación.

El personal ha aprobado las eliminaciones y el público ha protestado.

2700 (eliminación de 3); 2726-2736 (sin reposición/señal de alto); 2701-2749 (3 árboles); 2752 (sin reposición - farola); 2782-2786; 2792-2794 (eliminar 2, reponer 1/señal de alto/intersección); 2773-2781; 2751; 2800 (posible reposición / cambio de rejilla para bicicletas); 2804; 2824-2826; 2836-2838 (2 árboles); 2839-2847; 2850 (2 árboles/sin reposición/zona de autobuses/farolas); 2858-2860; 2870; 2872-2876; 2878-2880 (sin reposición); 2863-2869 (reposición frente a 2871/farola); 2893-2899; 2900; 2904; 2912-2916; 2917-2919 (árbol boj cepillo muerto); 2966-2970 (eliminar 2/reponer 1 en 2962); 3000-3008; 3013; 3024 (2 árboles); 3032- 3034; 3041-3047; 3049-3055 (sin reposición/señal de alto); 3050-3058; 3062-3068; 3069-3075; 3078-3080; 3088-3090; 3156-3158; 3175-3181; 3160; 3200-3216; 3230-3236; 3260-3264 (sin reposición/área de autobuses); 3278-"3290" (sin reposición; zona de autobuses, donde comienza la plaza).

Se anima a las partes interesadas a que asistan. Las personas que no puedan asistir a la audiencia pública pueden presentar comentarios por escrito sobre el tema a la Oficina de Silvicultura Urbana, a: Bureau of Urban Forestry, 1680 Mission Street, 1st floor, San Francisco, CA 94103. Estos comentarios serán llevados a la atención del oficial de audiencias y formarán parte del registro público oficial.

Si lo desea, puede obtener más información sobre este tema antes de la audiencia llamando a la Oficina de Silvicultura Urbana al (415) 554-6700.



APPENDIX

B

Address	Street	Site #	Tree ID	Species	Recommendation	Replacement possible yes/no, reasons	Sidewalk repair required, yes/no	Pave over, yes/no	Reduce basin size to 4x4	Replacement Species (maple or ginkgo)	Notes
Potrero-Hampshire											
2700	24th St.	1	481	Ficus	Remove	Yes replace - end of bus zone	Yes	-	-	Ginkgo biloba	
2700	24th St.	2	245470	Ficus	Remove	No replacement, bus zone & street light	No	Yes	-	-	
2700	24th St.	3	245471		Empty basin	-	Yes	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	
2700	24th St.	4	245472	Ficus	Remove	Yes	No	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	Tree is in severe decline
2718-2722	24th St.	1	487	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	No	-	
2726-2734	24th St.	1	245413	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	Yes	-	
2726-2734	24th St.	2	489	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes	-	Yes	-	
2726-2736	24th St.	1	245414	Ficus	Remove	No replacement, stop sign	No	Yes	-	-	

Hampshire-Potrero											
2701-2749	24th St.				New planting site	-	-	-	-	Ginkgo biloba	Add one new site 12' from SL
2701-2749	24th St.	1	491	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	
2701-2749	24th St.	2	492	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes, curb repair, small chunk	-	Yes	-	
2701-2749	24th St.	3	493	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes	-	Increase basin size to 4x4	-	
2701-2749	24th St.	4	494	Maple	Planted 3/14/19	-	-	-	-	-	
2701-2749	24th St.	5	495	Maple	Planted 3/14/19	-	-	-	-	-	
2701-2749	24th St.	6	496	Ficus	Remove	Yes, at sdwlk btwn T6 & 7	Yes	Yes	Cut new replacement basin	Ginkgo biloba	At back of sidewalk, base of building foundation
2701-2749	24th St.	7	497	Ficus	Remove	No, too close to intersection	No	Yes	-	-	At back of sidewalk, base of building foundation

Hampshire-York											
2752	24th St.	1	498	Ficus	Remove	No, street light	Yes	Yes	No	-	
2754	24th St.	1	501	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	Yes	-	
2760	24th St.				New planting site	-	-	-	-	Acer rubrum	
2778	24th St.	1	245409	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes	-	Yes	-	
2782-2786	24th St.	1	280	Ficus	Remove	Yes, but next door IFO 2778	No	Yes	-	Acer rubrum next door IFO 2778	Replacement, cut
2790	24th St.	1	514	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	Yes	-	
2792-2794	24th St.	1	513	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	Ginkgo biloba	
2792-2794	24th St.	2	245411	Ficus	Remove	No, stop sign & intersection	Yes, including ramp at corner	Yes	-	-	

York-Hampshire											
2799	24th St.	1	245418		New planting site	-	-	-	-	Ginkgo biloba	
2773-2781	24th St.	1	245415	Ficus	Remove	Yes	No	-	No	Acer rubrum	Brava Theatre - shift 3'E for sewer
2773-2781	24th St.	2	245416	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes	-	No	-	
2773-2781	24th St.	3	245417	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	No	-	

Address	Street	Site #	Tree ID	Species	Recommendation	Replacement possible yes/no, reasons	Sidewalk repair required, yes/no	Pave over, yes/no	Reduce basin size to 4x4	Replacement Species (maple or ginkgo)	Notes
2751	24th St.	1	499	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Ginkgo biloba	

York-Bryant

2800	24th St.	1	245412	Ficus	Remove	maybe - see if we can shift to bike rack location. Currently has sl conflict.	Yes, including curb ramp	-	No	Ginkgo biloba	Pops Bar - if we can switch tree with bike racks, 15' from streetlight
2804	24th St.	2	519	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes, a lot of damage	-	Yes, check for sewer location	Acer rubrum	If able to shift site 1, this become Acer instead of Ginkgo
2826	24th St.	1	524	Ficus	Remove	Yes, shift 4' to the East to get 15' from streetlight	Yes	-	No	Acer rubrum	
2830	24th St.	1	526	Loph.	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
2836-2838	24th St.	1	527	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes, shift slightly E	-	No	Ginkgo biloba	
2836-2838	24th St.	2	528	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	no		-	No		Remove 12" branch on East side of tree

Bryant-York

2809	24th St.	1	520	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	Shift basin		
2813	24th St.	1	523	Maple	Planted 3/7/19		-	-	-		
2833	24th St.	1	245419	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes	-	No		
2839-2847	24th St.	1	529	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	No		
2839-2847	24th St.	2	531	Ficus	Remove	Yes	No	-	Yes	Ginkgo biloba	

Bryant-Florida

2850	24th St.	1	532	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	No, bus zone and street light	No	Yes	-		
2850	24th St.	2	533	Ficus	Remove	No, bus zone	No	Yes	-		
2858-2860	24th St.	1	538	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes, a lot of damage	No	No	Ginkgo biloba	
2862	24th St.	1	539	Red Maple	Planted 3/9/19	Yes	No	-	No	Acer rubrum	
2870	24th St.	1	542	Ficus	Remove	Yes, move basin 3 flags East	Yes, a lot of damage	No	Shift basin	Acer rubrum	
2872-2876	24th St.	1	544	Ficus	Remove	Yes, move basin 4 flags West	Need to confirm	No	Shift basin	Ginkgo biloba	
2878-2880	24th St.	1	545	Ficus	Remove	No, shifting 2872- 2876	Yes	No	-		

Florida-Bryant

2851-2857	24th St.	1	537	Mayten	Retain tree	-	No	-	No		
2851-2857	24th St.	2	245420	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	No		
2863-2869	24th St.	1	540	Ficus	Remove	Yes, but IFO 2871 to avoid streetlight	No	No	See replacement tree notes	Acer rubrum	Plant replacement tree between bike racks at 2871 24th St. Eliminate 1 bike rack; contact owner? Need to mark the site/USA
2889	24th St.				Empty basin	Yes	No	-	Make basin larger	Acer rubrum	
2889	24th St.				Empty basin	Yes	No	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	Failed in Feb 2019
2893-2899	24th St.	1	549		Abandones	no	Yes	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	Plant 18' apart
2893-2899	24th St.	2	245421	Ficus	Remove	Yes	No	-	No	Ginkgo biloba	Plant replacements 18' apart

Address	Street	Site #	Tree ID	Species	Recommendation	Replacement possible yes/no, reasons	Sidewalk repair required, yes/no	Pave over, yes/no	Reduce basin size to 4x4	Replacement Species (maple or ginkgo)	Notes
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Florida-Alabama

2900	24th St.	1	551	Ficus	Remove	Yes shift 5' to get 15' from streetlight	Yes	-	Yes	Ginkgo biloba	Shift 5' to get 15' from SL - Princeton Sentry?
2904	24th St.	1	552	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes	-	No	Acer rubrum	
2912-2916	24th St.	1	554	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes, a lot of damage	-	No	Acer rubrum	
2934-2940	24th St.	1	556	Ficus	Retain tree	-	Yes	-	No	-	
2934-2940	24th St.				Paved basin, check if site is replantable	There was a tree here before	-	-	-	Acer rubrum	At 2940 entrance; SS clearance ok
2944-2946	24th St.	1	562	Ginkgo	Retain, replanted recently	-	No	-	No	-	Very young ginkgo

Alabama-Florida

2901	24th St.			Acer	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
2901	24th St.			Ginkgo	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	Stake/cage the tree to protect it
2913	24th St.			Loph	Retain	-	Yes, but minor repair	-	No	-	
2917-2919	24th St.	1	557	Loph	Remove Lophostemon	Yes, post notice, dead tree	No	-	No	Acer rubrum	Dead Brisbane Box
2929	24th St.			Loph	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
2933	24th St.				New planting site	-	-	-	Cut new basin	Acer rubrum	Add 1 basin at 2933
2937	24th St.			Ginkgo	Retain	-	Yes	-	Cut 1/2 flag for better basin/	-	

Alabama-Harrison

2956	24th St.				Empty basin	Yes, reduce basin, replant	No	-	Yes	Ginkgo biloba	
2958	24th St.			Acer	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
2962	24th St.				New planting site	-	-	-	-	Acer rubrum	Discolandia
2966-2970	24th St.	1	569	Ficus	Remove	No, 7' away from street light. Replanting at Discolandia/2962	No	Yes	-	-	
2966-2970	24th St.	2	571	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes	-	No	Acer rubrum	Add stakes and cage to protect it.
2976	24th St.			Ginkgo	Retain	-	-	-	-	-	

Harrison-Alabama

2953	24th St.			Ginkgo	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
2963	24th St.				Cut new planting site	Check for utilities first	-	-	-	Acer rubrum	
2977	24th St.				Cut new planting site	Check for utilities first	-	-	-	Acer rubrum	
2977	24th St.				Cut new planting site	Check for utilities first	-	-	-	Acer rubrum	May be able to add 2 sites 18' on center, 24' from Stop Sign

Harrison-Treat

3008	24th St.	1	576	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes, shift all 3 1-2 flags for better ped light clearance	-	Yes	Ginkgo biloba	
3024	24th St.	1	577	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes, shift all 3 1-2 flags for better ped light clearance	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	

Address	Street	Site #	Tree ID	Species	Recommendation	Replacement possible yes/no, reasons	Sidewalk repair required, yes/no	Pave over, yes/no	Reduce basin size to 4x4	Replacement Species (maple or ginkgo)	Notes
3024	24th St.	2	224694	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes, shift all 3 1-2 flags for better ped light clearance	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	
3032-3034	24th St.	1	224695	Ficus	Retain	Yes	No	No	Yes	Acer rubrum	Changed to retain prior to BOA
3040	24th St.	1	220490	Acer	Retain	-	No	-	Yes	-	
3044	24th St.	1	588	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	No	-	

Treat-Harrison											
3013	24th St.	1	582	Palm	Retain	-	-	-	-	-	
3013	24th St.	2	580	Ficus	Remove	Yes, shift basin 12' from SL, 16' from Acer	Shift basin	-	Shift basin	Ginkgo biloba	Princeton sentry should be ok 16' from maple
3013	24th St.	3	579	Acer rubrum	Planted 3/9/19	-	-	-	-	-	
3013	24th St.	4	228030	Loph	Retain	-	-	-	-	-	
3035-3039	24th St.	1	584	Acer rubrum	Planted 3/9/19	-	-	-	-	-	
3035-3039	24th St.	2	224529	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	No	-	
3041-3047	24th St.	1	589	Loph	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
3041-3047	24th St.	2	584	Ficus	Remove	Yes	No	-	No	Acer rubrum	

Folsom-Treat											
3049-3055	24th St.	1	590	Ficus	Remove	No, stop sign	Yes	Yes	-	-	
3055	24th St.	1	224530	Ficus	Retain tree	-	-	-	-	-	
3069-3075	24th St.	1	224531	Ficus	Retain tree	-	-	-	-	-	
3069-3075	24th St.	2	597	Ficus	Remove	No, street light	No	Yes	-	-	
3069-3075	24th St.	3	243517		Empty basin	Shift to IFO 3065	Yes	Yes	Shift/cut new	Acer rubrum	
3085	24th St.	1	156796		New planting site	-	-	-	-	-	Maybe add one at corner (end of bus zone?)
3085	24th St.	2	602	Ficus	Retain tree	-	No	-	No	-	
3085	24th St.	3	603	Ficus	Retain tree	-	No	-	No	-	
3085	24th St.	4	26548	Ficus	Retain tree	-	No	-	No	-	

Treat-Folsom											
3050-3058	24th St.	1	591		Empty basin	yes, upright ginkgo	No	no	-	Ginkgo biloba	maybe shift
3050-3058	24th St.	2	592	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	-	-	-	-	
3050-3058	24th St.	3	594	Ficus	Remove	Yes, 9' from ped level S.L - shift 2-3' E to get better clearance	Yes	-	Yes and shift 2-3' E to get better clearance	Acer rubrum	
3062-3068	24th St.	1	595	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	
3070-3076	24th St.	1	598	Ficus	Remove	-	No	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	Changed to removal prior to BOA, due to decline in canopy health
3078-3080	24th St.	1	600	Ficus	Remove	Maybe. See if we can switch bike rack location	No	Yes	-	-	
3088-3090	24th St.	1	604	Ficus	Remove	Yes, ped level SL	Yes shift W 3'	-	No	Ginkgo biloba	
3092-3098	24th St.	1	605	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes	-	-	-	

Address	Street	Site #	Tree ID	Species	Recommendation	Replacement possible yes/no, reasons	Sidewalk repair required, yes/no	Pave over, yes/no	Reduce basin size to 4x4	Replacement Species (maple or ginkgo)	Notes
Shotwell-Folsom											
3112	24th St.			Ficus	Retain	-	Yes, minor damage	-	No	-	
3114	24th St.			Ficus	Retain	-	Yes	-	No	-	
3114	24th St.			Ficus	Retain	-	Yes	-	No	-	
3130-3132	24th St.			Palm	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
3134	24th St.				Empty basin	Yes	No	-	No	Acer rubrum	
3144	24th St.				Paved basin, mark it	Mark it/call USA	No	-	No	Ginkgo biloba	
3144	24th St.			Palm	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	

Shotwell-Folsom											
3149	24th St.			Ficus	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
3149	24th St.			Ficus	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
3149	24th St.			Ficus	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
3135	24th St.			Maple	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
3135	24th St.			Maple	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
3135	24th St.			Maple	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
3105-3197	24th St.				Possible planting site	Mark/call into USA; at start of property, Yellow Zone Ok?	No	-	-	Ginkgo biloba - if plantable	Possibly 2 if one bike rack shifts - check with Philz coffee
3105-3197	24th St.				Possible planting site	Mark/call into USA; at start of property, Yellow Zone Ok?	No	-	-	Ginkgo biloba - if plantable	Possibly 2 if one bike rack shifts - check with Philz coffee

S V Ness-Shotwell											
3151-3157	24th St.			Ficus	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	One branch on East side has 3 competing branches, retain for now
3151-3157	24th St.			Palm	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
3161-3163	24th St.				New planting site	-	-	-	-	-	
3165-3167	24th St.				New planting site	-	-	-	-	-	
3175-3181	24th St.	2	224534	Ficus	Retain	-	Yes	-	No	-	Smaller tree, okay for now, poor structure long term
3175-3181	24th St.	1	224535	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	Ginkgo biloba	At parking lot. Sidewalk damage

Shotwell-Mission											
3150	24th St.	1	622		Empty basin	Maybe shift to bike rack location?	No	-	Shift basin	Ginkgo biloba	Possibly shift to bike rack if yes, becomes Ginkgo, and 3156 becomes Acer
3156-3158	24th St.	1	623	Ficus	Remove	Yes	If 3150 shifts, this needs to shift 2'W to get 18' between	-	Yes	Ginkgo biloba	Lacks clearance, previous stem failure
3160	24th St.	1	625	Ficus	Remove	Yes	No	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	
3166-3168	24th St.	1	627	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes	-	Yes, huge, reduce to 4x4	-	
3166-3168	24th St.	2	224696	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes	-	Yes	-	
3172-3176	24th St.	1	630	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	No	-	
3182-3194	24th St.	1	633	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	No	-	Injury at main union

Address	Street	Site #	Tree ID	Species	Recommendation	Replacement possible yes/no, reasons	Sidewalk repair required, yes/no	Pave over, yes/no	Reduce basin size to 4x4	Replacement Species (maple or ginkgo)	Notes
3182-3194	24th St.	2	224697	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes	-	No	-	-
3182-3194	24th St.	3	224698		Empty basin	No, street light & intersection	No	Yes	-	-	

S V Ness-Capp

3200-3216	24th St.	1	640	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	Yes	No	-	Yes	-	remove damaged roadside branch
3200-3216	24th St.	2	641	Ficus	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
3224-3226	24th St.	1	643	Ficus	Retain	-	Yes	-	No	-	
3230-3236	24th St.	1	224699	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	Yes	No	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	
3230-3236	24th St.	2			Empty basin	If shift to 18' center will be 18' from streetlight	No	-	Shift to 18' from streetlight		Check building plans for this property
3230-3236	24th St.	4	224702	Ficus	Retain	-	Yes	-	No	-	
3230/3236	24th St.	5			New planting site	-	-	-	-		Pending development, could add one site 21' W of Ficus, which is 30' from corner

S V Ness-Capp

3211	24th St.				New planting site	-	-	-	-	Mexican fanpalm	
3211	24th St.			Palm	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
3211	24th St.			Palm	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
3211	24th St.			Palm	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
3225	24th St.	1	642	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	-	No	Yes	-	
3231	24th St.			Acer	Planted 3/9/19	-	No	-	No	-	
3245	24th St.	1	644	Ficus	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
3247	24th St.				New planting site	-	-	-	-	Ginkgo biloba	15' f/ped level streetlight

Capp - Mission

3250	24th St.				Paved basin	Yes, at rear of bus zone/staging area no boarding	No	-	Cut new basin	Ginkgo biloba	
3250	24th St.				Empty basin	Yes, at rear of bus zone/staging area no boarding	No	-	Reduce 6" for PTZ	Acer rubrum	
3260-3264	24th St.	1	657	Ficus	Remove	No, bus zone	Yes	Yes	-	-	A lot of general heaving/sidewalk lift, will become much worse. Poor structure.
3266-3270	24th St.			Maple	Retain	-	No	-	No	Acer rubrum	Struggling
3278 (3290X)	24th St.	1	224704	Ficus	Remove	No, bus zone,	Yes, and pave over	Yes, and pave over			At start of Plaza. Declining vigor. Poor structure. 2' from sewer lateral. Possibly shift E and replant in staging area?

Mission - Capp

3297X	24th St.	i	224536	Ficus	Retain tree	-	No	-	No	-	
3297X	24th St.			Palm	Retain tree	-	No	-	No	-	
3297X	24th St.			Palm	Retain tree	-	No	-	No	-	

Address	Street	Site #	Tree ID	Species	Recommendation	Replacement possible yes/no, reasons	Sidewalk repair required, yes/no	Pave over, yes/no	Reduce basin size to 4x4	Replacement Species (maple or ginkgo)	Notes
3297X	24th St.		243519	Ficus	Retain tree	-	No	-	No	-	Borderline, poor structure, but smaller tree
3255X	24th St.	1	653	Ficus	Retain - small tree	-	No	-	No	-	Borderline, poor structure, but smaller tree
3255X	24th St.	2	654		Empty basin	Under canopy of ficus bhnd fnce		Pave?	No	-	Basin underneath canopy of ficus f/inside park lot
3255X	24th St.	3	655	Ficus	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	Small tree, parking lot
3255X	24th St.	4	656	Ficus	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	Small tree, parking lot

Address	Street	Site #	Tree ID	Species	Recommendation	Replacement possible yes/no, reasons	Sidewalk repair required, yes/no	Pave over, yes/no	Reduce basin size to 4x4	Replacement Species (maple or ginkgo)	Notes
Potrero-Hampshire											
2700	24th St.	1	481	Ficus	Remove	Yes replace - end of bus zone	Yes	-	-	Ginkgo biloba	
2700	24th St.	2	245470	Ficus	Remove	No replacement, bus zone & street light	No	Yes	-	-	
2700	24th St.	3	245471		Empty basin	-	Yes	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	
2700	24th St.	4	245472	Ficus	Remove	Yes	No	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	Tree is in severe decline
2718-2722	24th St.	1	487	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	No	-	
2726-2734	24th St.	1	245413	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	Yes	-	
2726-2734	24th St.	2	489	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes	-	Yes	-	
2726-2736	24th St.	1	245414	Ficus	Remove	No replacement, stop sign	No	Yes	-	-	

Hampshire-Potrero											
2701-2749	24th St.				New planting site	-	-	-	-	Ginkgo biloba	Add one new site 12' from SL
2701-2749	24th St.	1	491	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	
2701-2749	24th St.	2	492	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes, curb repair, small chunk	-	Yes	-	
2701-2749	24th St.	3	493	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes	-	Increase basin size to 4x4	-	
2701-2749	24th St.	4	494	Maple	Planted 3/14/19	-	-	-	-	-	
2701-2749	24th St.	5	495	Maple	Planted 3/14/19	-	-	-	-	-	
2701-2749	24th St.	6	496	Ficus	Remove	Yes, at sdwlk btwn T6 & 7	Yes	Yes	Cut new replacement basin	Ginkgo biloba	At back of sidewalk, base of building foundation
2701-2749	24th St.	7	497	Ficus	Remove	No, too close to intersection	No	Yes	-	-	At back of sidewalk, base of building foundation

Hampshire-York											
2752	24th St.	1	498	Ficus	Remove	No, street light	Yes	Yes	No	-	
2754	24th St.	1	501	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	Yes	-	
2760	24th St.				New planting site	-	-	-	-	Acer rubrum	
2778	24th St.	1	245409	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes	-	Yes	-	
2782-2786	24th St.	1	280	Ficus	Remove	Yes, but next door IFO 2778	No	Yes	-	Acer rubrum next door IFO 2778	Replacement, cut
2790	24th St.	1	514	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	Yes	-	
2792-2794	24th St.	1	513	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	Ginkgo biloba	
2792-2794	24th St.	2	245411	Ficus	Remove	No, stop sign & intersection	Yes, including ramp at corner	Yes	-	-	

York-Hampshire											
2799	24th St.	1	245418		New planting site	-	-	-	-	Ginkgo biloba	
2773-2781	24th St.	1	245415	Ficus	Remove	Yes	No	-	No	Acer rubrum	Brava Theatre - shift 3'E for sewer
2773-2781	24th St.	2	245416	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes	-	No	-	
2773-2781	24th St.	3	245417	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	No	-	

Address	Street	Site #	Tree ID	Species	Recommendation	Replacement possible yes/no, reasons	Sidewalk repair required, yes/no	Pave over, yes/no	Reduce basin size to 4x4	Replacement Species (maple or ginkgo)	Notes
2751	24th St.	1	499	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Ginkgo biloba	

York-Bryant

2800	24th St.	1	245412	Ficus	Remove	maybe - see if we can shift to bike rack location. Currently has sl conflict.	Yes, including curb ramp	-	No	Ginkgo biloba	Pops Bar - if we can switch tree with bike racks, 15' from streetlight
2804	24th St.	2	519	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes, a lot of damage	-	Yes, check for sewer location	Acer rubrum	If able to shift site 1, this become Acer instead of Ginkgo
2826	24th St.	1	524	Ficus	Remove	Yes, shift 4' to the East to get 15' from streetlight	Yes	-	No	Acer rubrum	
2830	24th St.	1	526	Loph.	Retain	-	No	-	No	-	
2836-2838	24th St.	1	527	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes, shift slightly E	-	No	Ginkgo biloba	
2836-2838	24th St.	2	528	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	no		-	No		Remove 12" branch on East side of tree

Bryant-York

2809	24th St.	1	520	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	Shift basin		
2813	24th St.	1	523	Maple	Planted 3/7/19		-	-	-		
2833	24th St.	1	245419	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes	-	No		
2839-2847	24th St.	1	529	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	No		
2839-2847	24th St.	2	531	Ficus	Remove	Yes	No	-	Yes	Ginkgo biloba	

Bryant-Florida

2850	24th St.	1	532	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	No, bus zone and street light	No	Yes	-		
2850	24th St.	2	533	Ficus	Remove	No, bus zone	No	Yes	-		
2858-2860	24th St.	1	538	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes, a lot of damage	No	No	Ginkgo biloba	
2862	24th St.	1	539	Red Maple	Planted 3/9/19	Yes	No	-	No	Acer rubrum	
2870	24th St.	1	542	Ficus	Remove	Yes, move basin 3 flags East	Yes, a lot of damage	No	Shift basin	Acer rubrum	
2872-2876	24th St.	1	544	Ficus	Remove	Yes, move basin 4 flags West	Need to confirm	No	Shift basin	Ginkgo biloba	
2878-2880	24th St.	1	545	Ficus	Remove	No, shifting 2872 - 2876	Yes	No	-		

Florida-Bryant

2851-2857	24th St.	1	537	Mayten	Retain tree	-	No	-	No	-	
2851-2857	24th St.	2	245420	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	No	-	
2863-2869	24th St.	1	540	Ficus	Remove	Yes, but IFO 2871 to avoid streetlight	No	No	See replacement tree notes	Acer rubrum	Plant replacement tree between bike racks at 2871 24th St. Eliminate 1 bike rack; contact owner? Need to mark the site/USA
2889	24th St.				Empty basin	Yes	No	-	Make basin larger	Acer rubrum	
2889	24th St.				Empty basin	Yes	No	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	Failed in Feb 2019
2893-2899	24th St.	1	549		Abandoned	no	Yes	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	Plant 18' apart
2893-2899	24th St.	2	245421	Ficus	Remove	Yes	No	-	No	Ginkgo biloba	Plant replacements 18' apart

APPENDIX

C

December 1, 2014 Press Release

<https://www.sfpublicworks.org/project/director-eases-removal-risk-ficus-trees>

Director Eases Removal of At-Risk Ficus Trees

For immediate release: Dec. 1, 2014

Contact: Rachel Gordon, 415-554-6045

SF PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR EASES REMOVAL OF AT-RISK FICUS TREES
Height, structure, pruning history, canopy and roots could determine a tree's fate

San Francisco, CA – Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru has signed a new order easing the removal of individual ficus street trees that pose a risk of failure.

The director's order relaxes the removal standards for individual ficus trees that meet one or more of the following criterion that can make the tree more vulnerable to failure:

- The tree is at least 50 feet tall
- The tree has competing/codominant trunks
- The live canopy makes up less than 30 percent of the tree or is in decline
- The roots have been pruned two or more times
- The tree has a history of limb failures
- The canopy or main trunk conflicts with streetlights or power lines

The order applies to both public and private ficus street trees located in San Francisco. Owners of privately maintained ficus street trees would have to apply for a tree-removal permit and pay the associated \$339 administrative fee and the cost of removal. In addition, any ficus tree that is removed would have to be replaced with a more suitable species of tree.

With these new guidelines in place, granting of the permit is not guaranteed but approval is more likely.

As part of the formal permit review process, Public Works will dispatch a certified arborist to assess the tree. Trees recommended for removal will be posted with a notice to alert the public. Anyone who objects to the removal has 30 days to file a formal protest. That automatically triggers a public hearing before an administrative hearing officer who will determine the tree's fate.

"We want nothing more than to see our urban forest grow and thrive. Any removal of a street tree merits serious and thoughtful consideration," Nuru said. "I issued this order out of an abundance of caution because at the end of the day, protecting public safety is paramount."

The towering ficus trees are known for their impressive canopy, and for decades have proven a showcase species in San Francisco along such streets at Hyde, Lombard and Potrero. But, their height, trunk structure, canopy size, pruning history and roots can make individual ficus trees more susceptible to collapse and/or limb failure, putting people and property at risk.



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor
Mohammed Nuru, Director

GENERAL - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

City Hall, Room 348

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, S.F., CA 94102

(415) 554-6920 www.sfdpw.org



DPW Order No: 183151

Tree removal criteria for ficus trees (*Ficus microcarpa* 'Nitida').

Article 16 of the Public Works Code governs trees and landscaping in the public right of way. The residents of San Francisco value street trees, and have mandated their protection. Article 16 of the Public Works Code, adopted as the Urban Forestry Ordinance of 1995, was created to:

(a) Realize the optimum public benefits of trees on the City's streets and public places, including favorable modification of microclimates, abatement of air and noise pollution, reduction of soil erosion and runoff, enhancement of the visual environment, and promotion of community pride;

(g) Recognize that trees are an essential part of the City's aesthetic environment and that the removal of important trees should be addressed through appropriate public participation and dialogue, including the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.).

(h) Recognize that green spaces are vital to San Francisco's quality of life, as they provide a range of environmental benefits and bring beauty to our residential neighborhoods and commercial districts.

However, it also was designed to:

(d) Reduce the public hazard, nuisance, and expense occasioned by improper tree selection, planting, and maintenance.

The tree structure of many of these ficus trees includes large, competing trunks with acute angles of attachment. Due to recent large limb and tree failures of ficus trees, causing property damage, injury and concerns for public safety, the Director of Public Works has established new guidelines for the staff evaluation and determination of whether to approve removal of this particular species of tree on a case-by-case basis.

There is no one-size fits all approach and each tree must be evaluated by a qualified arborist. Ficus trees that are candidates for removal may only exhibit one of the defects described below, or, multiple defects may be present.



Staff will consider the following criteria to be considered when evaluating the structural health of ficus trees:

- **Competing/codominant stems, with acute angles of attachment, with or without included bark**

Large trees, with multiple competing trunks/stems, with acute angles of attachment (where pruning off the limb to mitigate the attachment would remove 30 percent or more of the tree canopy) with or without included bark.

- **Failure history**

Previous limb failures at point of codominance, or multiple previous limb failures within the canopy.

- **Live crown ratio**

The ratio of the size of a tree's live crown to its total height. Fifty percent live crown ratio is ideal but rarely attained in urban environments. Live-crown ratios of less than 30 percent shall be considered problematic.

- **Canopy vigor**

If the canopy of the tree shows decline and reduced vigor in 25% or more of the canopy.

- **Large limbs damaged by vehicles**

If there are large limb(s) that have repeatedly been hit by vehicles (where pruning off the limb to mitigate the damage would remove 30 percent or more of canopy).

- **Root pruning history**

If the tree has been root pruned more than two times

- **Canopy balance**

If the tree has been pruned for building clearance to the extent that it is seriously imbalanced, and balancing necessitates the removal of more than 25 percent of remaining canopy.

- **Large stature**

If the tree is taller than 50 feet, even if other criteria are not met, the approval may be granted based on size.

- **Utility conflicts**

If the tree has canopy or main trunk in conflict with existing utility infrastructure, such as high-voltage power lines, Muni overhead lines, or street lights.

Notwithstanding the above:

- 1) If the department determines that any of the criteria listed above can be mitigated through pruning or some other intervention, the department may not approve removal.
- 2) If the tree does not meet the above criteria but the director determines that other factors validate removal, the department may still grant removal.
- 3) All tree removals must still go through the process outlined in Article 16. Due to concerns regarding public safety, ficus trees meeting one or more of the criteria outlined



above may be determined to be imminent hazards, and therefore a reduced public notification, as outlined in the code, can be used.

- 4) The department recognizes the potential impact to the total street tree canopy cover due to the loss of such large stature trees. Therefore, if the ficus tree is removed, Public Works will require the replacement of the tree, as outlined in the Urban Forestry Ordinance and in some cases will require large stature (at maturity) replacement species, unless site constraints would preclude this.



Appendix 1

Below are excerpts from the book *Arboriculture* (3rd Edition, 1999), a text that is considered the primary authority in the arboricultural industry. Regarding codominant stems, with or without included bark, it states:

- Codominant trunks with included bark do not form connective tissues between stems and are prone to failure. (pg. 491, *Arboriculture*, 3rd Edition, 1999).
- The relative size and arrangement of the scaffold branches is important to structural stability. Two or more leaders (stems) about the same size or branches near the same size as the trunk are more likely to fail than if one leader or the branches were only half the size (75 percent of the diameter) of the main trunk. (pg. 491).
- A trunk is not able to grow around a branch when both are near the same size (pg. 491).
- Several relatively large branches arising near the same level on the trunk are even more vulnerable to failure (pg. 491).
- Also, the weight and leverage of such limbs are great in relation to the strength of their attachments. As trees age, their branches usually continue to spread, further increasing the stress on their attachments (pg. 491).
- Most of these structural hazards can be prevented by proper training of the trees while they are young. (pg 493).

11/24/2014

X Mohammed Nuru

Nuru, Mohammed
Approver 1



San Francisco Department of Public Works
Making San Francisco a beautiful, livable, vibrant, and sustainable city.



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Certificate of Determination Exemption from Environmental Review

Case No.: 2013.1517E
Project Title: 2014 Urban Forest Plan
Project Sponsor: Jon Swae; San Francisco Planning Department
(415) 575-9069
Staff Contact: Kei Zushi (415) 575-9036
kei.zushi@sfgov.org

1650 Mission St.
Suite 400
San Francisco,
CA 94103-2479

Reception:
415.558.6378

Fax:
415.558.6409

Planning
Information:
415.558.6377

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed project is to adopt the 2014 Urban Forest Plan Phase I ("Plan"). The Plan identifies policies and strategies to proactively manage and protect street trees in San Francisco. The Plan would help address issues related to street trees, including funding for street tree maintenance and planting of new street trees to address their uneven distribution within San Francisco. Phases 2 and 3 of the Urban Forest Plan have yet to be developed, but would address the management of trees in parks and open spaces (Phase 2) and trees on private property and greening of buildings (Phase 3). This exemption from environmental review covers Phase I of the Urban Forest Plan.

(Continued on Second Page.)

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption, Classes 4 and 8 (State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15304(b) and 15308).

DETERMINATION:

I do hereby certify that the above determination has been made pursuant to State and local requirements.


Sarah B. Jones
Environmental Review Officer

July 29, 2014
Date

cc: Jon Swae, Project Sponsor

Distribution List
Virna Byrd, M.D.F.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (continued):**Setting**

Surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay and located at the tip of an environmentally diverse peninsula, San Francisco is a phenomenal mosaic of topography, weather, geology, and ecology. San Francisco's streets and parks resemble a global arboretum with over 200 species of trees from places including Australia, Asia, and Africa. There are currently approximately 700,000 trees¹ in San Francisco, which renders 13.7 percent of San Francisco covered by tree canopy.² This urban forest³ is almost entirely the result of human-initiated planting activities over the last 150 years.

San Francisco has one of the smallest tree canopies of major U.S. cities. The average U.S. metropolitan canopy cover is 33 percent.⁴ San Francisco's tree canopy is shrinking, and ongoing funding and operational challenges have limited the reach of municipal tree planting and maintenance programs. As many as 100,000 potential street tree planting spaces remain empty. In addition, street trees in San Francisco are not evenly distributed, and some traditionally underrepresented neighborhoods have less greenery.

Plan Goals & Key Recommendations

The Plan includes the following five goals for the urban forest:

1. Grow the urban forest through new planting to maximize the social, economic and environmental benefits of trees and urban greening;
2. Protect the urban forest from threats and loss by preserving the City's existing trees;
3. Manage the urban forest through coordinated planning, design and maintenance to ensure its long-term health and sustainability;
4. Fund the urban forest program by establishing a long-term funding strategy for the City's trees; and
5. Engage residents, public agencies, community groups, and the private sector in caring for the urban forest and fostering their deeper connection to nature.

The Plan identifies four key recommendations that synthesize many of the individual policies and strategies contained in the Plan, which include:

¹ This is the total number of existing trees in San Francisco including trees within the public streets, parks, and private properties.

² A city's tree canopy is measured by the amount of land covered by trees when viewed from above.

³ The term "urban forest" describes the collection of trees and other vegetation found along San Francisco's street and within the built environment. See page 4 of the *draft 2014 Urban Forest Plan* for more information. Available online at: http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/planning-for-the-city/urban-forest-plan/Urban_Forest_Plan_Final-051414.pdf. Accessed July 11, 2014.

⁴ City and County of San Francisco. *Draft 2014 Urban Forest Plan, Final Draft*, Spring 2014.

1. *Maximize the benefits of urban trees.* San Francisco's trees provide a wide range of important social, economic, and environmental benefits (estimated at \$9.4 million annually).^{5,6} Some of these benefits include air and water filtration, carbon storage, and habitat creation. The Plan recommends maximizing the benefits of urban trees by identifying and planting high-performing species that would help maximize the social, economic, and environmental benefits of trees.⁷ In addition, the Plan recommends signage and increased communication of these benefits so that they are more visible to policy makers and the public.

2. *Grow the street tree population by 50 percent.* The Plan recommends the planting of 50,000 new street trees on San Francisco's streets over the next 20 years. This would expand San Francisco's street tree population by half from 105,000 street trees (2014) to 155,000 street trees (2034). These new trees would help stem the decline of the urban forest, address San Francisco's limited tree canopy, and bring the trees' benefits to more neighborhoods in San Francisco. In addition, the new trees would be planted in underrepresented locations to create a more equitable distribution of tree canopy and help reduce greening inequities throughout San Francisco.

The typical root ball size of new trees to be planted under the Plan is approximately 24 inches by 24 inches.⁸ New street trees would be planted in existing or new tree planters, generally three feet by three feet in size, within existing sidewalks along public streets. Installation of a new street tree would require excavation that would reach a depth of approximately 24 to 48 inches below the adjacent sidewalk level.⁹ Unhealthy or hazardous street trees would continue to be removed under the Plan. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion control would be implemented as deemed necessary during tree planting, such as installation of straw wattles and chips.¹⁰

3. *Establish and fund a citywide street tree maintenance program.* The Plan proposes halting the practice of transferring the maintenance responsibility for street trees to private property owners. The Plan recommends centralizing maintenance responsibility for 100 percent of San Francisco's street trees under the Department of Public Works (DPW) through a municipal street tree program. Under such a program, homeowners would be relieved from the responsibility of maintaining trees fronting their property and undertaking tree-related sidewalk repairs. Creation of a citywide street tree maintenance program would require the establishment of a dedicated long-term funding source to finance the program. A variety of funding options for consideration by decision-makers have been identified including an assessment district, parcel tax, and general obligation bonds. The Plan

⁵ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. *Assessing Urban Forest Effects and Values: San Francisco's Urban Forest, 2007*. Available online at: http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/rb/rb_nrs008.pdf. Accessed July 11, 2014.

⁶ Jon Swae, San Francisco Planning Department. *Email to Kei Zushi, San Francisco Planning Department, Urban Forest Plan*, July 11, 2014. This email is available for review as part of Case File No. 2013.1517E at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Carla Short, SFDPW. *Email to Kei Zushi, San Francisco Planning Department, Tree Size: 2014 Urban Forest Plan*, July 15, 2014. This document is available for review as part of Case File No. 2013.1517E at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA.

⁹ Carla Short, SFDPW. *Email to Kei Zushi, San Francisco Planning Department, Street Tree Planting/Irrigation*, July 9, 2014. This document is available for review as part of Case File No. 2013.1517E at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA.

¹⁰ Carla Short, SFDPW. *Email to Kei Zushi, San Francisco Planning Department, Erosion Control BMPs: Street Tree Planting/Irrigation*, July 7, 2014. This document is available for review as part of Case File No. 2013.1517E at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA.

recommends further evaluation of these tools to determine the feasibility of each and the potential to achieve the Plan's goals.

4. Manage trees throughout their entire life-cycle. The Plan recommends managing street trees through their entire life-cycle. The components of a street tree life-cycle management program include the development of a street tree nursery, a removal and succession strategy, and a wood re-use program to create second-life products from dead or removed street trees.

Please see the Plan for a detailed list of the specific strategies identified in the Plan.

Project Approval:

The Approval Action for the project is the adoption of the proposed Plan by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. The Approval Action date establishes the start of the 30-day appeal period for this CEQA exemption determination pursuant to Section 31.04(h) of the San Francisco Administrative Code.

REMARKS:

Biological Resources

The goals and strategies in the Plan would not directly result in the construction of any facilities, but would serve to guide how and where new street trees should be planted and help fund the continued maintenance of street trees and removal of unhealthy or hazardous trees over the next 20 years in San Francisco. New street trees would be planted within existing sidewalks along public streets. Installation of a new street tree would require excavation that would reach a depth of approximately 24 to 48 inches below the adjacent sidewalk level.¹¹

Strategy 1.2.7 in the Plan calls for "Us[ing] the urban forest to support local wildlife and provide habitat." The Plan would not conflict with existing or foreseeable plans or programs that pertain to the protection of special-status species¹² or other natural resources and implementation of the Plan would not have a substantial adverse effect on any special-status species or sensitive natural resources.

Under the Plan, DPW would continue to maintain street trees and remove unhealthy or hazardous trees. In maintaining the urban forest, DPW would continue to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), which generally makes it unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture, or kill any migratory bird or its nest or egg, in undertaking these activities. Therefore, implementation of the Plan would not result in significant impacts to migratory birds.

¹¹ Carla Short, SFDPW. Email to Kei Zushi, San Francisco Planning Department, Street Tree Planting/Irrigation, July 9, 2014. This document is available for review as part of Case File No. 2013.1517E at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA.

¹² For the purposes of this Categorical Exemption, the term "special-status species" includes species that are: 1) legally protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), California ESA, or Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA); or 2) locally significant sensitive species, including species on the National Audubon Society's Watch List or those under threat of local extirpation, as determined by the Yerba Buena chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) or the Golden Gate chapter of the National Audubon Society.

In light of the above, implementation of the Plan would not result in significant impacts to biological resources.

Utilities

Strategy 1.1.5 in the Plan states that, "Drought-tolerant tree species should continue to be prioritized." A newly planted street tree normally requires 15 gallons of water per week for irrigation purposes and only during the first three to five years of planting.¹³ Therefore, a total of approximately 2,340 to 3,900 gallons of irrigation water would be required for each newly planted tree.¹⁴ The Plan calls for a total of 50,000 new street trees over the next 20 years. Therefore, the new street trees to be planted under the Plan over the next 20 years would collectively require approximately 117 to 195 million gallons of irrigation water in total. This incremental increase in the demand for irrigation would be accommodated within the anticipated water supply projections for San Francisco, given that citywide water use in the year 2010 was approximately 85 million gallons per day. Therefore, the Plan would not result in significant impacts with respect to the availability of water supply.

Strategy 1.2.3 in the Plan calls for DPW to, "Help manage stormwater through increased use of trees and landscaping." Street trees help reduce the amount and speed of surface stormwater runoff entering collection and treatment facilities during large storm events by capturing rainwater on leaf surfaces and uptake via root systems. The amount of rainwater that a typical street tree can intercept ranges from 460 to 4,000 gallons per year.¹⁵ This in turn helps decrease overall combined sewer discharges into the Bay and ocean. Therefore, the Plan would not result in significant impacts with respect to stormwater facilities.

In light of the above, the Plan would not result in significant impacts with respect to utilities.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative projects include past, current, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. While Phases 2 and 3 of the Urban Forest Plan have yet to be developed, Phase 2 would address the management of trees in parks and open spaces and Phase 3 would address trees on private property and greening of buildings. Based on the preliminary scope and nature of Phases of 2 and 3 of the Urban Forest Plan, it is not anticipated that Phases 2 or 3, in combination with the proposed project, would result in any significant environmental impacts. As of July 2014, there are no known past, current, or reasonably foreseeable future projects that would, in combination with the proposed Phase I of the Urban Forest Plan, result in any significant environmental impacts. Thus, the proposed Phase I of the Urban Forest Plan, in

¹³ Carla Short, SFDPW. Email to Kei Zushi, San Francisco Planning Department, Street Tree Planting/Irrigation, July 7, 2014. This document is available for review as part of Case File No. 2013.1517E at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA.

¹⁴ 15 (gallons of irrigation water per week per new tree) x 52 (weeks per year) x 3 (years) = 2,340 (gallons of irrigation water required during the first three years of planting per new tree). 15 (gallons of irrigation water per week per tree) x 52 (weeks per year) x 5 (years) = 3,900 (gallons of irrigation water required during the first five years of planting per new tree).

¹⁵ City and County of San Francisco. *Draft 2014 Urban Forest Plan, Final Draft*, Spring 2014.

combination with other past, current, or reasonably foreseeable future projects, would not result in any significant effects on the environment.

Exempt Status

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304(b), or Class 4, provides an exemption from environmental review for minor public or private alterations to the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes, including new gardening or landscaping to replace existing conventional landscaping with water efficient or fire resistant landscaping. The planting of street trees resulting from the Plan would be a minor alteration to public land that does not include the removal of any scenic trees or healthy, mature trees. Only unhealthy or hazardous street trees would be removed. Furthermore, drought-tolerant tree species would be given priority in selecting street trees under the Plan. Therefore, the project qualifies for exemption from further CEQA review under Class 4.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15308, or Class 8, provides an exemption from environmental review for actions by regulatory agencies to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment. The Plan would provide general goals and strategies to maintain, enhance, and protect the environment, i.e., San Francisco's street trees. Thus, the project qualifies for exemption from further CEQA review under Class 8.

Conclusion

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 states that a categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. There are no unusual circumstances surrounding the current proposal that would suggest a reasonable possibility of a significant effect. The proposed project would have no significant environmental effects. The project would be exempt under the above-cited classifications. For the above reasons, the proposed project is appropriately exempt from environmental review.

APPENDIX

D

The numbers

Total # trees before removals (all species)	133
---	-----

Total # ficus to be removed	51
-----------------------------	----

Total trees remaining (non-removals & experimental prunings; ficus & other species)	82
--	----

Total replantings / new plantings (includes sites pending utility clearance)	68
---	----

Total # trees after removals & replantings / new plantings (includes sites pending utility clearance)	150
---	-----

Breakdown of work phases

Removals

- Trees and stump grinds
- Dedicated professional tree contractor

Sidewalk Work

- Repair cracked and raised sidewalk
- Enlarge/reduce tree basins
- Move tree basins
- Pave over unplantable basins
- Dedicated Public Works cement crew

Replanting and new plantings

- Replant tree basins that are free of utility conflicts and meet all tree planting guidelines
- Plant in currently empty basins
- Plant in new basins
- Dedicated Public Works planting crew
- Engage community in designing and customizing tree stakes and cross brace stickers
- 4 stakes and wire mesh will be used on all new trees

Removal phase

Dedicated professional tree contractor

Timeline: From the start of removal to completion, three to four months

Start date: Subject to change depending on

- public notification protests
- public hearings
- the scheduling of work with contractors and in-house crews

When scheduling, we will take into account 24th Street events such as Fiesta de Las Americas (September 15)

Removals	Sidewalk Work	Replanting and new plantings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trees and stump grinds• Dedicated professional tree contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repair cracked and raised sidewalk• Enlarge/reduce tree basins• Move tree basins• Pave over unplantable basins• Dedicated Public Works cement crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replant tree basins that are free of utility conflicts and meet all tree planting guidelines• Plant in new basins• Dedicated Public Works planting crew• Engage community in designing and customizing tree stakes and cross brace stickers• 4 stakes and wire mesh will be used on all new trees

Experimental Pruning

- Aggressive pruning that does not meet City pruning standards and will drastically change the look of the trees as it will remove the majority of the tree canopy.



Sidewalk work phase

Dedicated Public Works
cement crew

Timeline: work begins as soon
as tree removal contractors
finish a block

Scope of work:

- Repair cracked and raised sidewalk
- Enlarge or reduce tree basins
- Move tree basins
- Pave over unplantable basins

Removals	Sidewalk Work	Replanting and new plantings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trees and stump grinds• Dedicated professional tree contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repair cracked and raised sidewalk• Enlarge/reduce tree basins• Move tree basins• Pave over unplantable basins <p>Dedicated Public Works cement crew</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replant tree basins that are free of utility conflicts and meet all tree planting guidelines• Plant in new basins <p>Dedicated Public Works planting crew</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage community in designing and customizing tree stakes and cross brace stickers• 4 stakes and wire mesh will be used on all new trees

Planting phase

Dedicated Public Works
planting crew

Timeline: Two to three months
after removals are completed

Species:

- Red maple (Armstrong Maple) along 24th (midblock)
- Ginkgo (Maidenhair tree) on corners of 24th

Watering: Public Works will water with community support where possible

Removals	Sidewalk Work	Replanting and new plantings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trees and stump grinds• Dedicated professional tree contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repair cracked and raised sidewalk• Enlarge/reduce tree basins• Move tree basins• Pave over unplantable basins• Dedicated Public Works cement crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replant tree basins that are free of utility conflicts and meet all tree planting guidelines• Plant in new basins• Dedicated Public Works planting crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage community in designing and customizing tree stakes and cross brace stickers• 4 stakes and wire mesh will be used on all new trees

New Trees



Red Maple



Ginkgo

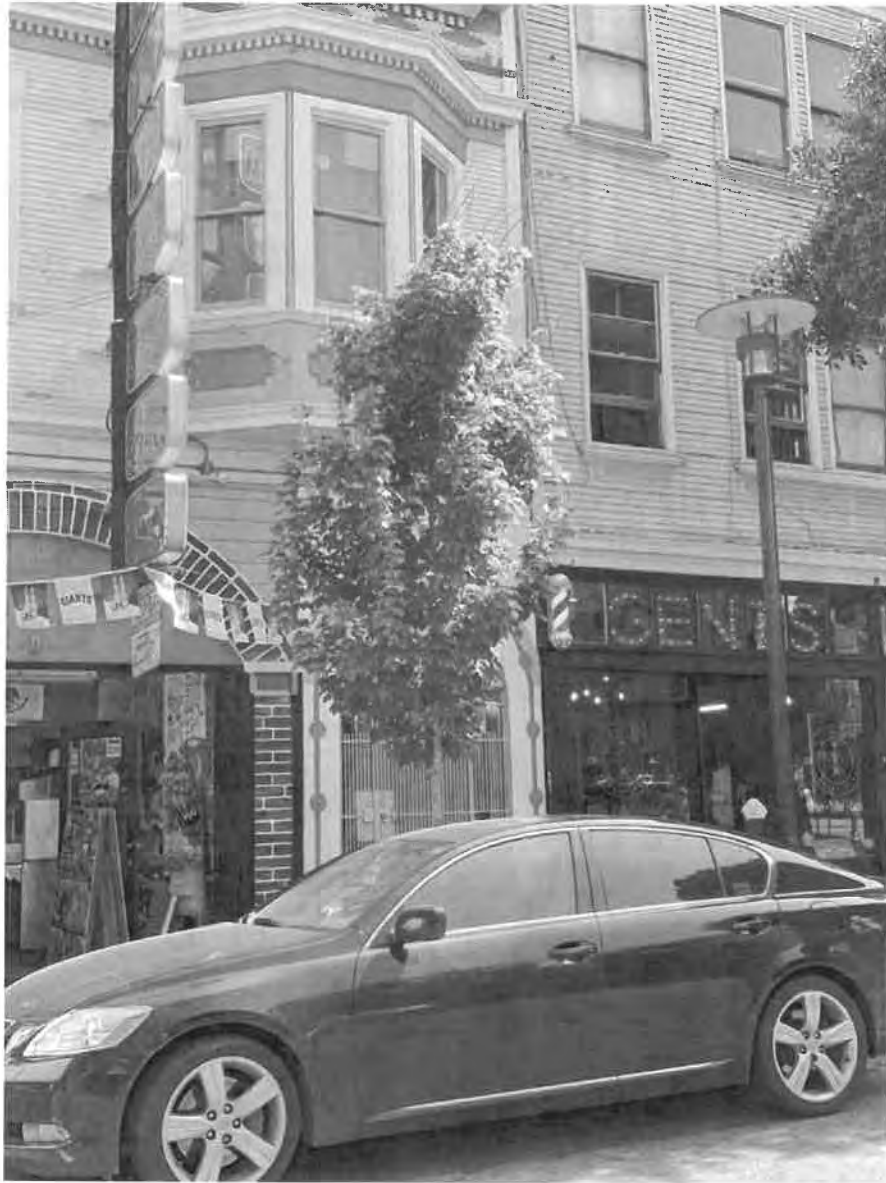
New Trees

- Some new trees will be 36" boxes with 4x4 foot basins
- Some will be 24" boxes also with 4x4 foot basins



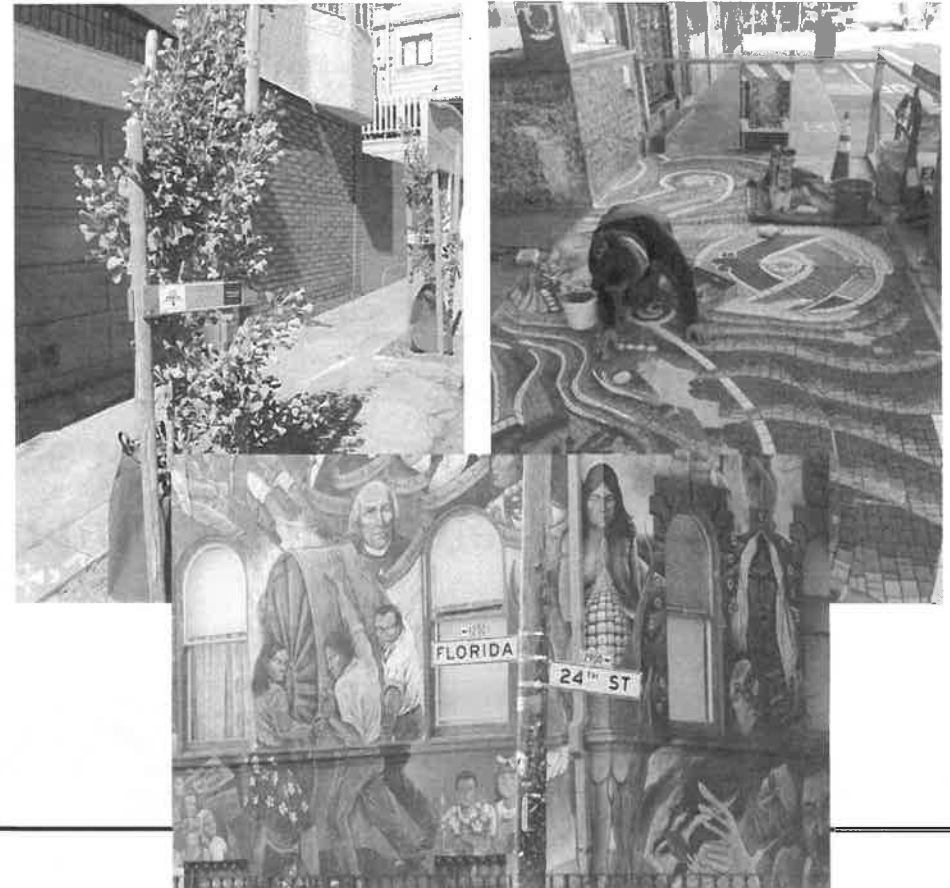
Currently empty tree basins along
Lower 24th Street have been replanted
(where sidewalk repair was not required)





Community requests

- Christmas lights
- Custom-designed tree stakes and/or crossbrace stickers



Additional information

- Committed to three-month turn around time from removal to replacement tree for each block
 - Three-month timeframe Includes all work phases: tree and stump removal, sidewalk repair, shifting tree basins/cutting basins and planting
- Public Works will provide bi-weekly project updates to Supervisor Ronen's Office and community while project is ongoing
- Public Works will have dedicated contact for questions, concerns, updates, etc. while project is ongoing
- Additionally, updates will be provided to Calle 24 and can be found by visiting **sfpublicworks.org/ficustrees**

APPENDIX

E



**Tree Removal Hearing / 24th St. ficus trees
June 5, 2019**

Public Works Strategic Plan:

Goal 1: Ensure Safe, Clean, and Green Infrastructure and Public Rights of Way

StreetTree SF



StreetTreeSF

Street Tree Census



Keymap Pruning The “worst first”



Work in Progress



- Since the start of StreetTreeSF, **26% of total tree maintenance needs** have been addressed by contractors and City arborists
- More than 33,000 trees have been pruned
- More than 3,000 at-risk trees have been removed

Information and Outreach

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[Recycling & Refuse Collection](#)
[Storm Preparation](#)
[Street Sweeping](#)
[Sidewalks](#)
[Street Resurfacing](#)
[Street Trees and Plants](#)

StreetTreeSF

[Greening Projects](#)
[Permits - Street Trees and Plants](#)
[Street Tree Listings](#)
[Urban Forest Plan](#)
[Right Trees](#)
[Subdivisions and Mapping](#)
[Other Services A-Z](#)



StreetTreeSF is a voter-approved initiative managed by San Francisco Public Works to professionally maintain and care for the 124,000-plus street trees growing throughout all neighborhoods in the City.

San Francisco Public Works is developing StreetTreeSF into an efficient and cost-effective system to routinely and proactively maintain street trees, ensuring that all public trees are inspected and pruned on a regular basis. Street trees will be pruned once every three- to five-years depending on the type of tree. StreetTreeSF will also repair sidewalks that have been damaged by street trees.

Now that StreetTreeSF is maintaining and caring for all street trees, residents do not need to prune trees themselves.

Pruning your tree could result in a fine of \$2,000 or more, per tree. StreetTreeSF is now your street tree care professional, so you can leave the pruning to us!



streettreesf.org

StreetTreeSF FAQ

StreetTreeSF Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Preguntas Frecuentes

[請點開這裡\(link\)瀏覽中文版的FAQ提案常見問題](#)

Tree Pruning Schedule

StreetTreeSF went into effect July 1, 2017. Since then, we have begun tree maintenance work throughout the City, starting with the "worst first". These are street trees and sidewalks that pose a safety risk and are located near bus stops, schools and senior centers. Crews also continue to concentrate their efforts on emergency work, such as fallen limbs, pedestrian and visibility obstructions and damaged trees during storm season that pose safety hazards.

The below StreetTreeSF pruning map is a guide to when and where current work is happening and what work is planned over the next several years. Enter your full address to find out when trees in your neighborhood will receive a visit from a StreetTreeSF crew.

[We ask for your patience as we work diligently to attend to the City's 125,000 street trees.](#)



Information and Outreach

Leav

It's FREE!

StreetTreeSF is the citywide street tree maintenance program managed by Public Works. From eucalyptus to magnolias, StreetTreeSF will care for all of San Francisco's 125,000 trees, including yours. There's no need to prune, we'll be there soon!

StreetTreeSF 是由工務局負責執行的一項全市街樹維護計劃。從尤加利樹到玉蘭樹，StreetTreeSF 將維護全三藩市的 125,000 棵樹，包括您的。請不要修剪，我們很快就會來。

StreetTreeSF es el programa de mantenimiento de árboles en las calles de toda la ciudad, administrado por Obras Públicas. Desde eucalyptos hasta magnolias, StreetTreeSF cuidará de todos los 125,000 árboles de San Francisco, incluyendo el suyo. No hay necesidad de podarlo, ¡estaremos allí pronto!

PUBLIC WORKS
streetreesf.org
415-554-6700
urbanforestry@sfdpw.org

DON'T PRUNE

STREET TREES!

Leave the pruning to...

street sf tree

We will be pruning trees in your neighborhood between...

April - June 2019

Want to opt out of StreetTreeSF and continue to care for your street tree per City pruning standards? Contact us to add your tree to the program's opt-out list.



San Francisco's
Tree Maintenance
Program Explained



PUBLIC WORKS

StreetTreeSF is the citywide street tree maintenance program managed by San Francisco Public Works.

StreetTreeSF is funded by a measure that passed in 2016 with overwhelming voter support and transferred responsibility for the care and maintenance of the City's 124,000-plus street trees and surrounding sidewalks from property owners to Public Works.

Where does the funding come from?

A \$19 million annual fee vote in the City's General Fund, allocated annually based on City Services, funds StreetTreeSF. The measure's transparency and accountability (Public Works will have annual reports on how StreetTreeSF funding was spent and what work was completed during the prior year).

When will my tree be pruned?

Crews have begun pruning operations and sidewalk repair during the city starting with the "winter rest". You can find out when nearby street trees will be pruned by visiting www.sfdpw.org/streettrees.

How often will my tree be pruned?

Trees will be pruned on a three-to-five-year cycle, based on the species and needs of each individual tree.

If I want to continue to prune my tree, can I opt out?

Yes. As long as you're caring for your tree according to City standards, you can opt out.

Does StreetTreeSF pay for sidewalk planting?

No. Funding for StreetTreeSF only covers tree and sidewalk maintenance. How? Public Works will continue to work with our existing Friends of the Urban Forest that replace more street trees and plant City trees to meet the street tree population over 20 years.

Will I still be responsible for sidewalk?

Yes and no. Property owners are still responsible for sidewalk damage that is not caused by the City. The City will be responsible for a related sidewalk damage.

Is the City going to do all the City work?

No. It is understood that should half of the work be performed by certified private contractors.

What if I see someone damage a tree?
Please call 311, or if you feel that you've severely damaged the tree please call 311/554-6700.

Challenges with ficus trees

Ficus microcarpa 'Nitida'

- Once popular street tree
(green & so healthy looking!)
- Initial issues were sidewalk damage/tree roots
- Removed from planting list in mid 1990s
- Increasing amount of large stem failures
- Public safety concerns:
Blocked roads, property damage, injuries

Director's Order No. 183151

Tree Removal Criteria for Ficus

- Acknowledges the benefits and value of ficus trees
- Outlines in detail the structural defects that are leading to the large stem failures
- Primary issue:
codominant stems
with narrow angles
of attachment,
with or without
included bark



City and County of San Francisco



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor
Mohammed Nuru, Director

San Francisco Public Works

GENERAL - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
City Hall, Room 348
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place,
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-6920 sfpublicworks.org

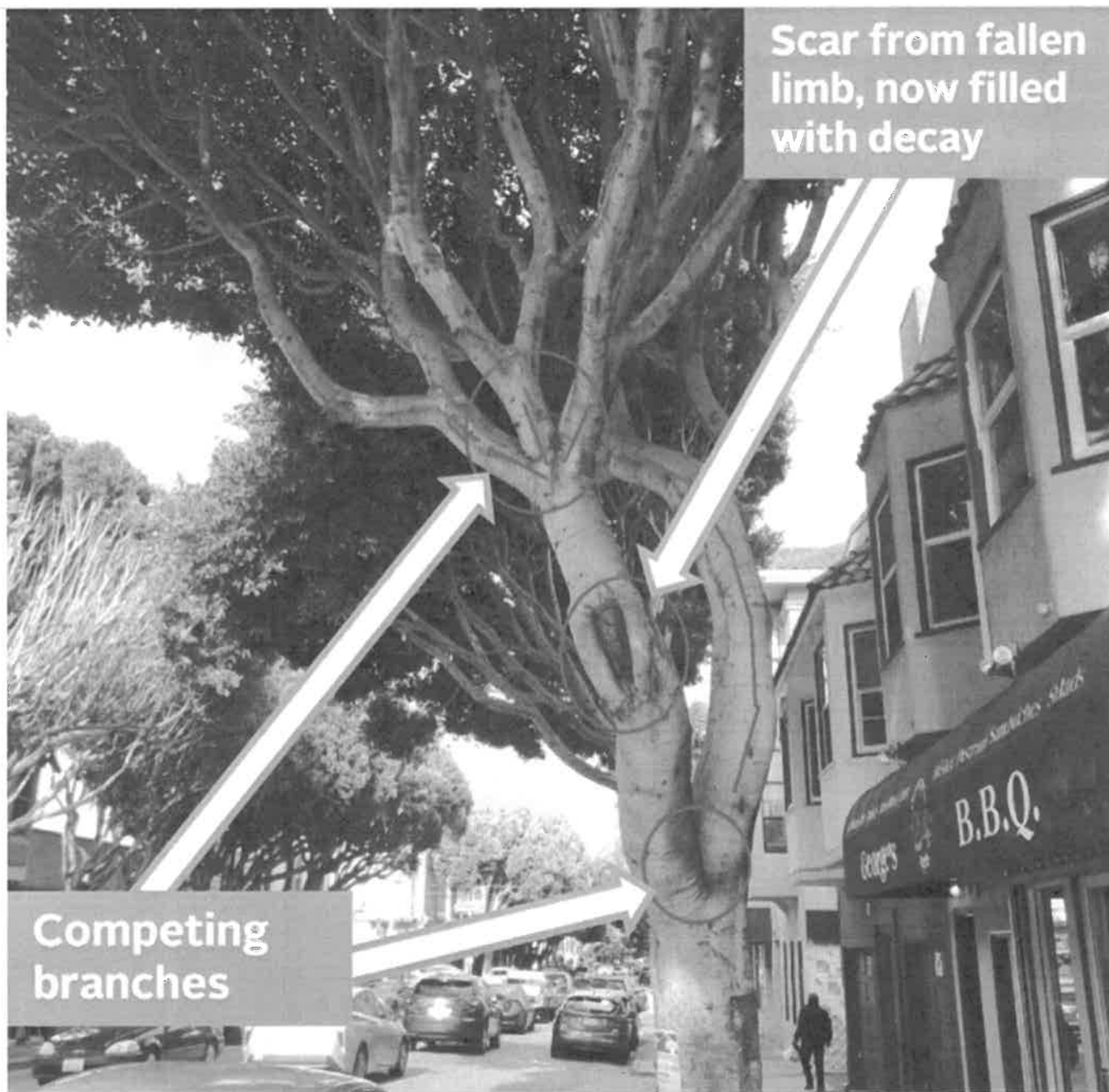


DPW Order No: 183151

Tree removal criteria for ficus trees (*Ficus microcarpa* 'Nitida').

Article 16 of the Public Works Code governs trees and landscaping in the public right of way. The residents of San Francisco value street trees, and have mandated their protection. Article 1 of the Public Works Code, adopted as the Urban Forestry Ordinance of 1995, was created to:

- (a) Realize the optimum public benefits of trees on the City's streets and public places.



Scar from fallen limb, now filled with decay

Competing branches



1969 Clay









But the program faces a major challenge in the city's aging population of ficus trees, whose structural flaws make them prone to dropping branches or toppling over entirely. The large ficus tree that fell across Hayes Street on December 27 damaged a delivery truck, and snarled traffic for hours.



The fallen ficus tree on Hayes Street on December 27 damaged a truck and snarled traffic for six hours. | IMAGE: SF FIRE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE/TWITTER

Additio



Citywide Ficus Removals

- Fillmore Street
 - Trees removed and in process of replanting
- Oak / Fell Streets
 - Trees removed and in process of replanting
- 16th and Church Street (Everett Middle School)
 - Trees removed and replanted
- Columbus Avenue (Washington Square Park)
 - Seven trees; Replacement tree species already picked out
 - In hearing process
 - Community planting event took place on 5/25/2019
- Hayes Valley
 - 29 trees (38 initially proposed; 11 changed to receive aggressive experimental pruning and only extremely hazardous trees to be removed)
 - In hearing process
 - Will be replanted 2-3 months after removals take place
 - Community planting event with FUF to take place on 6/11/2019

Information and Outreach – Ficus Trees



Ficus Trees

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- [StreetTreeSF](#)
- [Greening Projects](#)
- [Permits - Street Trees and Plants](#)
- [Plant Lists and Palettes](#)
- [Street Tree Library](#)



Ficus trees are a common street tree in San Francisco. They are known for their impressive canopy and for decades have served as a showcase species along such streets at Hyde, Lombard and Potrero. However, there are serious issues with ficus trees. Their height, structure, canopy size, pruning history and roots can make them more susceptible to limb failure and/or collapse, putting people and property at risk.



Information and Outreach – ficus trees

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Serious issues with ficus trees. Their height, structure, canopy size, pruning history and roots can make them more susceptible to limb failure and/or collapse, putting people and property at risk.

As San Francisco's ficus trees begin to age, making them more vulnerable to failure, the risks associated with them are beginning to outweigh the benefits they provide.



Ficus limbs torn from tree due to competing branch structure.

Areas scheduled for ficus removal*

Area	Streets	Number of ficus posted for removal	Posting period
Hayes Valley	Octavia Street from Hayes to Fulton streets	28	January 11, 2019 – February 10, 2019
Hayes Valley	501 Octavia Street	1	January 11, 2019 – February 10, 2019
Lower 24th Street	Mission to Potrero streets	51	May 3, 2019 – June 1, 2019

*Please note, schedules are estimates and are subject to change for numerous reasons. Please check back

Lower 24th Street Information and Updates

Public Works has been conducting outreach regarding the Lower 24th Street. Below you will find materials that were shared at each outreach event.

Community Meeting #1 – March 20, 2019 6:30 PM

Zuckerberg San Francisco General Quarterly Meeting

- Flyer (English, Spanish, Chinese)
- ZSFG Community Meeting Agenda
- Lower 24th Street Ficus Trees presentation

Walk-through and Community Meeting #2 - April 22, 2019 6:00 PM

Silverstone Café and Alley Cat Bookstore and Gallery

- Flyer
- Lower 24th Street Ficus Tree Walk Thru Welcome and Notes
- Lower 24th Street Ficus Trees Q&A
- Lower 24th St. Ficus Trees Assessment
- Lower 24th Street Ficus Removal Criteria Examples
- Lower 24th Street Ficus Tree Numbers

Frequently Asked Questions

How many ficus trees are there in San Francisco?

There are more than 7,000 throughout San Francisco.

Lower 24th Street has experienced approximately 41 limb failures in the last 10 years

Lower 24th Street from Mission Street to Potrero is a high pedestrian, cyclist and motor vehicle commercial corridor

Daily Traffic Volumes

	Pedestrians	Vehicles	Cyclists
Mission and 24th	4,388	2,208	34
South Van Ness and 24th	2,148	4,032	20
Totals	6,536	6,240	54



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January

22

2016

Tree Crashes into Mission Girls Roof After Storm



**Between Bryant &
Florida Streets**

February 26, 2019

BEFORE





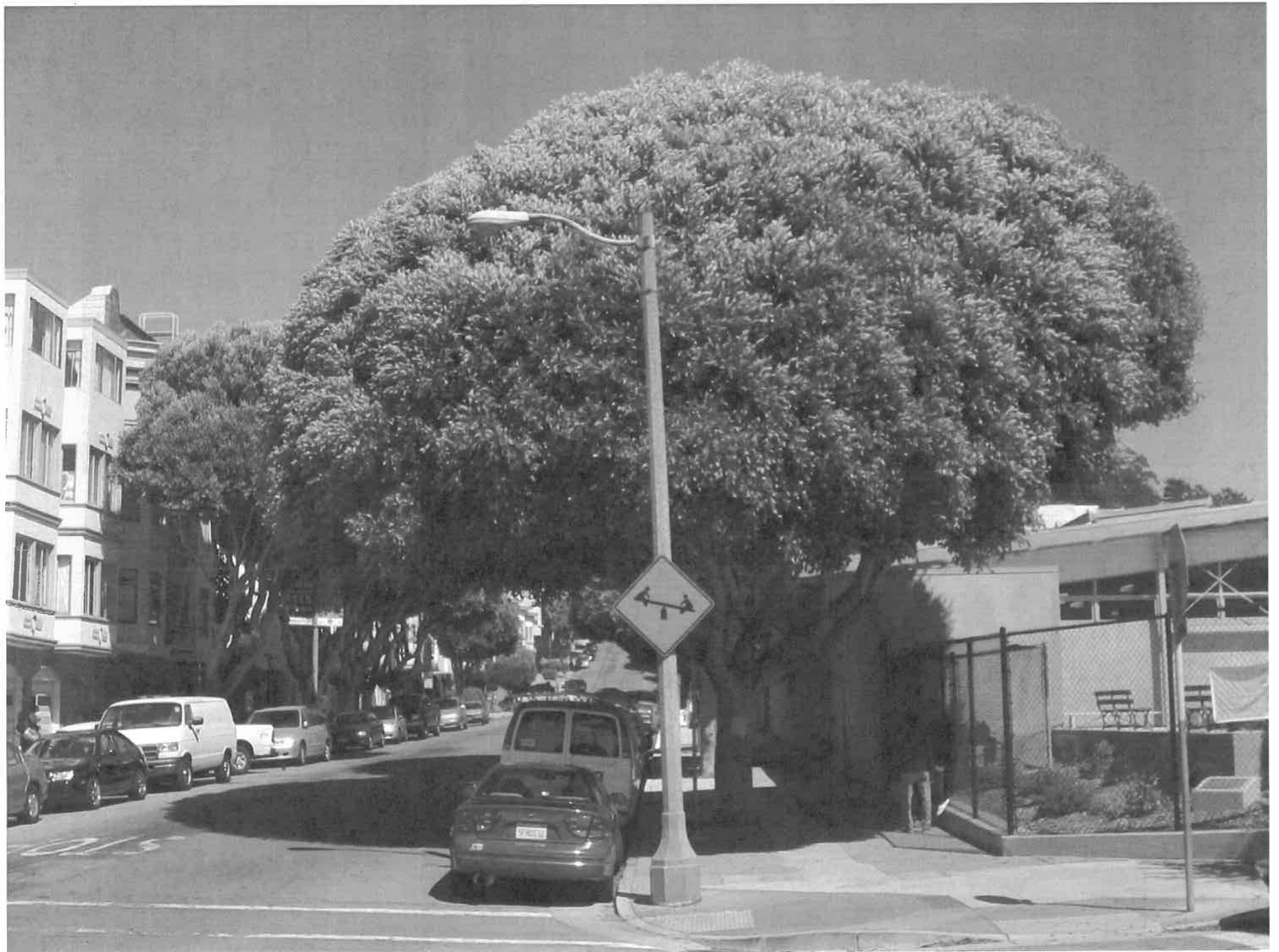
February 27, 2019

AFTER

Additional Issues

- Pruning for building clearance has caused imbalances
- Narrow sidewalk





Addi



Lower 24th Street Ficus Project Outreach and Engagement

Meetings

- February 14, 2019 – Initial meeting with Supervisor Ronen (Carolina Morales) and Calle 24
- March 7, 2019 – Follow up meeting with Supervisor Ronen and Calle 24
- March 20, 2019 – ZSFG Hospital Quarterly community meeting
- April 22, 2019 – Walk-through with City Urban Forester beginning at Silverstone Café and Community meeting at Alley Cat Bookstore

Lower 24th Street Ficus Project Outreach and Engagement

Notices

- Flyers to businesses/merchants along 24th in English, Spanish and Chinese
- Flyers posted to Nextdoor (12,000 subscribers), Calle 24 Facebook, and in the Calle 24 newsletter
- Letters to residents along 24th, 25th and 23rd from Mission to Potrero (~1,300 letters)
- Removal postings in English and Spanish on trees and at each intersection near the trees posted for removal
- Property owners directly adjacent to trees being removed and replaced received letters with specific details about replanting (if tree will be replanted, not replanted, moved, etc.) (~280 letters)
- Email updates and reminders to interested parties including everyone that signed in at meetings and walk-through
- Twitter post with information about today's hearing and information on Public Works website

Meeting notifications



From: Calle 24 SF <Calle_24_SF@mail.vresp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2019 11:25 PM
To: Sarah, Nancy (DPW)
Subject: Community Meeting to discuss removal of 77 ficus trees from 24th

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

You received this email because you signed up or gave your email to a Council Member.
 If you want to unsubscribe, please use the link at the bottom.



Mi gente,
 Please join us to discuss the removal of 77 ficus trees from the 24th St. corridor.
 Please click on link below for details.
<https://www.facebook.com/calle24sf/photos/341346986474519/10156182348935037n>

Thank you

Calle 24 Latino Cultural District's mission is to preserve, enhance and advocate for Latin continuity, vitality, and community in San Francisco's touchstone Latino Cultural District at Mission neighborhood.
www.calle24sf.org

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link:



Manager, Public Affairs and Communications for Construction, Alex Murill

SF Public Works to host a meeting regarding ficus tree removal along 24th Street.

San Francisco Public Works is scheduled to meet with neighbors to discuss removing some of the ficus trees along 24th Street, between Mission Street and Potrero Avenue. The 24th Street corridor is lined with ficus trees that are aging, in poor health and pose a risk of falling limbs. This is a major safety concern for people



SF Public Works
 @sfpublicworks

Following

Join us for a public hearing on the lower 24th Street ficus trees proposed for removal: 6/5 - 5:30 PM - City Hall Rm 416. Can't make it in person? Protests can also be submitted by mail or email. For more info, visit sfpublicworks.org/project/tree-r ...

San Francisco Bureau of Urban Forestry invites you on a walk through with the City's Urban Forester to review each ficus tree planned for removal along lower 24th Street, from Mission to Potrero streets.

The walk-through will be followed by a community meeting at Alley Cat Bookstore and Gallery where questions and concerns will be answered directly by Urban Forestry staff.

No need to RSVP, just meet us at 6 PM!

For more information:
sfpublicworks.org/24th-street
urbanforestry@sf.gov
 (415) 454-6700

Thank you

Materials provided at meetings

Ficus Facts



Ficus trees are known for their impressive canopy and for decades

showcase

Francisco,

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pruning his

can make f

susceptible

and/or colla

people and

Due to public

ficus citywide

• schools
• senior center

Los árboles ficus



Los árboles ficus son conocidos por su impresionante copa y durante décadas han demostrado ser una especie

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Las áreas baj

• escuelas
• centros pa

Lower 24th Street Ficus trees



Examples of ficus removal criteria:

structural defects,
injuries and decline

Poor branch unions / Poor structure



Lower 24th Street Ficus Trees



Walk-through and Community Meeting April 22, 2019 – 6:00 PM

Welcome to a walk-through and community meeting of the Lower 24th Street ficus trees. This is a part of the outreach efforts from San Francisco Public Works to share information about the trees, their condition and our plan for removal and replanting of the ficus along the Lower 24th Street commercial and neighborhood corridor.

Lower 24th Street Ficus Trees



Questions and Answers

Q 1. Why are you removing so many trees?

A 1. Each and every tree was evaluated on its own. There are many trees proposed for removal because Lower 24th Street is such a highly used corridor which creates a higher public safety concern.

Updated information: The number of trees proposed for removal has changed (decreased) since initial assessments of the corridor. Please see the next Question and Answer for more details.

Q 2. Did you consider selective pruning vs. wholesale removal?

A 2. We (Public Works Urban Forestry) did. We always look to prune the tree or repair the sidewalk first. In the case of the majority of trees along lower 24th Street each one that was evaluated was well past pruning or sidewalk repair efforts.

Updated information: After a review of certain trees along lower 24th Street, we have agreed to try a more aggressive, experimental approach to pruning rather than removal of some trees. This aggressive, experimental pruning does not meet City pruning standards and will drastically change the look of the trees as they



Detailed analysis

4/24/2019

Lower 24th Street ficus trees

1

Address	Street	Species	Recommendation	Replacement possible yes/no, reasons	Sidewalk repair required, yes/no	Pave over, yes/no	Reduce basin size to 4x4	Replacement Species (maple or ginkgo)	Notes
Potrero-Hampshire									
2700	24th St.	Ficus	Remove	Yes replace - end of bus zone	Yes	-	-	Ginkgo biloba	
2700	24th St.	Ficus	Remove	No replacement, bus zone & street light	No	Yes	-		
2700	24th St.		Empty basin	-	Yes	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	
2700	24th St.	Ficus	Remove	Yes	No	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	Tree is in severe decline
2718-2722	24th St.	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	No		
2726-2734	24th St.	Ficus	Experimental Pruning		No	-	Yes		
2726-2734	24th St.	Ficus	Experimental Pruning		Yes	-	Yes		
2726-2736	24th St.	Ficus	Remove	No replacement, stop sign	No	Yes	-		

Hampshire-Potrero									
2701-2749	24th St.		New planting site	-	-	-	-	Ginkgo biloba	Add one new site 12' from SL (Princeton Sentry?)
2701-2749	24th St.	Ficus	Remove	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	Acer rubrum	
2701-2749	24th St.	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes, curb repair, small chunk	-	Yes		
2701-2749	24th St.	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes	-	Increase basin size to 4x4		
2701-2749	24th St.	Maple	Planted 3/14/19	-	-	-	-		
2701-2749	24th St.	Maple	Planted 3/14/19	-	-	-	-		
2701-2749	24th St.	Ficus	Remove	Yes, at sidewalk down T6 & 7	Yes	Yes	Cut new replacement basin	Ginkgo biloba	At back of sidewalk, base of building foundation
2701-2749	24th St.	Ficus	Remove	No, too close to intersection	No	Yes	-		At back of sidewalk, base of building foundation

Hampshire-York									
2752	24th St.	Ficus	Remove	No, street light	Yes	Yes	No		
2754	24th St.	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	No	-	Yes		
2760	24th St.		New planting site	-	-	-	-	Acer rubrum	
2778	24th St.	Ficus	Experimental Pruning	-	Yes	-	Yes		

Email updates

From: Sarieh, Nancy (DPW)
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 3:06 PM
To: DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW)
Cc: Sarieh, Nancy (DPW)
Subject: Lower 24th Street Trees Walk-through and Community Meeting

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your interest in the Lower 24th Street Tree Removal project. As we continue to evaluate and plan the removal and replacement of trees along Lower 24th Street, we want to keep you involved in every step of the process.

On April 22 at 6:00 PM, Public Works is conducting a walk-through of the trees proposed for removal along 24th Street, from Mission to Potrero streets. We encourage you to join us on this walk-through if you can. You will have one-on-one time with the City's Urban Forester to ask questions and learn more about each tree along the way. Given that there is limited time for the walk-through (1 hour), we may not be able to cover every tree from Mission to Potrero streets. If there is a specific tree that you would like us to look at during the walk-through, please let us know in advance.

A community meeting will follow immediately after the walk-through at 7:00 PM at Alley Cat Bookstore. Details about the walk-through are

Feel free to contact

Thank you and hope

April 22, 2019

6:00 PM - Walk-through
Meet in front of
3926 24th Street

7:00 PM - Community Meeting
Alley Cat Bookstore
3036 24th Street

Good Morning,

A reminder that this Monday, April 22, 2019, Urban Forestry will be meeting all of you for a Walk-through and Community Meeting to review the trees proposed for removal along Lower 24th Street.

We would like to provide an update prior to Monday's Walk-through and Community Meeting: After a review of certain trees along lower 24th Street, we have agreed to try a more aggressive, experimental approach to pruning rather than removal of some trees. This aggressive, experimental pruning does not meet City pruning standards and will drastically change the look of the trees as it will remove the majority of the tree canopy. Pruning of this nature will not reverse the poor health of these trees, but may mitigate structural defects in the short-term.

More information about the trees that will receive experimental pruning will be shared on Monday.

Once again, given that there is limited time for the walk-through (1 hour), we may not be able to cover every tree from Mission to Potrero streets. If there is a specific tree that you would like us to look at during the walk-through, please let us know in advance.

Feel free to contact myself or the Bureau or Urban Forestry general phone number or email for more information.

Thank you and hope to see you there!

April 22, 2019

6:00 PM - Walk-through
Meet in front of Silverstone Cafe
3278 24th Street

7:00 PM - Community Meeting
Alley Cat Bookstore and Gallery

Cc: Sarieh, Nancy (DPW)
Subject: Lower 24th Street Ficus Trees follow up

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your interest in the Lower 24th Street Ficus Tree project. We appreciate your attendance at the first through and second community meeting on April 22, 2019. We hope we were able to provide more information and detail to answer what questions and concerns you have about the project and the trees.

For those who did not receive an information packet at the walk-through, all the information is now on the ficus tree webpage: <http://sfpublicworks.org/ficustrees>

The trees proposed for removal will be posted with public notices this week. There has been some confusion about the public notices and public hearing that was initially scheduled for Thursday, May 9, 2019. Below are the details to clarify:

- Originally, the notice that was intended to be posted on the trees was to inform the public of a public hearing on Thursday, May 9, 2019.
- At the walk-through and second community meeting, we unintentionally misspoke the date of the public hearing to May 8, 2019. This is the date that some publications mentioned in their news articles. The date of the hearing is May 9, 2019.
- To avoid further confusion, we have rescheduled the public hearing for:
 - Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 5:30 PM - City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place - Room 416**
 - This is a hearing dedicated to the Lower 24th Street ficus trees. No other projects or proposals will be reviewed at this hearing.

Please note, we want to make sure everyone who wants to be heard is heard. If you cannot make the public hearing in person, appeals can be mailed and/or emailed to:

San Francisco Public Works

Bureau of Urban Forestry, Nancy (DPW)

Subject: Reminder: Lower 24th Street Ficus Tree Public Hearing

Good Morning,

A reminder that the Public Hearing for the lower 24th Street ficus trees is scheduled for:

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 - 5:30 PM
San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place - Room 416

This is a hearing dedicated to the lower 24th Street ficus trees. No other projects or proposals will be reviewed at this hearing.

Please note, we want to make sure everyone who wants to be heard is heard. If you cannot make the June 5, 2019 hearing in person, appeals can be mailed and/or emailed to:

San Francisco Public Works
Bureau of Urban Forestry
1680 Mission Street



Letters to property owners



March 13, 2019

London N. Breed
Mayor

Mohammed Nuru
Director

Carla Short
Superintendent

Urban Forestry
1155 Market St., 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103
tel 415-554-6700

sfpublicworks.org
facebook.com/sfpbpublicworks
twitter.com/sfpbpublicworks

Re: Lower 24th tree removals: ZSFG Quarterly Community Meeting

Dear Property Owner,

We have identified ficus trees in your neighborhood that are slated for removal throughout San Francisco are at risk for failure and are being assessed citywide. Their height, trunk structure, canopy size and pruning history makes them susceptible to collapse and/or limb failure, putting people and property at risk.

The trees located along the lower 24th Street neighborhood commercial district from Mission Street to Potrero Street, will be posted with removal notices due to poor structure and previous limb failure.

Once posted with removal notices, protests may be submitted for a period of 10 days. If any tree(s) removals are protested, the matter will be scheduled at the department's next monthly tree removal hearing.

Prior to posting the tree(s) in your neighborhood, Public Works staff and Carol Morales from Supervisor Hillary Ronen's office will be joining the **Zuckerberg San Francisco General Quarterly Community meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 6:30 PM at 1001 Potrero Avenue, Wellness Center, 2nd Floor, Building 200**. We encourage you to attend this meeting to learn more about the 24th Street ficus removal process.

The majority of the trees to be removed will be replanted with new tree species. Some tree removal locations will not be replanted due to conflicts with utilities and/or space limitations. Details regarding each tree removal location and replanting information will be available at the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Quarterly Community meeting or by contacting San Francisco Public Works at (415) 554-6700.



May 28, 2019

London N. Breed
Mayor

Mohammed Nuru
Director

Carla Short
Superintendent

Urban Forestry
1155 Market St., 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103
tel 415-554-6700

sfpublicworks.org
facebook.com/sfpbpublicworks
twitter.com/sfpbpublicworks

Re: Lower 24th Street ficus tree removals and replacement

Dear Property Owner,

You are receiving this letter because we have identified ficus trees adjacent to your property that are slated for removal.

Ficus trees throughout San Francisco are at risk for failure and are being assessed citywide. Their height, trunk structure, canopy size and pruning history makes them susceptible to collapse and/or limb failure, putting people and property at risk.

Over the last 10 years, lower 24th Street has experienced 41 limb failures from its aging ficus trees. The most recent took place on February 27, 2019 when an entire ficus tree in front of L's Café (2871 24th Street) fell completely blocking 24th Street from sidewalk to sidewalk. Luckily, no one was injured, but three cars were trapped under the tree's heavy trunk and limbs.

The lower 24th Street neighborhood is a very active commercial district with thousands of people walking, biking and driving through each day. In order to prevent the possibility of future tree failures injuring or fatally hurting a member of the public, ficus trees located along the lower 24th Street, from Mission Street to Potrero Street, have been posted with the required 30 day public notices for removal due to poor structure and previous limb failure.

Two trees located at 2836-2838 24th Street are posted for removal. One tree will be replanted. One tree cannot be replanted in its current location due to its close proximity to the intersection. However, we are working to identify an alternate location to plant a new tree nearby.

If you have any concerns about the trees posted adjacent to your property, or any of the trees posted for removal, the matter will be reviewed at the department's next monthly tree removal hearing scheduled for:

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 – 5:30 PM

Arborist Findings

- Initial assessment identified 77 street trees in the area for removal
- We were asked repeatedly to return to see if any trees could be phased or pruned more aggressively
- Review of trees proposed for removal resulted in 25 now proposed to be retained, but with “experimental” aggressive pruning in an attempt to mitigate safety concerns
- 52 trees are still proposed for removal due to the immediate safety hazard they pose



London N. Breed, Mayor
Mohammed Nuru, Director

Public Works Order No: 200936

TREE REMOVAL HEARING NOTICE

POSTING PERIOD (30 days) From: 5/3/2019 Through: 6/1/2019

The Director of Public Works will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 5 commencing at 5:30 p.m. in Room 416 of City Hall, located at 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, to consider the following:

Removal of fifty-two (52) street trees (51 Ficus / 1 Brisbane box) with repla (unless otherwise noted) along 24th Street between Potrero Ave. & Mission St to the locations listed below.

Staff has approved the removals and the public has protested

2700 (removal of 3); 2724-2734 (no replacement/stap sign); 2701-2749 (3 trees); 2752 (no r street light); 2782-2784; 2792-2794 (remove 2, replace 1/stap sign/intersection); 2773-2781; (possible replacement/stap bike rack); 2804; 2824-2826; 2834-2838 (2 trees); 2839-2847; 28 trees/no replacement/bus zone/street light); 2858-2860; 2870; 2872-2876; 2878-2880 (no rep 2843-2849 (replace in front of 2871/street light); 2893-2899; 2900; 2904; 2912-2916; 2917- Brisbane box tree); 2944-2970 (remove 2/replace 1 at 2962); 3000-3008; 3013; 3024 (2 trees 3034; 3041-3047; 3049-3055 (no replacement/stap sign); 3050-3058; 3062-3068; 3069-3075 3080; 3088-3090; 3154-3158; 3175-3181; 3160; 3200-3216; 3230-3234; 3240-3244 (no replacement/bus zone); 3278-"3290" (no replacement; bus zone, where plaza begins).

Interested parties are encouraged to attend. Persons unable to attend the public hearing m written comments regarding the subject matter to the Bureau of Urban Forestry, 1680 Missio floor, San Francisco, CA 94103. These comments will be brought to the attention of the hea and made a part of the official public record.

Further information, if desired, on this matter may be obtained prior to the hearing by ph Bureau of Urban Forestry at (415) 554-6700.



San Francisco Public Works
Making San Francisco a beautiful, livable, vibrant, and sustainable city.



London N. Breed, Alcalde
Mohammed Nuru, Director

No. de Orden de Obras Públicas: 200936

AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PARA LA ELIMINACIÓN DE ÁRBOLES

PERÍODO DE PUBLICACIÓN (30 días) Desde: 3 de mayo de 2019 Hasta: 1 de junio de 2019

El Director de Obras Públicas celebrará una audiencia pública el miércoles 5 de junio de 2019 a partir de las 5:30 p.m. en la Sala 416 del Ayuntamiento, ubicada en 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, para considerar lo siguiente:

Eliminación de cincuenta y dos (52) árboles de la calle (51 Ficus / 1 box cepillo) con reposición (a menos que se indique lo contrario) a lo largo de 24th Street entre Potrero Ave. y Mission St. adyacente a las ubicaciones mencionadas a continuación.

El personal ha aprobado las eliminaciones y el público ha protestado.

2700 (eliminación de 3); 2724-2734 (sin reposición señal de alto); 2701-2749 (3 árboles); 2752 (sin reposición - farola); 2782-2784; 2792-2794 (eliminar 2, reponer 1 señal de alto/intersección); 2773-2781; 2751; 2800 (posible reposición / cambio de rejilla para bicicletas); 2804; 2824-2826; 2834-2838 (2 árboles); 2839-2847; 2850 (2 árboles sin reposición zona de autobuses/farolas); 2858-2860; 2870; 2872-2876; 2878-2880 (sin reposición); 2863-2869 (reposición frente a 2871 farola); 2893-2899; 2900; 2904; 2912-2916; 2917-2919 (árbol box cepillo muerto); 2944-2970 (eliminar 2/reponer 1 en 2962); 3000-3008; 3013; 3024 (2 árboles); 3032- 3034; 3041-3047; 3049-3055 (sin reposición señal de alto); 3050-3058; 3062-3068; 3069-3075; 3078-3080; 3088-3090; 3154-3158; 3175-3181; 3160; 3200-3216; 3230-3234; 3240-3244 (sin reposición área de autobuses); 3278-"3290" (sin reposición; zona de autobuses, donde comienza la plaza).

Se anima a las partes interesadas a que asistan. Las personas que no puedan asistir a la audiencia pública pueden presentar comentarios por escrito sobre el tema a la Oficina de Silvicultura Urbana, a: Bureau of Urban Forestry, 1680 Mission Street, 1st floor, San Francisco, CA 94103. Estos comentarios serán llevados a la atención del oficial de audiencias y formarán parte del registro público oficial.

Si lo desea, puede obtener más información sobre este tema antes de la audiencia llamando a la Oficina de Silvicultura Urbana al (415) 554-6700.

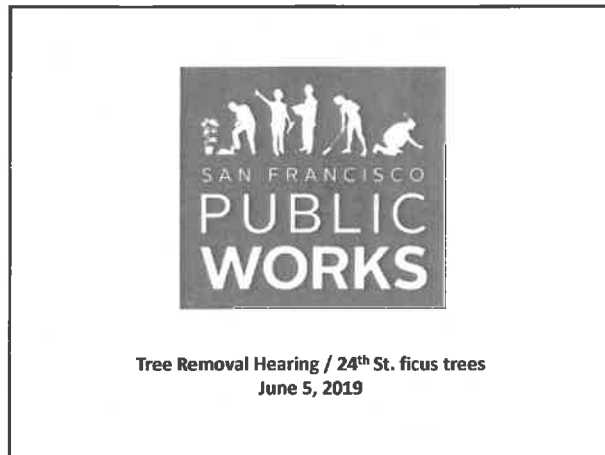


Obras Públicas de San Francisco
Hagamos de San Francisco una ciudad hermosa, vibrante y sostenible.

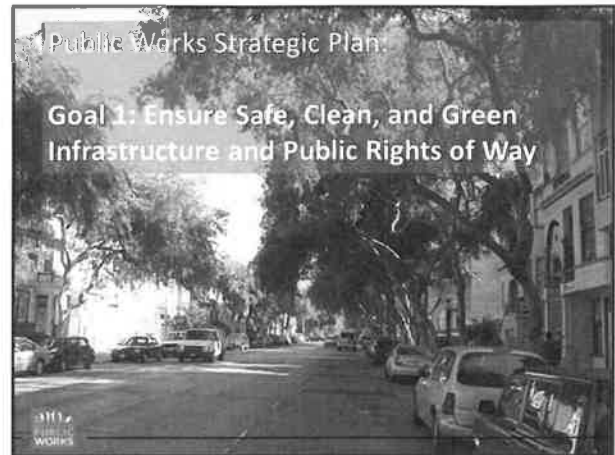


APPENDIX

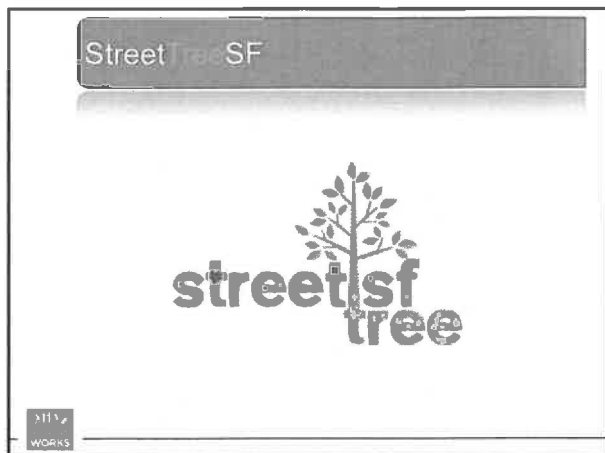
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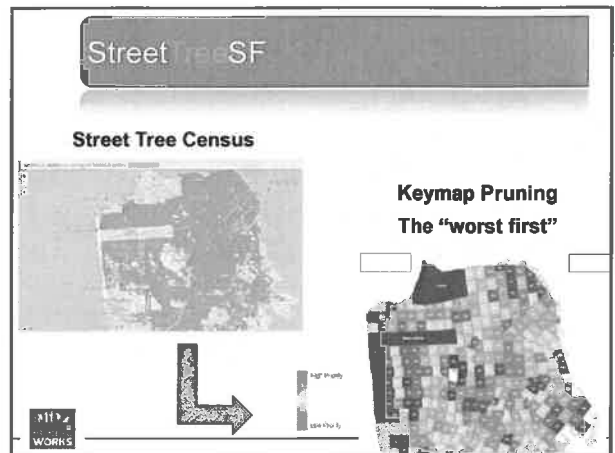
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Work in Progress



- Since the start of StreetTreeSF, **26% of total tree maintenance needs** have been addressed by contractors and City arborists
- More than 33,000 trees have been pruned
- More than 3,000 at-risk trees have been removed


5

Information and Outreach



6

Information and Outreach



7

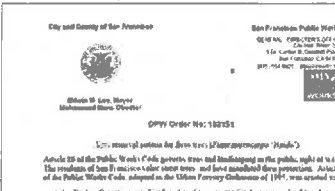
Challenges with ficus trees *Ficus microcarpa* 'Nitida'

- Once popular street tree (green & so healthy looking!)
- Initial issues were sidewalk damage/tree roots
- Removed from planting list in mid 1990s
- Increasing amount of large stem failures
- Public safety concerns:
Blocked roads, property damage, injuries

8

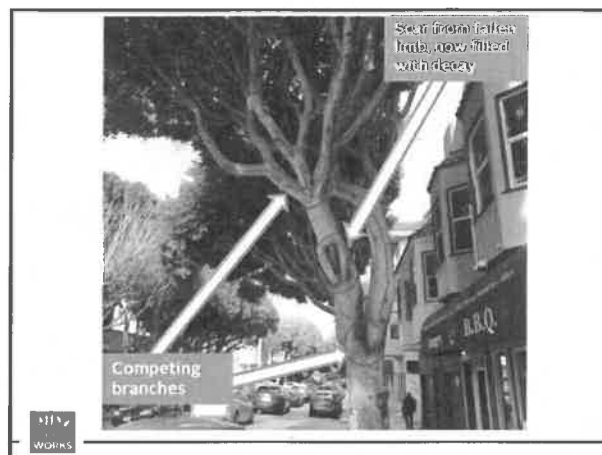
Director's Order No. 183151 Tree Removal Criteria for Ficus

- Acknowledges the benefits and value of ficus trees
- Outlines in detail the structural defects that are leading to the large stem failures
- Primary issue: codominant stems with narrow angles of attachment, with or without included bark



City and County of San Francisco
San Francisco Public Works
Director's Order No. 183151
Ed Lee, Mayor
Director's Order No. 183151
1/1/2019

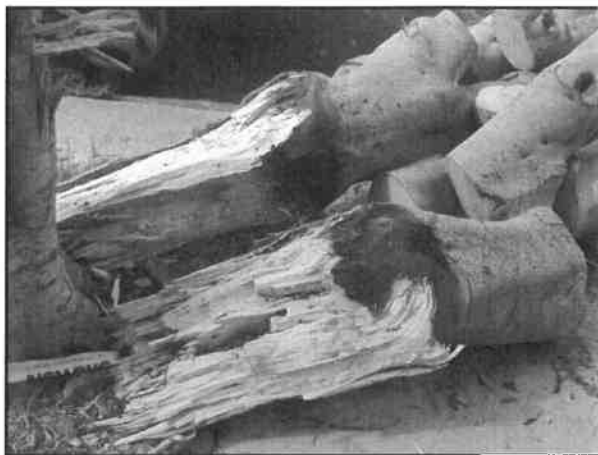
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17

Citywide Ficus Removals

- Fillmore Street
 - Trees removed and in process of replanting
- Oak / Fell Streets
 - Trees removed and in process of replanting
- 16th and Church Street (Everett Middle School)
 - Trees removed and replanted
- Columbus Avenue (Washington Square Park)
 - Seven trees; Replacement tree species already picked out
 - In hearing process
 - Community planting event took place on 5/25/2019
- Hayes Valley
 - 29 trees (38 initially proposed; 11 changed to receive aggressive experimental pruning and only extremely hazardous trees to be removed)
 - In hearing process
 - Will be replanted 2-3 months after removals take place
 - Community planting event with FUF to take place on 6/11/2019

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Information and Outreach – Ficus Trees

sfpublicworks.org/ficustre

About Us | Get Involved | Projects | Services

Ficus Trees

From this document, you can learn about the Ficus Trees. This document provides information about the Ficus Trees, including the history of the trees, the current status of the trees, and the plans for the future of the trees.

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Information and Outreach – ficus trees

About Us | Get Involved | Projects | Services

Latest Information and Updates

Public Information Center is a place for the public to learn about the Ficus Trees. The center is located at the intersection of the Ficus Trees and the Ficus Trees.

Community Meetings

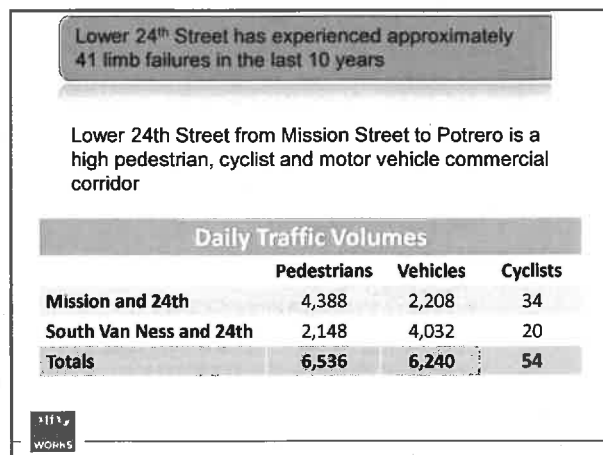
Community Meetings are held on a regular basis. The meetings are held at the intersection of the Ficus Trees and the Ficus Trees.

Workshops and Community Meetings

Workshops and Community Meetings are held on a regular basis. The meetings are held at the intersection of the Ficus Trees and the Ficus Trees.

Area	Streets	Number of trees posted for removal	Posting period
Hayes Valley	Hayes Valley	29	October 15, 2019 - November 15, 2019
Hayes Valley	Hayes Valley	29	October 15, 2019 - November 15, 2019
Lower Lake	Lower Lake	29	October 15, 2019 - November 15, 2019

20



21



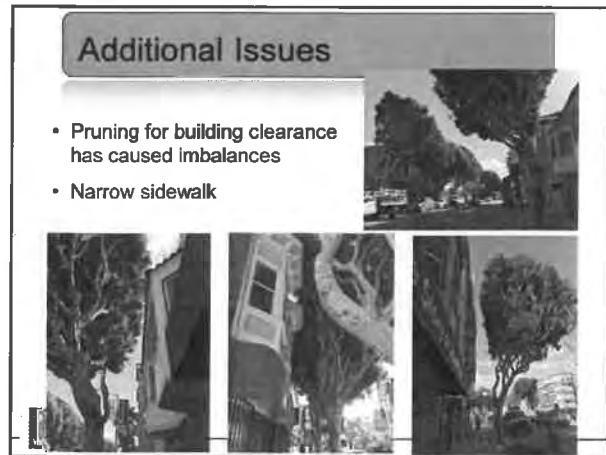
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24



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26



27

Lower 24th Street Ficus Project Outreach and Engagement

Meetings

- February 14, 2019 – Initial meeting with Supervisor Ronen (Carolina Morales) and Calle 24
- March 7, 2019 – Follow up meeting with Supervisor Ronen and Calle 24
- March 20, 2019 – ZSFG Hospital Quarterly community meeting
- April 22, 2019 – Walk-through with City Urban Forester beginning at Silverstone Café and Community meeting at Alley Cat Bookstore

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Lower 24th Street Ficus Project Outreach and Engagement

Notices

- Flyers to businesses/merchants along 24th in English, Spanish and Chinese
- Flyers posted to Nextdoor (12,000 subscribers), Calle 24 Facebook, and in the Calle 24 newsletter
- Letters to residents along 24th, 25th and 23rd from Mission to Potrero (~1,300 letters)
- Removal postings in English and Spanish on trees and at each intersection near the trees posted for removal
- Property owners directly adjacent to trees being removed and replaced received letters with specific details about replanting (if tree will be replanted, not replanted, moved, etc.) (~280 letters)
- Email updates and reminders to interested parties including everyone that signed in at meetings and walk-through
- Twitter post with information about today's hearing and information on Public Works website

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Meeting notifications

Join us for a public hearing on the lower 24th Street ficus trees proposed for removal: 6/5 - 5:30 PM - City Hall Rm 416.
Can't make it in person? Protests can also be submitted by mail or email. For more info, visit sfpublicworks.org/project/tree-4

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Materials provided at meetings

Ficus Facts
Ficus trees are known for their rapid growth and ability to take over a landscape. They are also known for their ability to block out sunlight and create a dense canopy that can be difficult to manage. Ficus trees are also known for their ability to attract and harbor pests, including ants and wasps. Ficus trees are also known for their ability to shed large amounts of leaves and debris, which can be a nuisance for property owners and residents.

Walk-through and Community Meeting
April 22, 2018 - 6:00 PM
Welcome to a walk-through and community meeting of the Lower 24th Street Ficus Project. This is a part of the public process to remove and replace ficus trees along the Lower 24th Street corridor. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information about the project, answer questions, and gather input from the community. The walk-through will take place along the Lower 24th Street corridor from Mission to Potrero. The community meeting will be held at the Potrero Community Center.

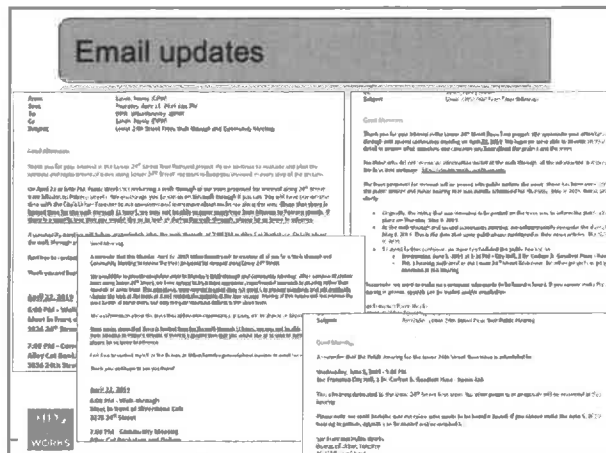
Questions and Answers
Q1: Why are you removing so many trees?
A1: Each and every tree will be evaluated on its own. There are many trees that are in poor health and are a safety hazard. There are also many trees that are in good health but are in the way of new development. The goal is to remove trees that are a safety hazard or in the way of new development and replace them with trees that are healthy and in the way of new development.

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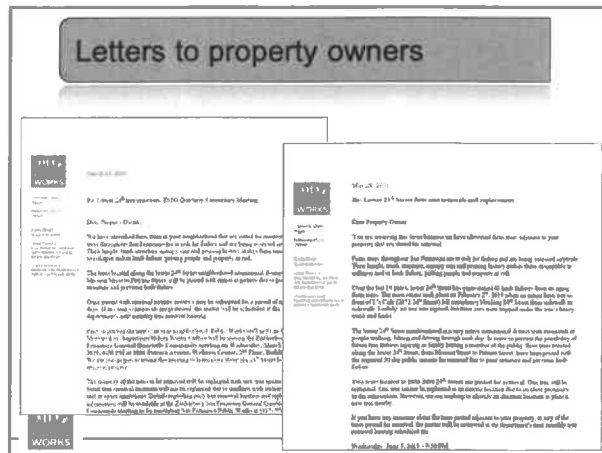
Detailed analysis

Tree ID	Species	Size	Location	Removal Status
101	Ficus	Large	Block 1	Remove
102	Ficus	Medium	Block 1	Remove
103	Ficus	Small	Block 1	Remove
104	Ficus	Large	Block 2	Remove
105	Ficus	Medium	Block 2	Remove
106	Ficus	Small	Block 2	Remove
107	Ficus	Large	Block 3	Remove
108	Ficus	Medium	Block 3	Remove
109	Ficus	Small	Block 3	Remove

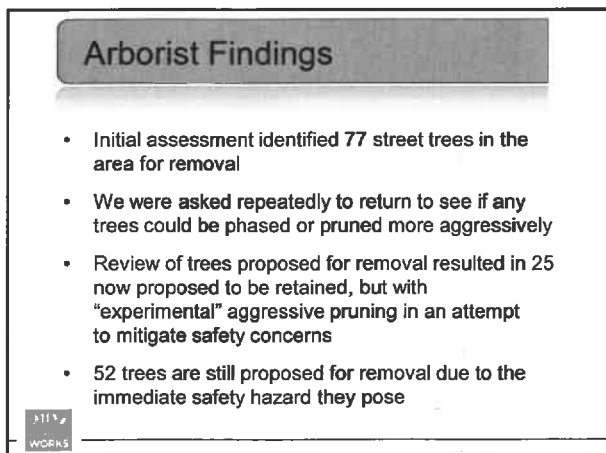
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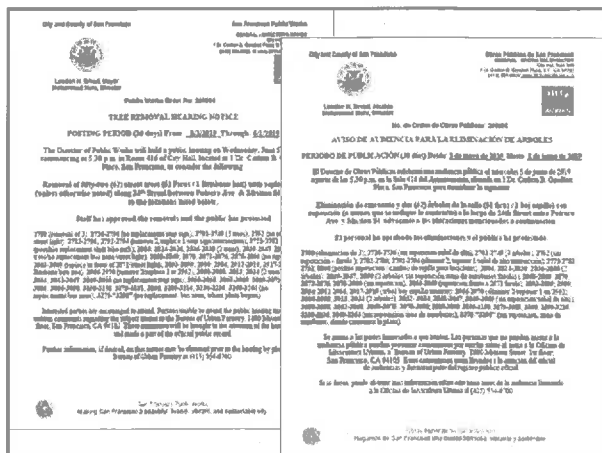
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Experimental Pruning

- Aggressive pruning that does not meet City pruning standards and will drastically change the look of the trees as it will remove the majority of the tree canopy.



37

The numbers

Total # trees before removals (all species)	133
Total # ficus to be removed	51
Total trees remaining (non-removals & experimental prunings, ficus & other species)	82
Total replantings / new plantings (includes sites pending utility clearance)	68
Total # trees after removals & replantings / new plantings (includes sites pending utility clearance)	150



38

Breakdown of work phases

Removals	Sidewalk Work	Replanting and new plantings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees and stump grinds Dedicated professional tree contractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair cracked and raised sidewalk Enlarge/reduce tree basins Move tree basins Pave over unplantable basins Dedicated Public Works cement crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replant tree basins that are free of utility conflicts and meet all tree planting guidelines Plant in currently empty basins Plant in new basins Dedicated Public Works planting crew Engage community in designing and customizing tree stakes and cross brace stickers 4 stakes and wire mesh will be used on all new trees



39

Removal phase

Dedicated professional tree contractor

Timeline: From the start of removal to completion, three to four months

Start date: Subject to change depending on

- public notification protests
- public hearings
- the scheduling of work with contractors and in-house crews

When scheduling, we will take into account 24th Street events such as Fiesta de Las Americas (September 15)



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Sidewalk work phase

Dedicated Public Works cement crew

Timeline: work begins as soon as tree removal contractors finish a block

Scope of work:

- Repair cracked and raised sidewalk
- Enlarge or reduce tree basins
- Move tree basins
- Pave over unplatable basins

Removals	Sidewalk Work	Restoring and new plantings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree and stump pulls Conditioned sidewalks and tree basins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair cracked and raised sidewalk Enlarge or reduce tree basins Move tree basins Pave over unplatable basins Dedicated Public Works cement crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report tree removal and sidewalk work to Public Works Report tree removal and sidewalk work to Public Works Report tree removal and sidewalk work to Public Works Report tree removal and sidewalk work to Public Works Report tree removal and sidewalk work to Public Works

WCHS

41

Planting phase

Dedicated Public Works planting crew

Timeline: Two to three months after removals are completed

Species:

- Red maple (Armstrong Maple) along 24th (midblock)
- Ginkgo (Maidenhair tree) on corners of 24th

Watering: Public Works will water with community support where possible

Removals	Sidewalk Work	Restoring and new plantings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree and stump pulls Conditioned sidewalks and tree basins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair cracked and raised sidewalk Enlarge or reduce tree basins Move tree basins Pave over unplatable basins Dedicated Public Works cement crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report tree removal and sidewalk work to Public Works Report tree removal and sidewalk work to Public Works Report tree removal and sidewalk work to Public Works Report tree removal and sidewalk work to Public Works Report tree removal and sidewalk work to Public Works

WCHS

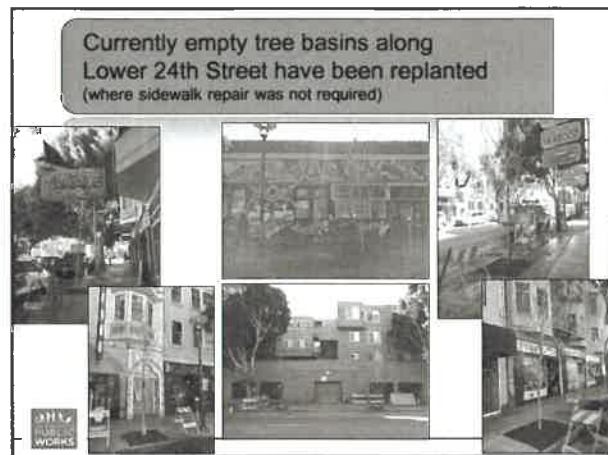
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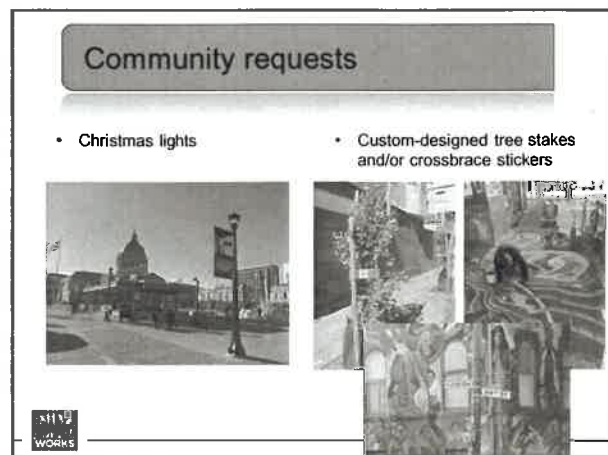
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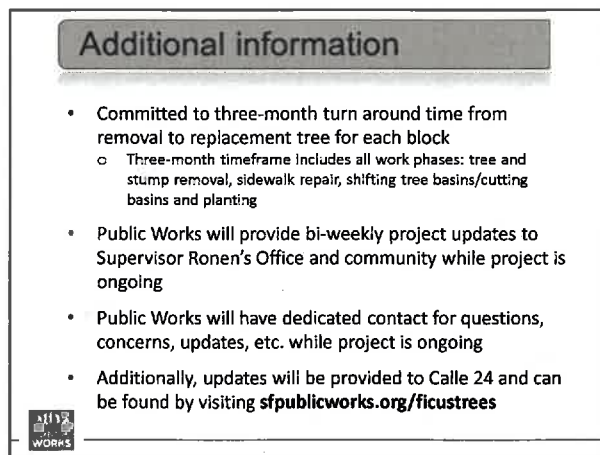
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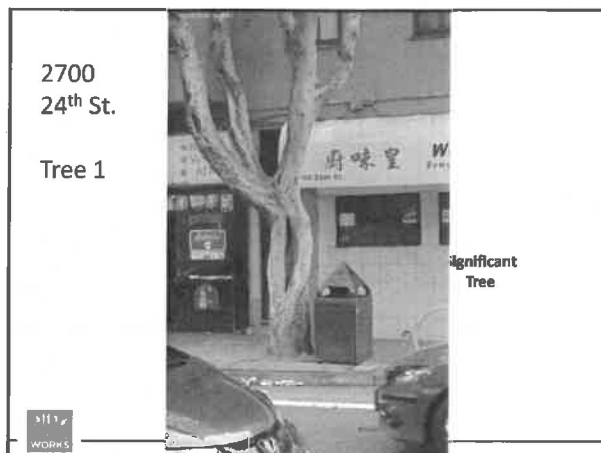
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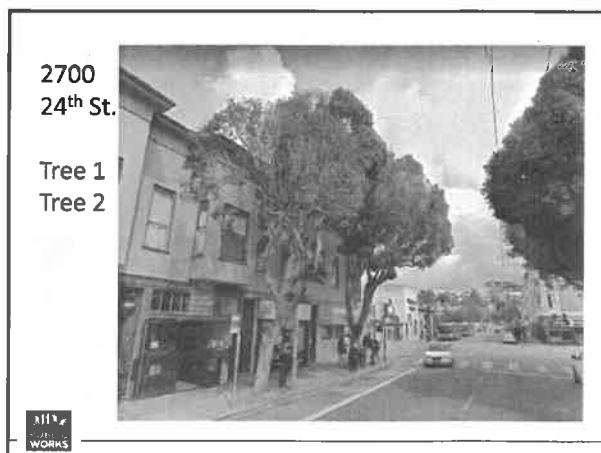
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2700
24th St.

Tree 3

March,
2019



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Order No. 200825

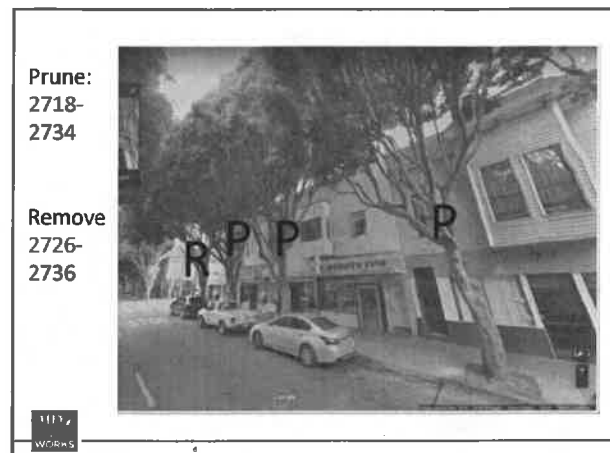


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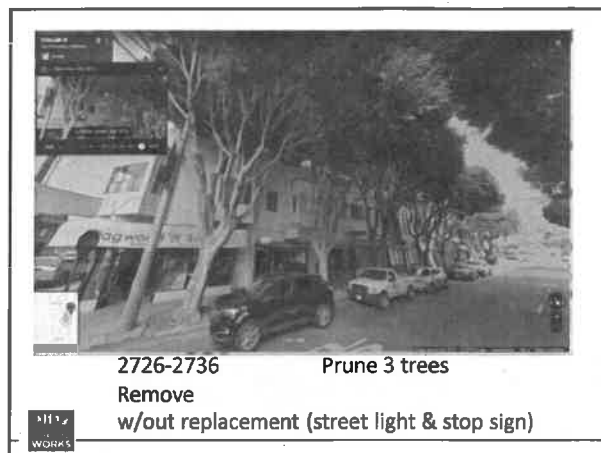


2700 24th St. Replacement trees:
1, 3, 4 (tree 2, too close to SL)

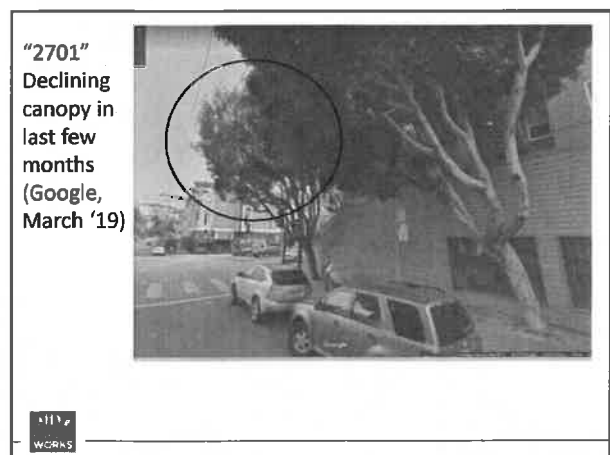
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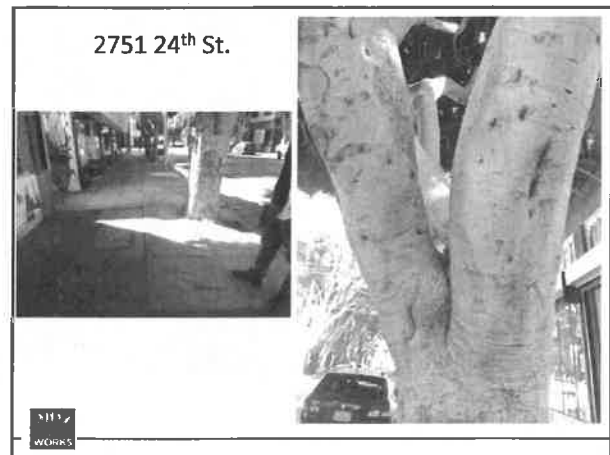
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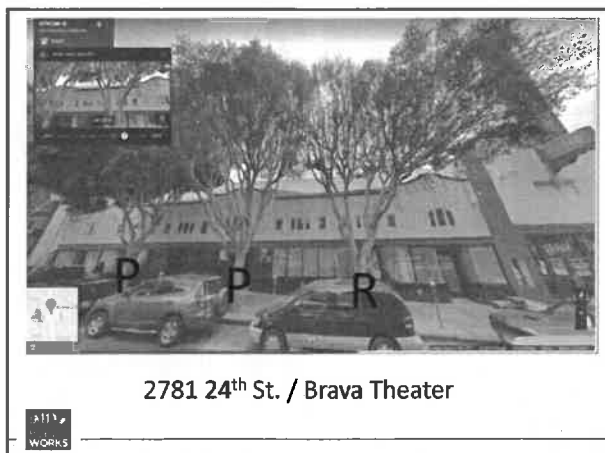
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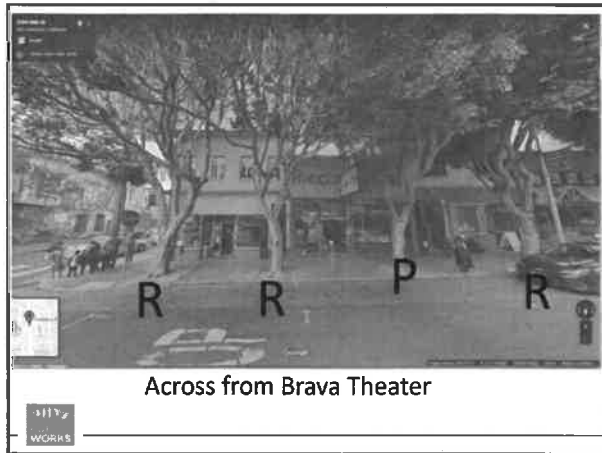
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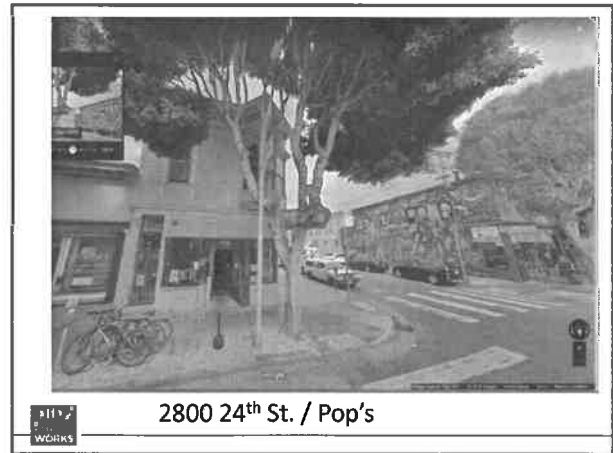
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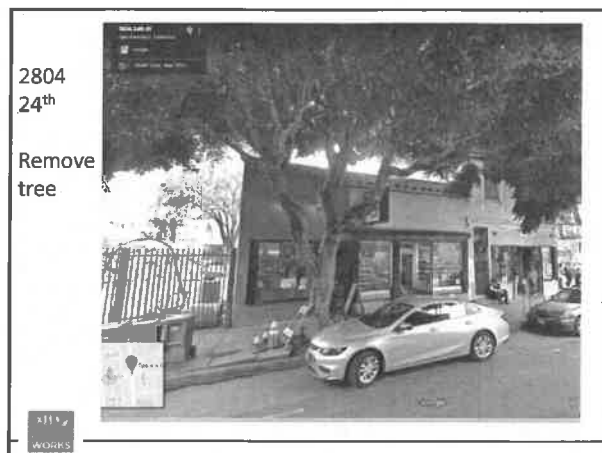
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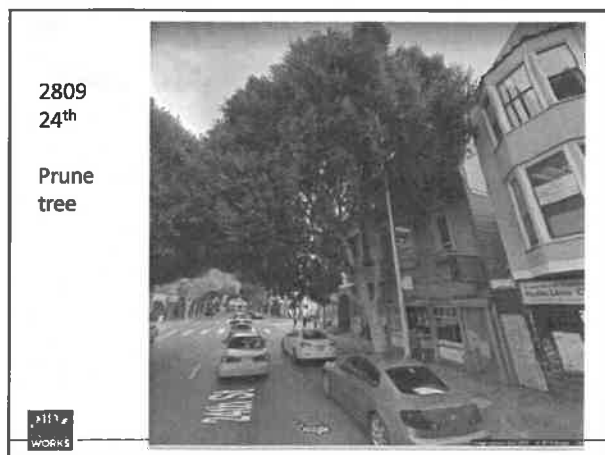
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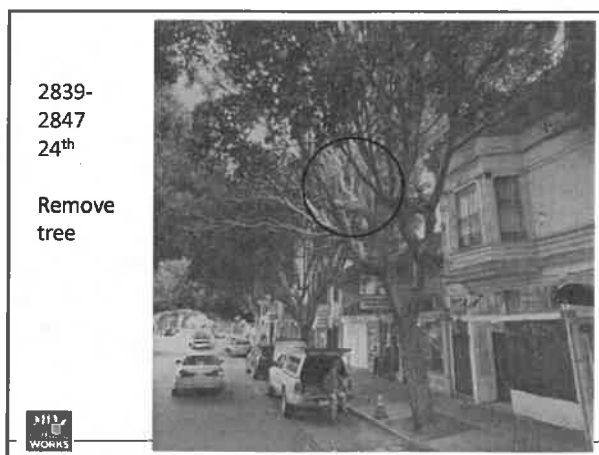
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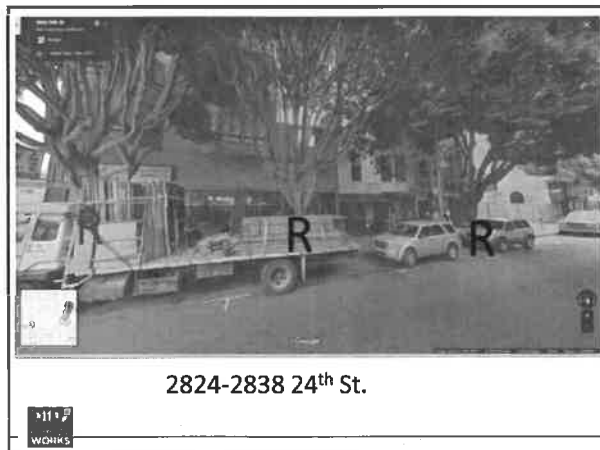
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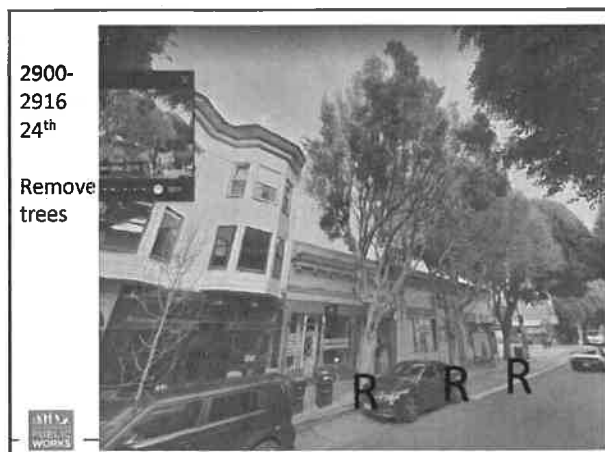


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2824-2838 24th St.

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2900-
2916
24th

Remove
trees

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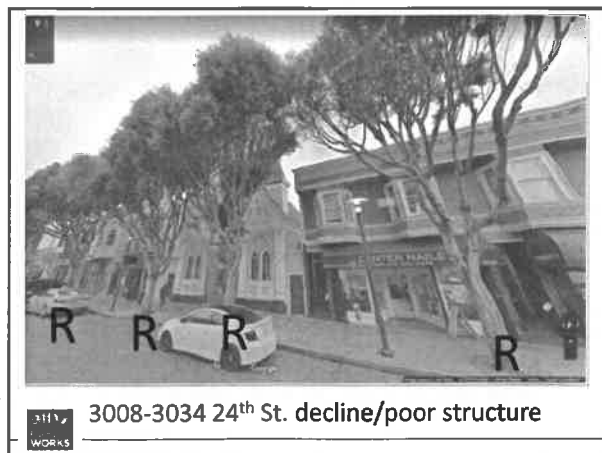
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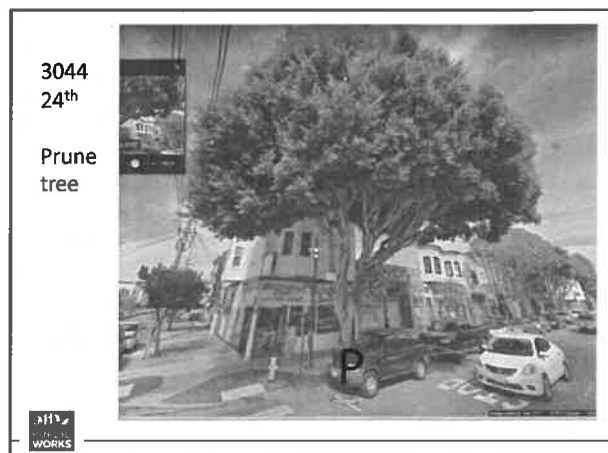
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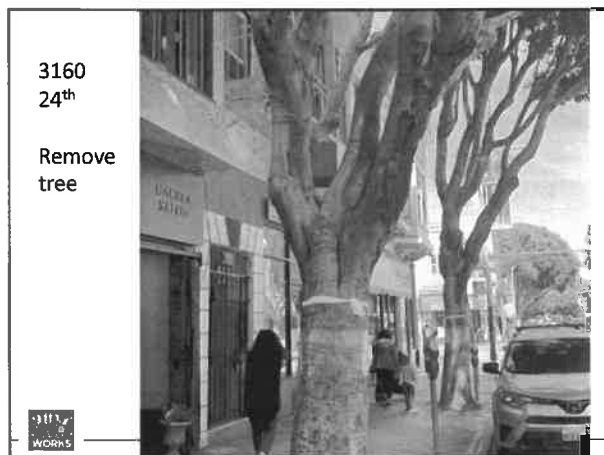
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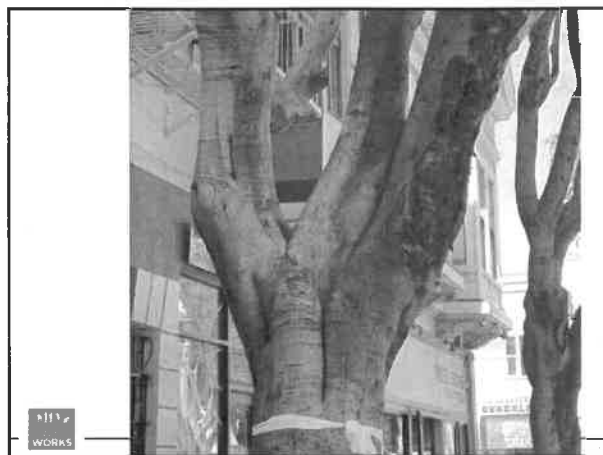
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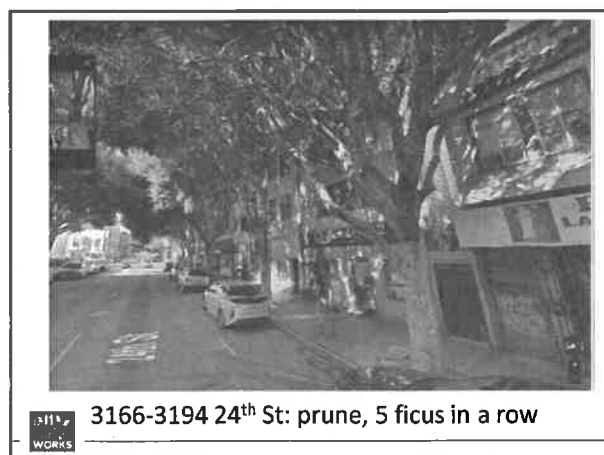
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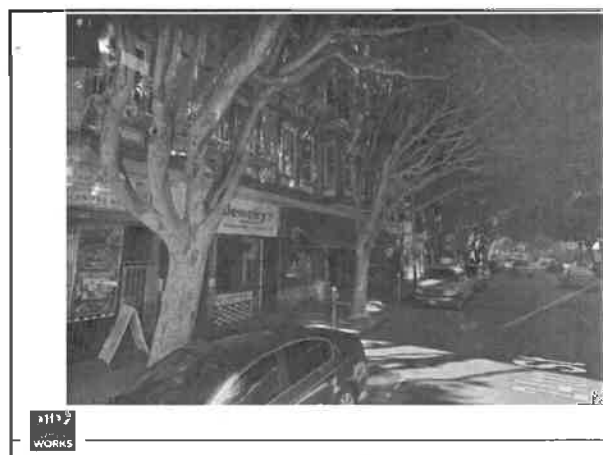
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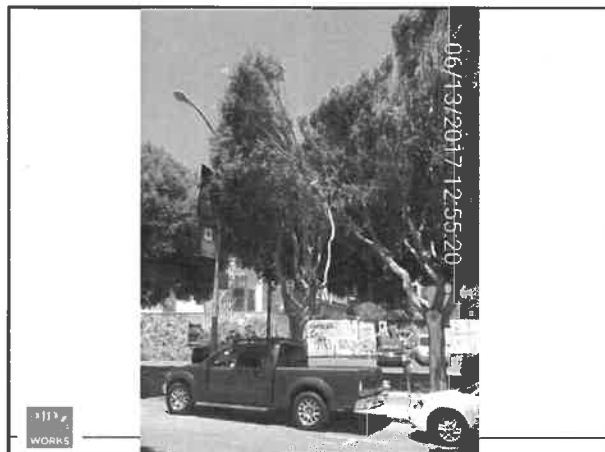
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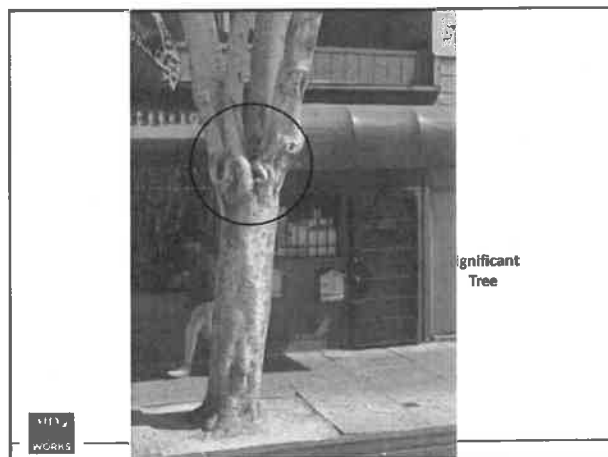
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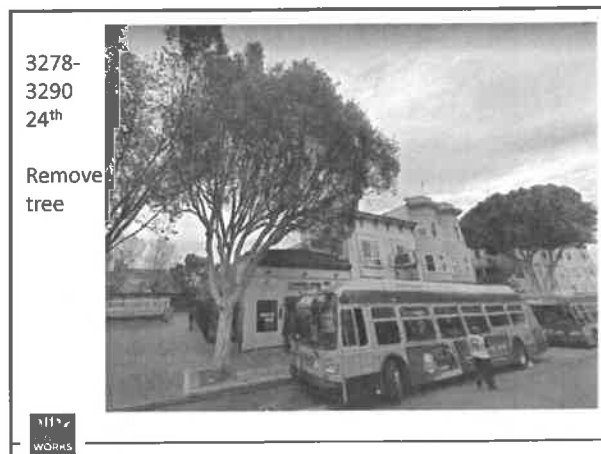
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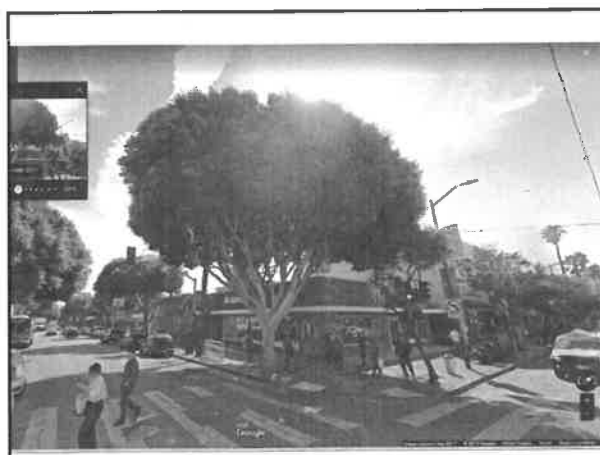
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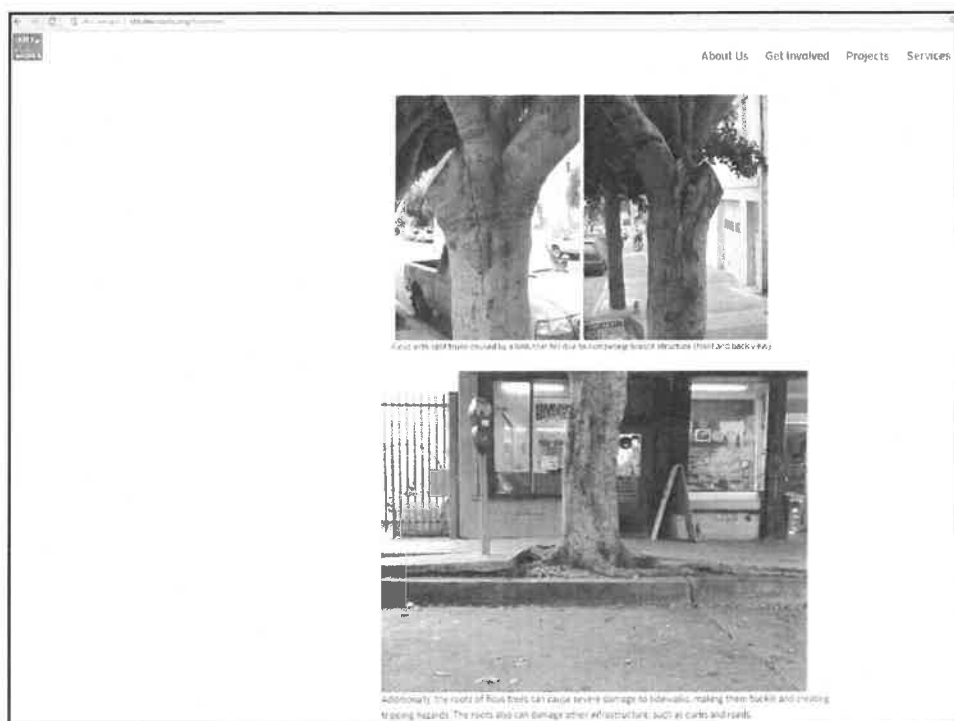
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APPENDIX

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City of San Francisco Public Works

About Us Get Involved Projects Services

What this all means

In 2016, to address the number of large limb failures that had been occurring with ficus trees, the director of San Francisco's Public Works issued Order No. 16-02, "Tree removal criteria for ficus trees (Ficus religiosa & Ficus) " which eased the removal standards for ficus trees in accordance with that Director's Order, and because of the numerous ficus tree failures. Public Works is in the process of identifying specific ficus trees that are vulnerable to failure near schools, senior centers, a high-traffic corridors and on busy street corners.

Ficus trees that are determined to be vulnerable to failure will be posted by Public Works with public notices for removal for a period of 30 days. Any member of the public may protest the removal without a "stop-work" order. If a protest is received, the matter will be scheduled for a hearing at City Hall at the discretion of the publicly tree removal hearing.

Information about our tree removal permit process is located [here](#).

The removal of ficus trees throughout the City is taking place systematically. Trees are assessed by a licensed professional arborist, when warranted, added to the tree removal queue. We are focusing our resources on the trees determined to be most vulnerable to failure, for example, during high winds and heavy rains or if they are located too close to traffic and could fall on it.

Our goal at Public Works for San Francisco is to have a healthy, robust urban forest. However, while we eliminate the many important benefits that mature trees provide, protecting public safety remains our top priority.

Areas scheduled for ficus removal*

Area	Streets	Number of ficus posted for removal	Posting period
Hayes Valley	Crissy Street from Hayes to Fulton streets	25	January 15, 2019 - February 14, 2019
Hayes Valley	San Octavia Street	7	February 15, 2019 - February 28, 2019
Lower 24th Street	Market to Fulton streets	31	May 1, 2019 - June 30, 2019

*Please note, schedules are estimates and are subject to change for numerous reasons. Please check back periodically as we continue to update information based on the latest data collected in the field.

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City of San Francisco Public Works

About Us Get Involved Projects Services

Hayes Valley Information and Updates

For Hearing Information - April 10, 2019

Lower 24th Street Information and Updates

Public Works has been conducting outreach regarding the Lower 24th Street ficus removal and replanting project. Below you will find materials that were shared at each outreach event.

Community Meeting #1 - March 20, 2019 6:30 PM

Zuckerberg San Francisco General Quarterly Meeting

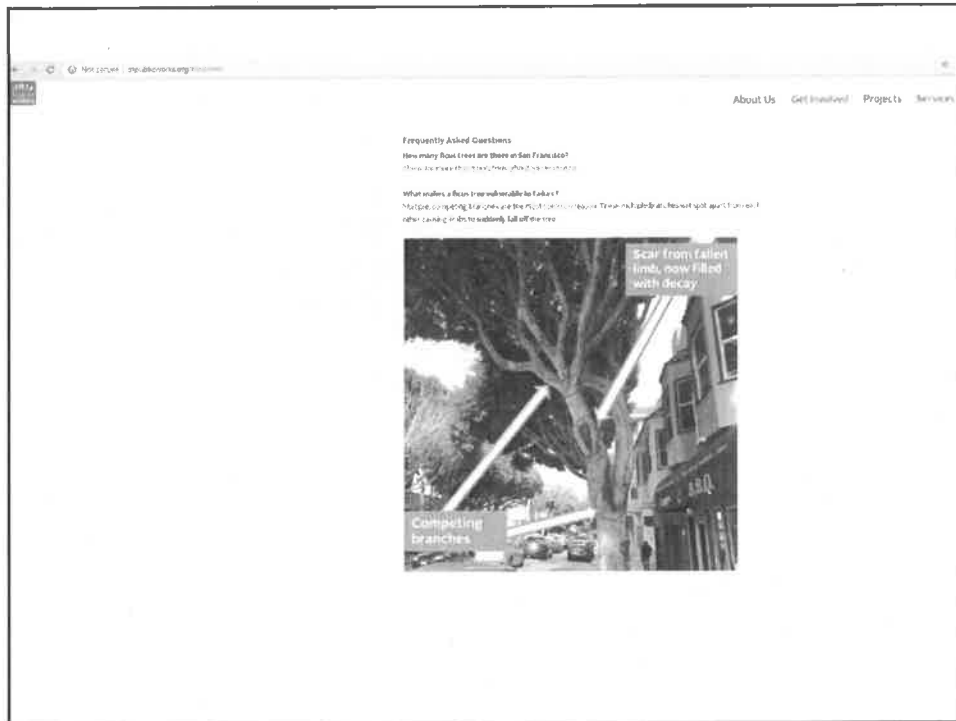
- Flyer (English, Spanish, Chinese)
- 2019 Community Meeting Agenda
- Lower 24th Street Ficus Tree Replanting

Walk-through and Community Meeting #2 - April 22, 2019 6:00 PM

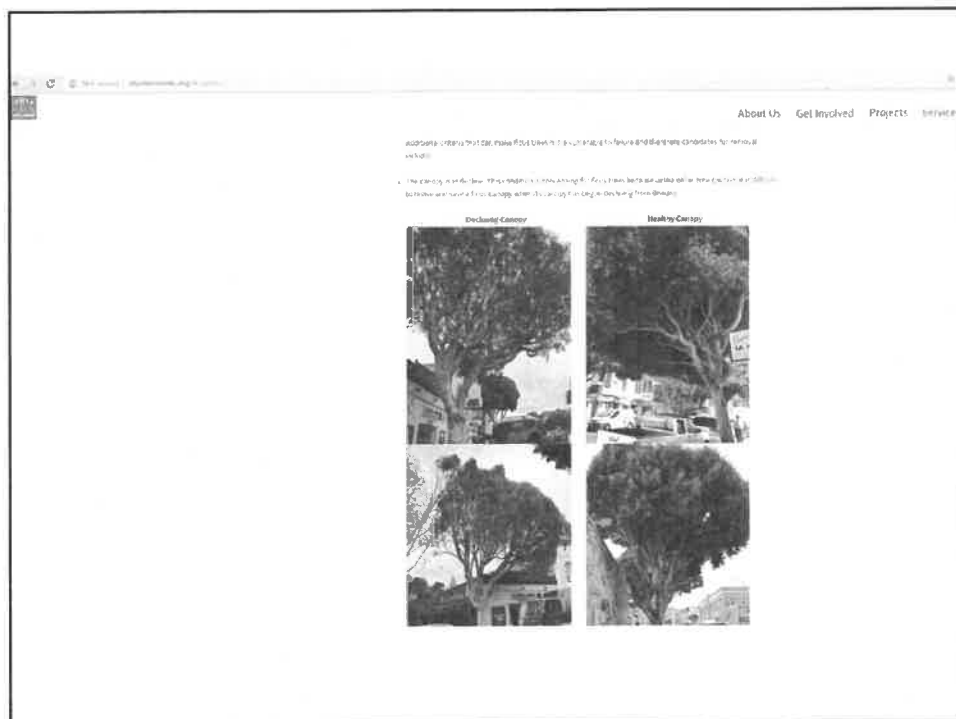
Silverstone Café and Alley Cat Bookstore and Gallery

- Flyer
- Lower 24th Street Ficus Tree Replanting Timeline and Map
- Lower 24th Street Ficus Tree Q&A
- Lower 24th Street Ficus Tree Appointment
- Lower 24th Street Ficus Tree Removal Checklist
- Lower 24th Street Ficus Tree Nurseries

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[About Us](#)
[Get Involved](#)
[Projects](#)
[Services](#)

The removal of trees and landscaping projects are vital to the growth of the city and the safety of our residents. We are committed to providing the best possible service to our residents and to ensuring that the removal of trees and landscaping is done in a safe and responsible manner. We are committed to providing the best possible service to our residents and to ensuring that the removal of trees and landscaping is done in a safe and responsible manner.



Will I ever know that we're removed or replaced with new tree species?
 We will always be the first to tell you that we are committed to providing the best possible service to our residents and to ensuring that the removal of trees and landscaping is done in a safe and responsible manner. We are committed to providing the best possible service to our residents and to ensuring that the removal of trees and landscaping is done in a safe and responsible manner.

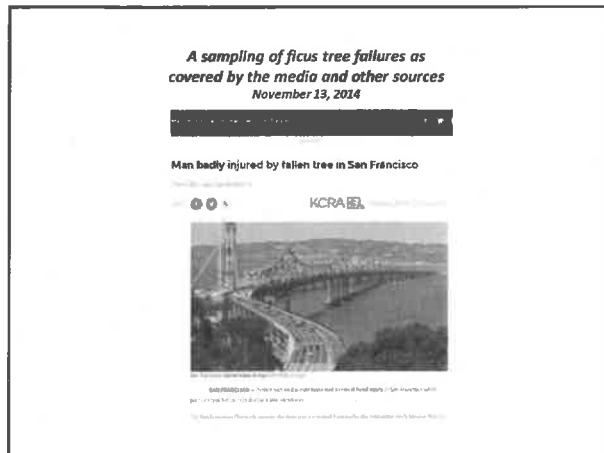
Are trees ever allowed to be planted?
 Due to the amount of work that we do, we are not always able to provide the best possible service to our residents and to ensuring that the removal of trees and landscaping is done in a safe and responsible manner. We are committed to providing the best possible service to our residents and to ensuring that the removal of trees and landscaping is done in a safe and responsible manner.

When can I submit my request to allow a tree that has been posted for removal in my neighborhood?
 We are committed to providing the best possible service to our residents and to ensuring that the removal of trees and landscaping is done in a safe and responsible manner. We are committed to providing the best possible service to our residents and to ensuring that the removal of trees and landscaping is done in a safe and responsible manner.

[Contact Us](#)
[About Us](#)
[Get Involved](#)
[Projects](#)
[Services](#)

APPENDIX

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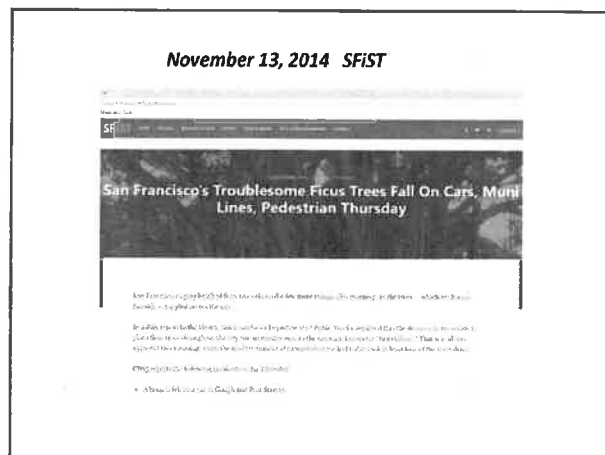
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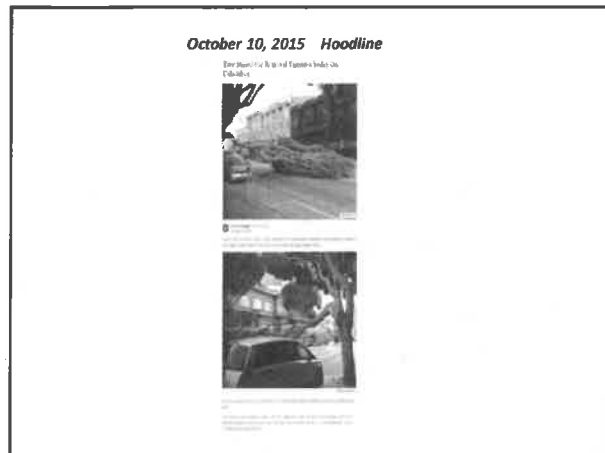
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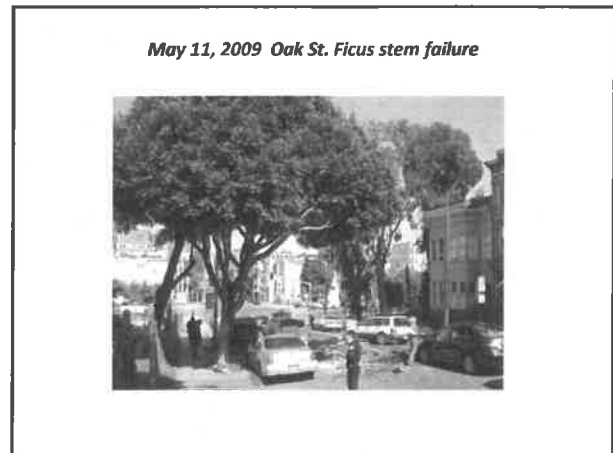
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A public meeting is scheduled Monday evening at the Calle 24 Latino Cultural District headquarters at 24th and Capp streets, and a prior hearing was held at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital at which the trees' removal was discussed. According to Gordon, Public works has also been conducting door-to-door outreach.

"We have not wanted to surprise the neighbors about this," Gordon said, adding that plans to prune the trees have been "in the works for five years or so."

Prior to Monday's meeting, community members will be able to walk along the 24th Street corridor with Public Works officials and learn about the process of removing the trees, and what renders them a target for removal.

Erick Arguello, president of the Calle 24, said there are "mixed feelings amongst the organization and the community" in regard to the trees' removal.

"There's been a lot of conversation about whether [Public Works] can do one block at a time," Arguello said, adding that removing all trees at once "feels drastic."

Arguello added that Calle 24 has previously worked with the community to create a plan for tree removal that would only target dead trees and replace them immediately. He said the corridor has had issues with falling tree limbs, particularly during high winds and rain.


Due to community input, Public Works plans to more closely inspect 20 of the 77 trees pegged for removal, which may be salvageable with additional pruning.

All trees removed from the street will be replaced with either Red Maple or Ginkgo trees, said Gordon. Voters approved a ballot measure in 2016 shifting the burden for tree maintenance away from property owners and on to The City. Around 2,700 ficus trees have been planted in San Francisco, and some of them have proven problematic.

According to Gordon, Lower 24th Street has experienced 41 major tree failures between Mission and Potrero streets, with the latest documented on Feb. 27 between Bryant and Florida streets. The tree experienced "root failure" and fell in its entirety across 24th Street at 2 a.m., onto three parked cars, said Gordon.

hwaxmann@sfxaminer.com


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City scales its case for taking 81 ficus trees along 24th Street

By Erick Arguello

April 3rd, 2019 by Annie Gorman



On Monday evening, dozens of opinionated Mission locals attended a combined community meeting and walking tour of 24th Street's beautiful yet troubled ficus trees — 51 of which have been slated for removal as early as June. According to city officials, the determination comes after years of local complaints about tripping hazards caused by roots breaking through sidewalks, and large branches breaking free on windy days.

Chris Buck, a forester for San Francisco Public Works, led the tour, which grew heated when residents demanded an explanation for why their beloved trees have to go. The ficuses create an iconic and lush canopy over the neighborhood, and are nearly 50 years old. Buck explained that the species' trunk design — "co-dominant, competing stems" is the reason so many ficus trees are struggling health-wise, difficult to maintain, and potentially destructive.

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Usually, it's possible to prune an unruly tree by cutting its main trunk stem, Buck explained. But ficus trees are tricky because they have more than one central stem competing for dominance. This means the tree is challenging to maintain, and also prone to splitting, rot, becoming infested by insects — and falling catastrophically.

And these potentially dangerous trees aren't easy to spot.

"The trees that look the greenest to the public are, unfortunately, often the ones that are the least structurally sound," Buck said as the group huddled close, with many gazing sadly at a ficus near the McDonald's on Mission & 24th streets that's slated for removal. He assured them that the city had heard the community's distress in response to the potential loss of the trees, and added that the only trees they planned to cut down were the ones that were in the worst condition.

Still, many people who showed up expressed outrage and skepticism over the city's proposal to remove the trees.

"The city just declared a climate emergency," said one onlooker. "Has any thought been given to how removing so many of these old, giant trees might impact health?"

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Photo credit: Erick Arguello

Buck countered that, as a result of public pushback, the city had in fact taken 20 trees off the chopping block. These trees would instead be aggressively pruned, in an experimental attempt to preserve them as long as possible. He added that he couldn't promise that this technique would work; often, aggressive pruning of ficus trees leads to their demise. But he said he's hopeful that the 20 trees in question would survive for at least another 10 years.

Buck laid out a plan to replace many of the ficus trees towering over 24th Street with red maples and ginkgos, two species with less aggressive roots and a lighter canopy, to let more light in.

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He said the good news was that, very recently, the city had secured dedicated funding for regular tree maintenance — something that had been a problem in the past. “We’re committed to planting and watering the trees in this corridor,” Buck pledged.

After an hour of walking around and another hour or so of sitting and talking at Alley Cat Books on 24th Street, Buck’s thoroughness seemed to impress some initial skeptics — though it’s still clear that a number of residents remain dead-set against removing these trees, regardless of the city’s rationale.

The final fate of the ficus trees will be determined at a public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, June 5 at 5:30 p.m. in room 416 of City Hall. Members of the public have until then to appeal the decision.

The date of the subsequent meeting was rescheduled from May to June following the publication of this article.

APPENDIX

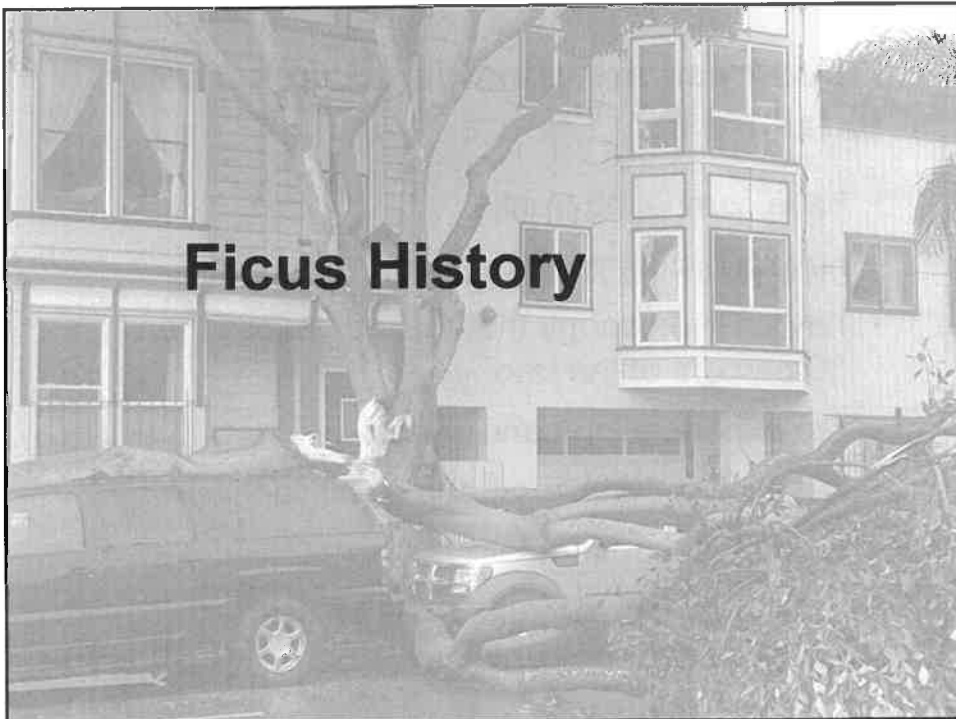


Lower 24th Street Ficus Trees




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Ficus History



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- Ficus trees are common in SF (more than 7,000) and have an impressive canopy
- 2014 Director's Order eased removal criteria to address increased number of large limb failures as ficus began to age
- Public Works is in the process of identifying specific ficus trees that are vulnerable to failure near schools, senior centers, along highly travelled corridors, neighborhood commercial districts and on busy street corners

streetSF REC CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC WORKS

3

Ficus trees are considered vulnerable to failure if:

- have competing trunks
- have a history of limb failures
- have a live canopy that makes up less than 30 percent of the tree
- are experiencing canopy decline
- have roots that have been significantly pruned
- are at least 50 feet tall
- have a canopy or trunk that conflicts with streetlights or power lines

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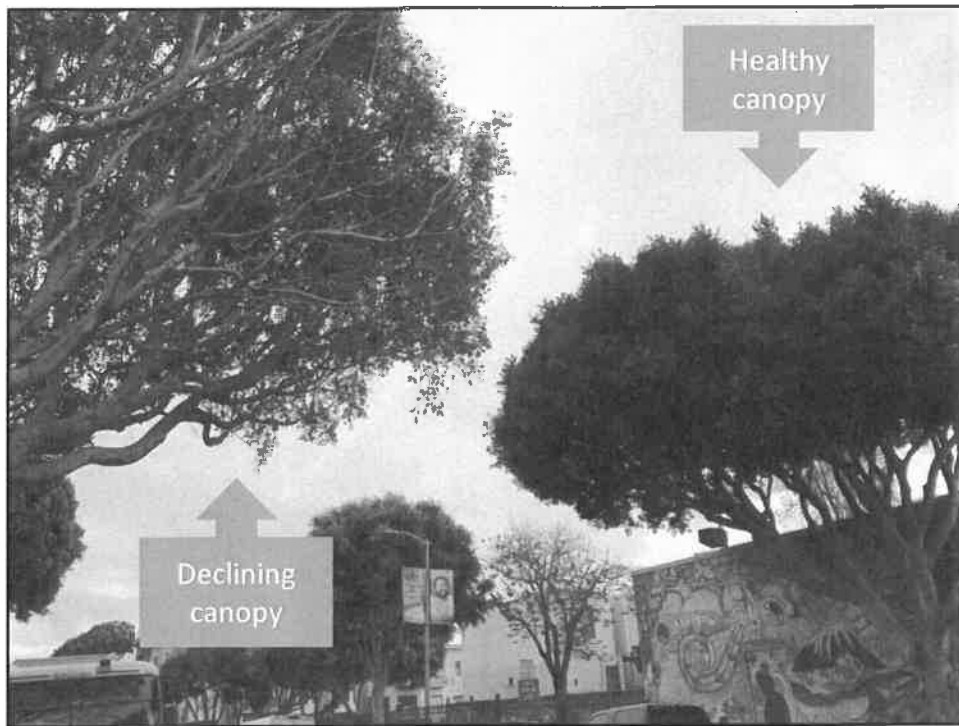
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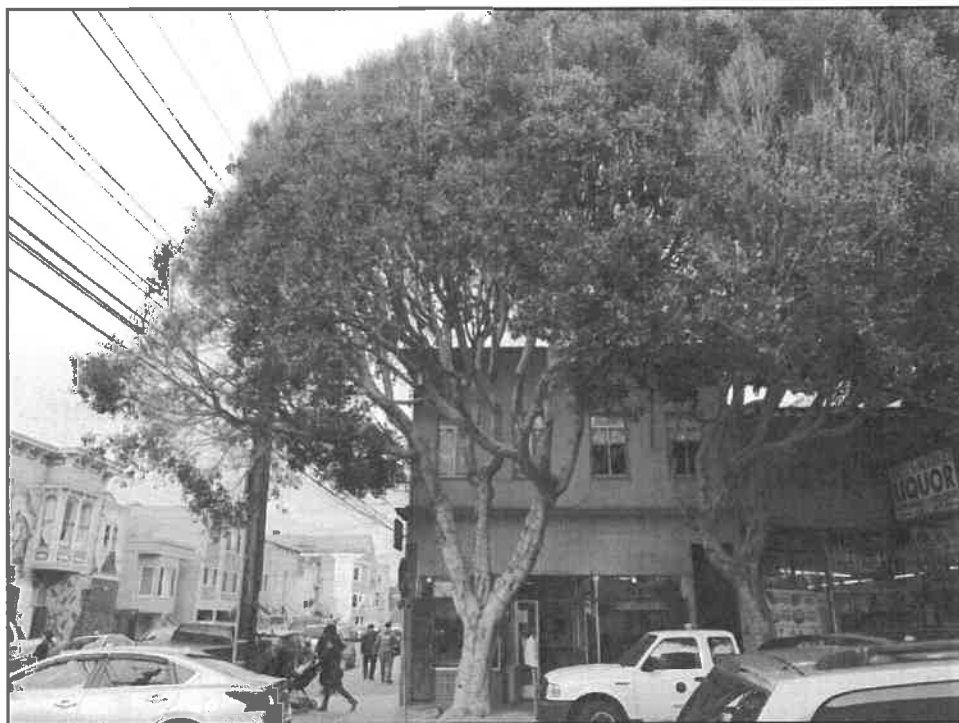
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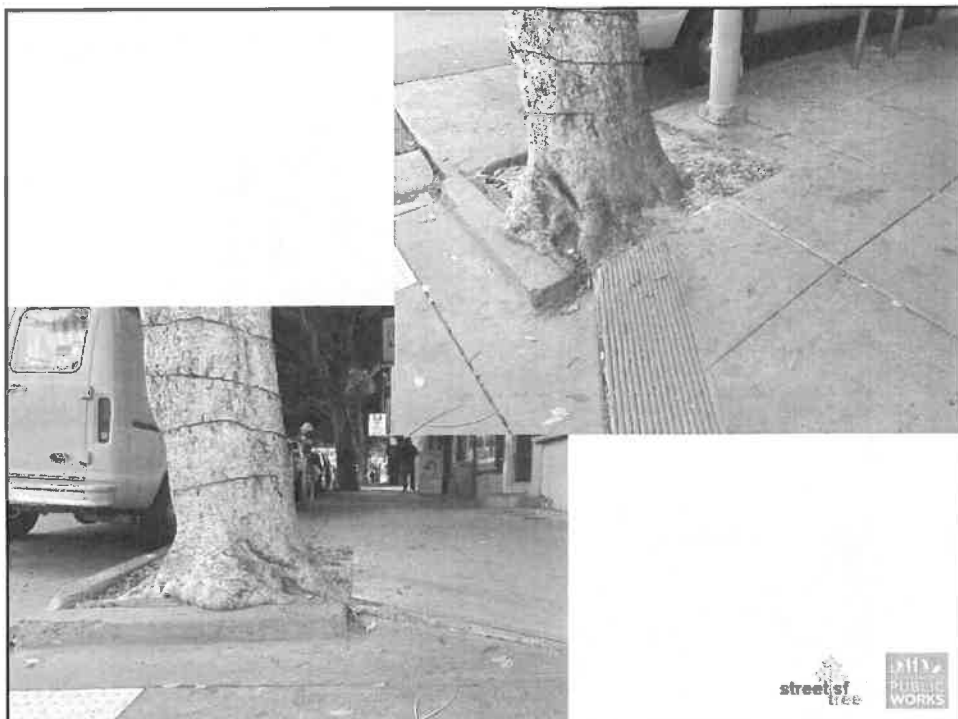
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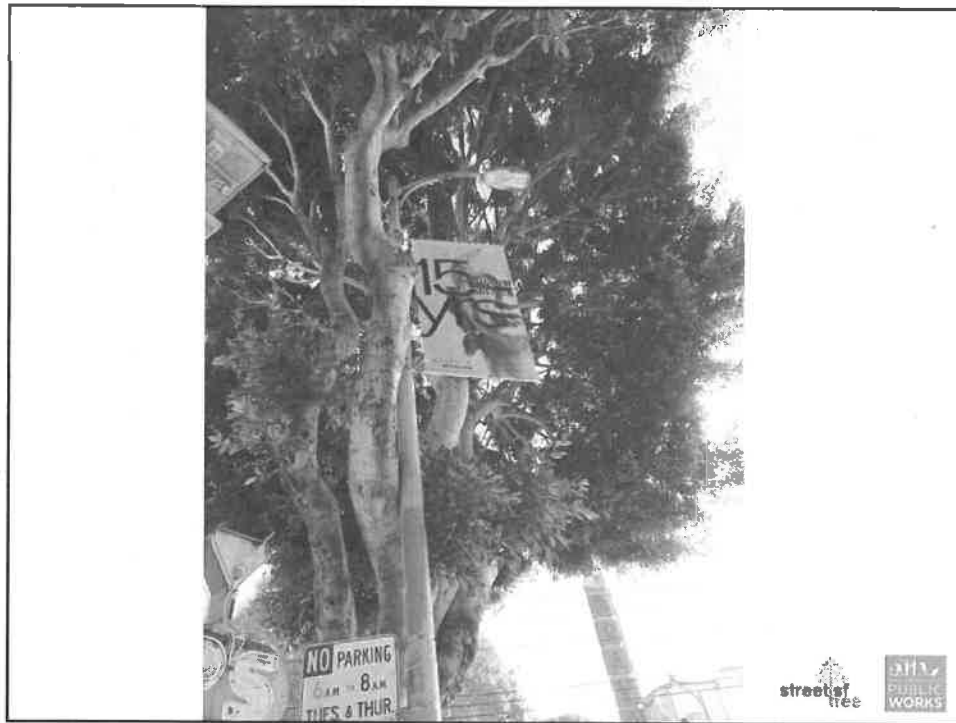
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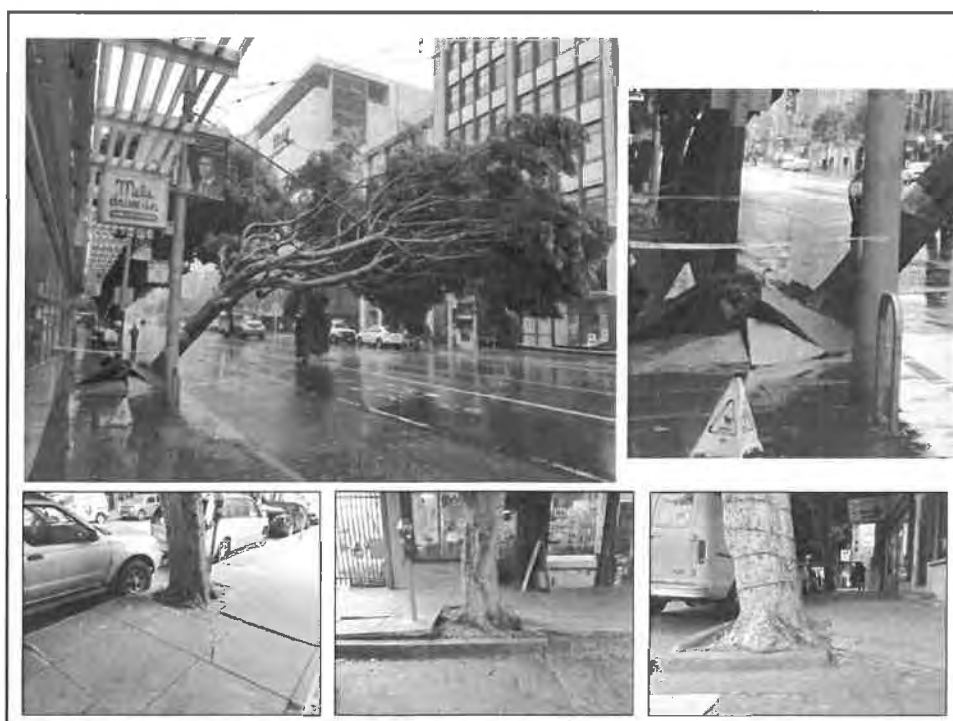
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Citywide Ficus Removals

- Fillmore Street
 - Trees removed and in process of replanting
- Oak / Fell Streets
 - Trees removed and in process of replanting
- 16th and Church Street (Everett Middle School)
 - Trees removed and replanted
- Columbus Avenue (Washington Square Park)
 - Seven trees
 - In hearing process
 - Replacement tree species already picked out
- Hayes Valley
 - 29 trees
 - Public notification period ended recently
 - Hearing will be scheduled for April 2019
 - Will be replanted 2-3 months after removals take place



19

24th Street has experienced approximately 40 limb failures in the last 10 years

- Lower 24th Street from Mission Street to Potrero is a high pedestrian, cyclist and motor vehicle commercial corridor

Daily Traffic Volumes

	Pedestrians	Vehicles	Cyclists
Mission and 24th	4,388	2,208	34
South Van Ness and 24th	2,148	4,032	20
Totals	6,536	6,240	54



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Additional issues

- Pruning for building clearance caused imbalance
- Narrow sidewalk



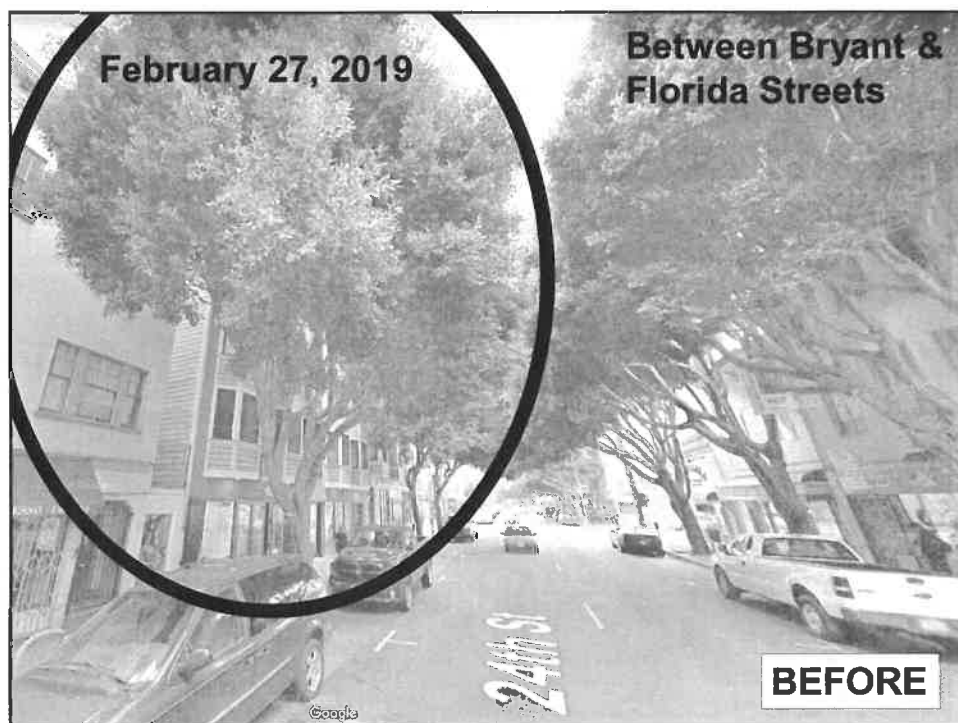
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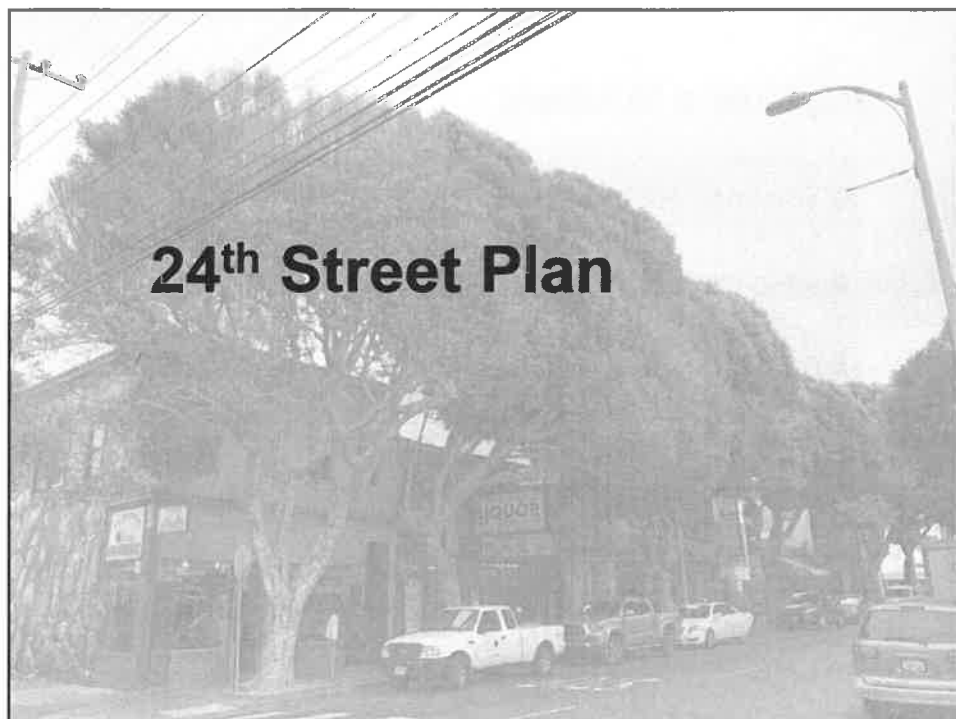
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Removal Numbers

Total # trees before removals	130
# Ficus before removals	101
# Ficus to be removed	78
# Ficus to be removed	1
# Trees remaining (non-removals)	49



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Replanting Numbers

# Sites not replantable	23
# Sites replantable	57
# Empty / new basins to plant (clear of utility issues and meet all street tree planting guidelines)	20
# Empty / new basins with potential to plant (pending utility clearance)	1



28

Replanting Numbers

Total # trees before removals	130
Trees remaining (non-removals)	49
Total replantings / new plantings	78
Total # trees after removals & replantings / new plantings	127



29

Breakdown of work phases

Removals	Sidewalk Work	Replanting and new plantings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees and stumps Dedicated professional tree contractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair cracked and raised sidewalk Enlarge tree basins Move tree basins Pave over unplantable basins Dedicated Public Works cement crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replant tree basins that are free of utility conflicts and meet tree planting guidelines Plant in new basins Dedicated Public Works planting crew Engage community in designing and customizing tree stakes and cross brace stickers 4 stakes and wire mesh will be used on all new trees



30

Removals

Timeline: From the start of removal to completion three to four months

Start date: Subject to change depending on

- public notification protests
- public hearings
- the scheduling of work with contractors and in-house crews

When scheduling, we will take into account 24th Street events such as the Carnaval Parade and Festival (May 25 & 26) and Fiesta de Las Americas (September 15)

Removals	Sidewalk Work	Replanting and new plantings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees and stumps Dedicated professional tree contractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair cracked and raised sidewalk Enlarge tree basins Move tree basins Pave over unplantable basins Dedicated Public Works cement crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replant tree basins that are free of utility conflicts and meet tree planting guidelines Plant in new basins Dedicated Public Works planting crew Engage community in designing and customizing tree stakes and cross brace stickers 4 stakes and wire mesh will be used on all new trees



31

Sidewalk Work

Repair cracked and raised sidewalk

Enlarge tree basins

Move tree basins

Pave over unplantable basins

Dedicated Public Works cement crew

Removals	Sidewalk Work	Replanting and new plantings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees and stumps Dedicated professional tree contractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair cracked and raised sidewalk Enlarge tree basins Move tree basins Pave over unplantable basins Dedicated Public Works cement crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replant tree basins that are free of utility conflicts and meet tree planting guidelines Plant in new basins Dedicated Public Works planting crew Engage community in designing and customizing tree stakes and cross brace stickers 4 stakes and wire mesh will be used on all new trees



32

Planting

Timeline: Two to three months after removals are completed.

Species:

- Red maple (Armstrong Maple) along 24th
- Ginkgo (Maidenhair tree) on corners of 24th

Watering: Public Works will water with community support where possible

Removals	Sidewalk Work	Planting and new plantings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees and stumps • Dedicated professional tree contractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair cracked and raised sidewalk • Enlarge tree basins • Move tree basin • Pave over unplantable basins • Dedicated Public Works cement crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replant tree basins that are free of utility conflicts and meet tree planting guidelines • Plant in new basins • Dedicated Public Works planting crew • Engage community in designing and customizing tree stakes and cross brace stickers • 4 stakes and wire mesh will be used on all new trees



33

New Trees

- Some new trees will be 36" boxes with 4x4 foot basins
- Some will be 24" boxes with....



34

Other Requests

- Christmas lights
- Custom-designed tree stakes and/or crossbrace stickers



35

Other requests

- ✓ Currently empty tree basins along Lower 24th Street have been replanted (where sidewalk repair was not required)
- ✓ Public Works will provide bi-weekly project updates to Supervisor Ronen's Office and community while project is ongoing
- ✓ Public Works will provide dedicated contact for questions, concerns, updates, etc. while project is ongoing



36

Common concerns to tree removals

Aren't you supposed to be growing our Urban Forest? Why do these trees have to come out if we want more trees in San Francisco?

Our aim at Public Works is for San Francisco to have a thriving, robust urban forest.

However, while we celebrate the many important benefits that mature trees provide, and while we always look for all alternatives prior to choosing tree removal, protecting **public safety remains our No. 1 priority.**



37

Common concerns to tree removals

How can we trust that you will replant the trees you are removing and that you will plant them in a reasonable amount of time?

ANY time we remove a lot of trees in one area we prioritize a replacement tree replanting plan for that area.

Lower 24th Street will be prioritized for replanting given that is a major city corridor that will be losing a large amount of trees.



38

Common concerns to tree removals

How can you ensure the new trees won't bring their own problems?

The City is now responsible for the care and maintenance of all trees in the public right of way. The StreetTreeSF program is funded so that each and every street tree in San Francisco is cared for and inspected on a frequent, ongoing basis.

Structural pruning of these new 24th Street trees will be managed by Public Works Bureau of Urban Forestry. This will ensure the trees grow in a way that works with, and not against, the structures along 24th Street.



39

Moving Forward

- Look for updates from:
 - Supervisor Ronen's Office
 - Calle 24 Merchants
 - Sign in today for updates directly from Public Works
- Walk 24th with Public Works arborist
- sfpublicworks.org/ficustrees



40



sfpw.org/streettrees

sfpw.org/ficustrees

urbanforestry@sfpw.org

(415) 554-6700

41

Removal Numbers

Total # trees before removals	130
# Ficus before removals	WILL FILL IN, waiting on final numbers
# Ficus removals	75
# Non-removals (trees staying)	49
# Sites replantable	56
# Sites not replantable	23
# Empty / new basins to plant	26
Total # trees after removals & replantings / new plantings	129



42

APPENDIX

J

Appendix J

Street Tree Removal Notification Webpage

<http://sfpublicworks.org/tree-removal-notifications>

- Webpage launched on Monday, October 21, 2019.
- The page is updated every Monday.
- Weekly updates include adding new postings that have happened in the last week and removing postings that have expired within the last week.
- Each listing contains the following information:
 - Location of tree
 - Site number of tree
 - Reason(s) for removal
 - Posting period
 - Picture of tree

Example:

District 1



- Location: 600 46th Avenue
- Site number: 5
- Reason(s) for removal: Needed sidewalk repair will affect tree stability, sidewalk and curb is girdling base, pruning will likely not mitigate utility conflicts
- Posting period: 12/17/19 - 1/15/2020

- Webpage format and content was updated on November 25, 2019. Upgrades included:
 - Optimization of searches for a comprehensive and accurate list of posted trees from the Tree Database.
 - Postings organized by District
 - Clickable pictures for larger image

Date	Number of trees posted on webpage (new/total)
October 21, 2019	5 / 5
October 28, 2019	0 / 5
November 4, 2019	5 / 10
November 12, 2019	0 / 5
November 18, 2019	0 / 5
November 25, 2019	46 / 46
December 2, 2019	2 / 30
December 9, 2019	58 / 77
December 16, 2019	5 / 51
December 23, 2019	9 / 40
December 30, 2019	1 / 20
TOTAL trees posted to date	131 / 294

Street Tree Removal Notification Webpage (examples from website)

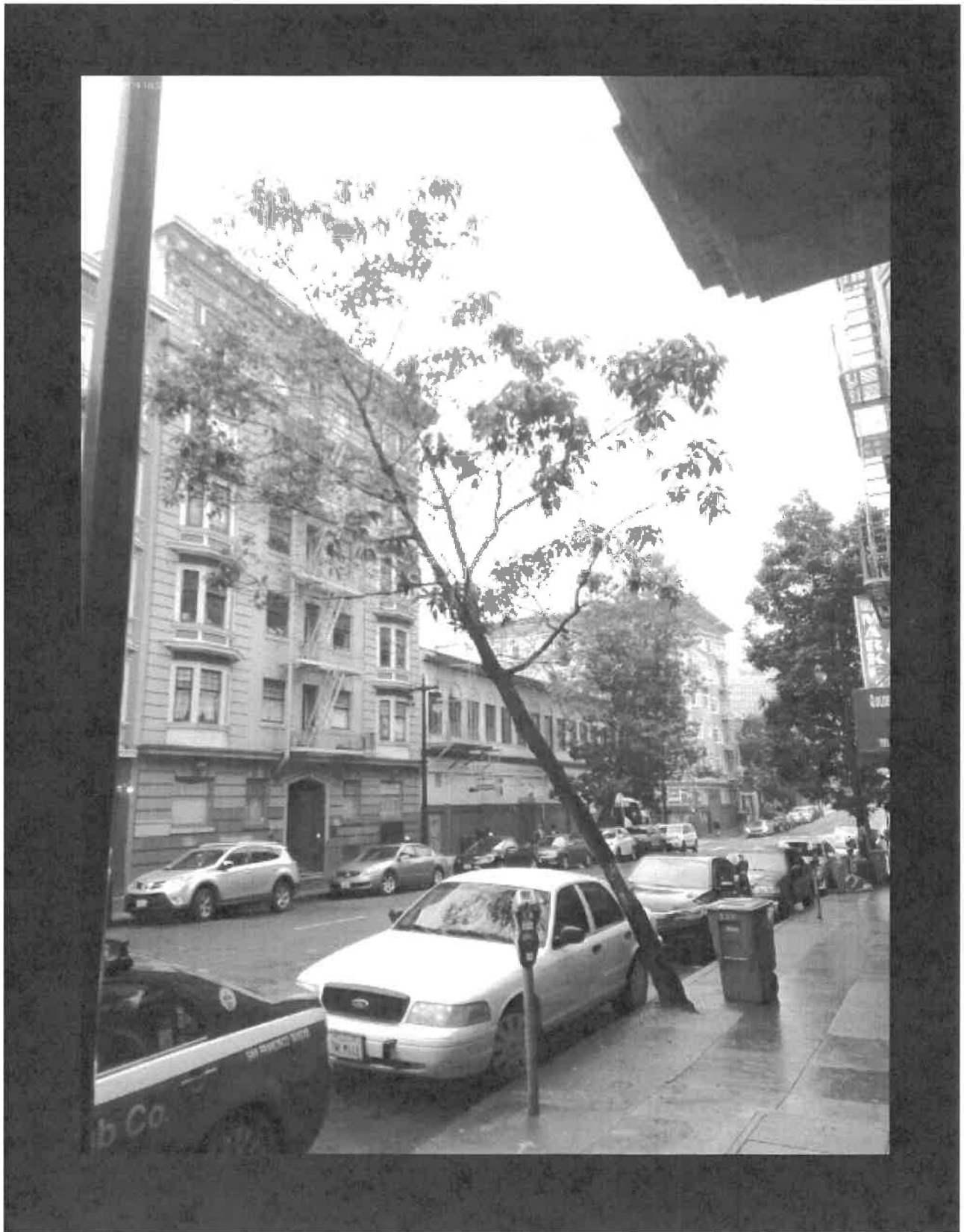


- Location: 1805 Fillmore Street
 - Site number: 2
 - Reason(s) for removal: Large crack in canopy
 - Posting period: 12/12/2019 - 12/27/2019
-

District 6



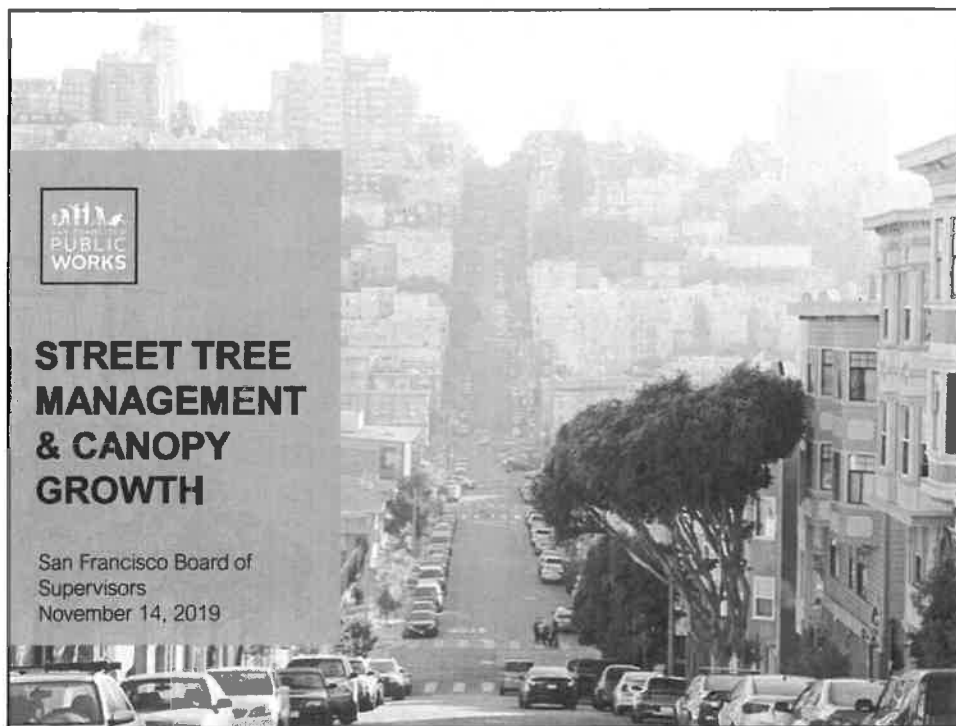
- Location: 237 Leavenworth Street
- Site number: 1
- Reason(s) for removal: Leaning into roadway
- Posting period: 12/12/2019 - 1/11/2020



APPENDIX J

APPENDIX

K

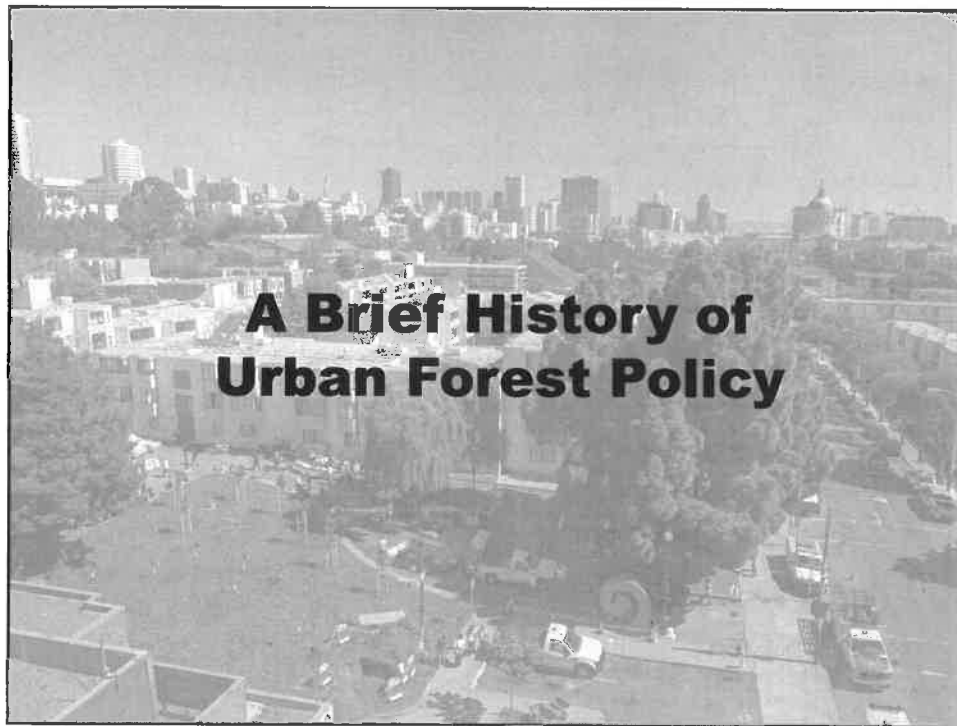


1



**The program to care for
San Francisco's 125,000+
street trees and to repair
sidewalks damaged by tree roots.**

2

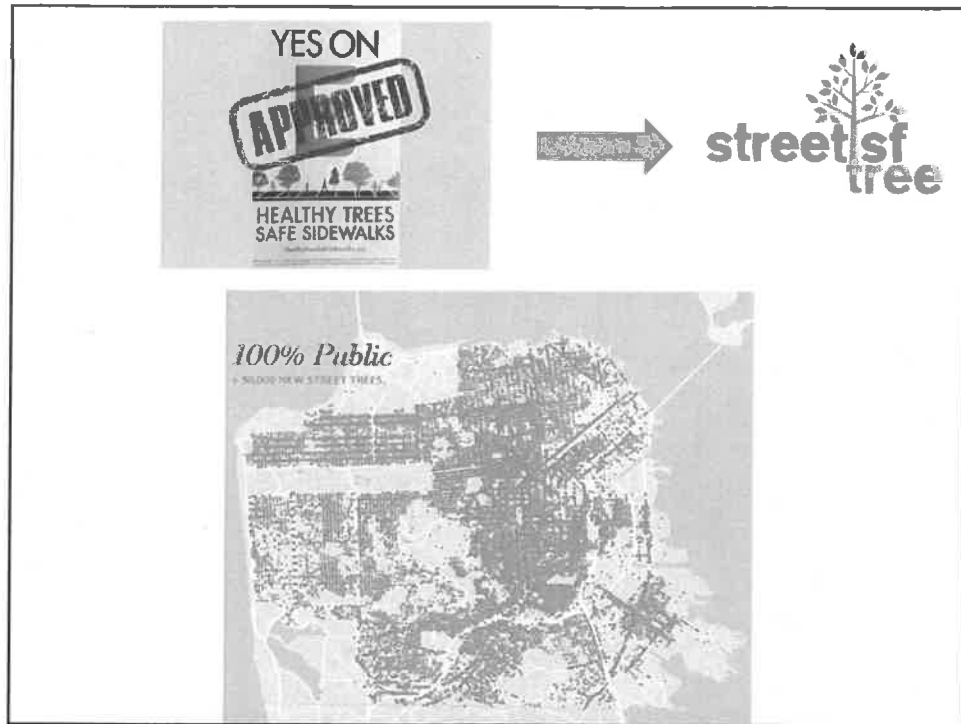


3

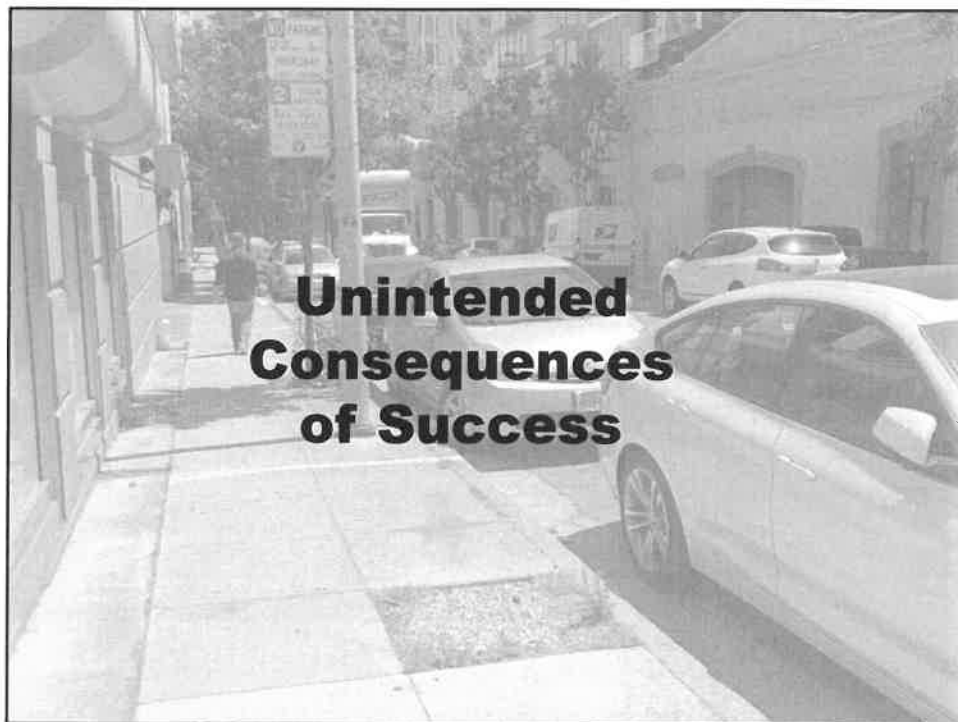
Prior to **StreetTreeSF** property owners were responsible for maintaining the majority of street trees.



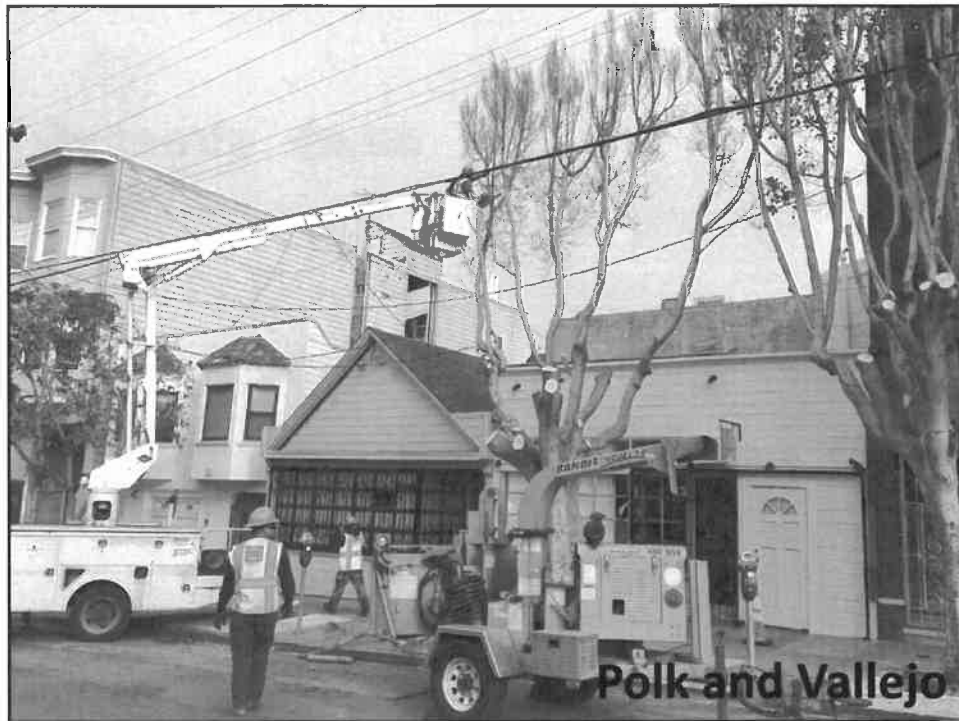
4




5



6



7



STREET TREE REMOVALS

- **3,500+ trees removed**
(unhealthy/structurally unsound)
- **Neighborhood impacts**
- **Need for replacement plantings**

8



9

San Francisco already has one of the smallest tree canopies of any major U.S. City.



13.7%
San Francisco

17%
Chicago

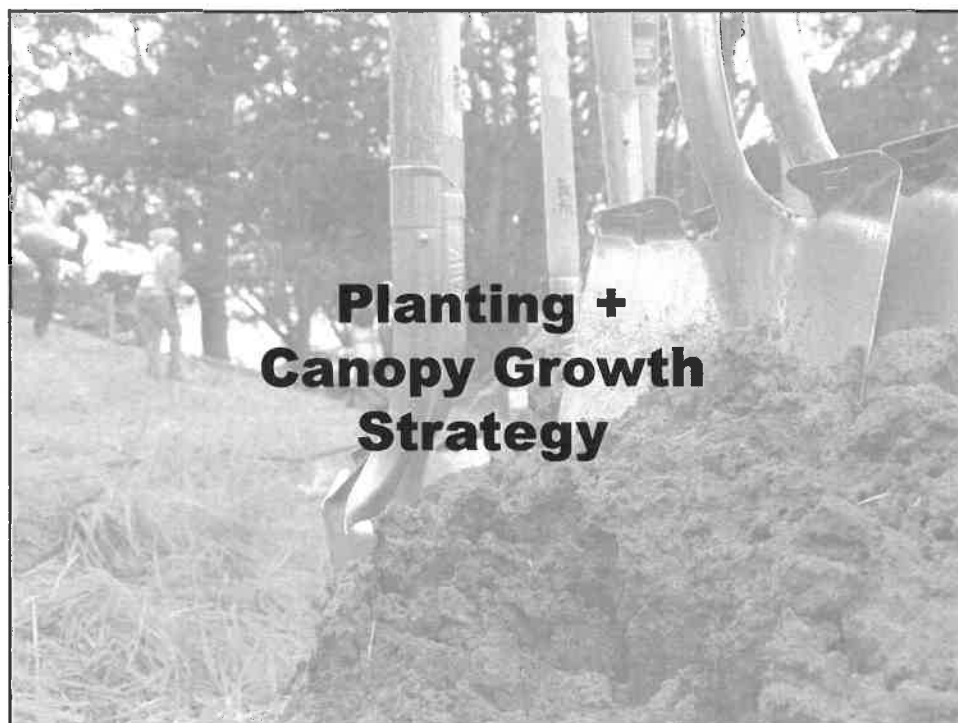
21%
Los Angeles

23%
Seattle

24%
New York City

30%
Portland

10



11

URBAN FOREST PLAN (2015)



GROW
to maximize the social, economic and environmental benefits of trees and urban greening



PROTECT
from threats and loss by preserving the City's existing trees



MANAGE
through coordinated planning, design and maintenance to ensure health and sustainability



FUND
by establishing a long-term funding strategy for the City's trees



ENGAGE
community in caring for the urban forest and deepening their connection to nature

12

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES + BENEFITS



174,392,130 *lbs*
CO₂ stored in the City's street trees



106,568,660 *gallons*
Gallons of stormwater diverted from sewer system annually



36,270 *lbs*
Pounds of atmospheric pollutants removed annually



8,530 *mw hrs*
Megawatt hours reduced annually

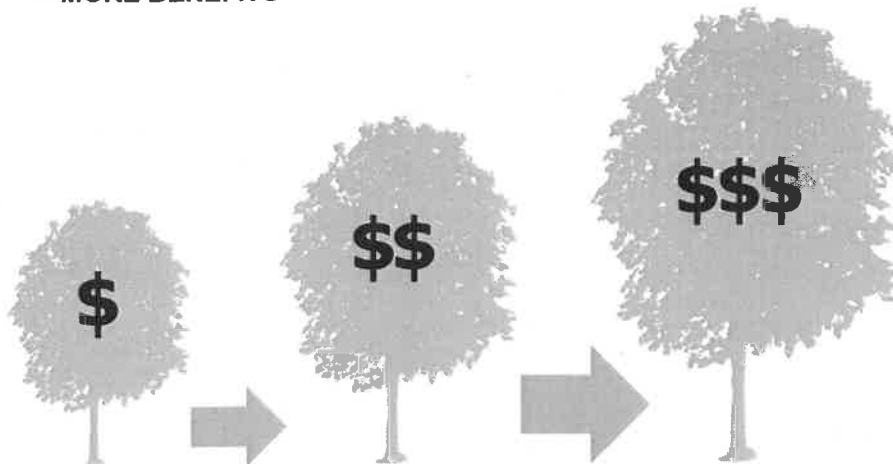
173,250 *therms*
Therms reduced annually

Source: Street Tree Census I-Tree Streets Analysis (SF Environment 2017)

13

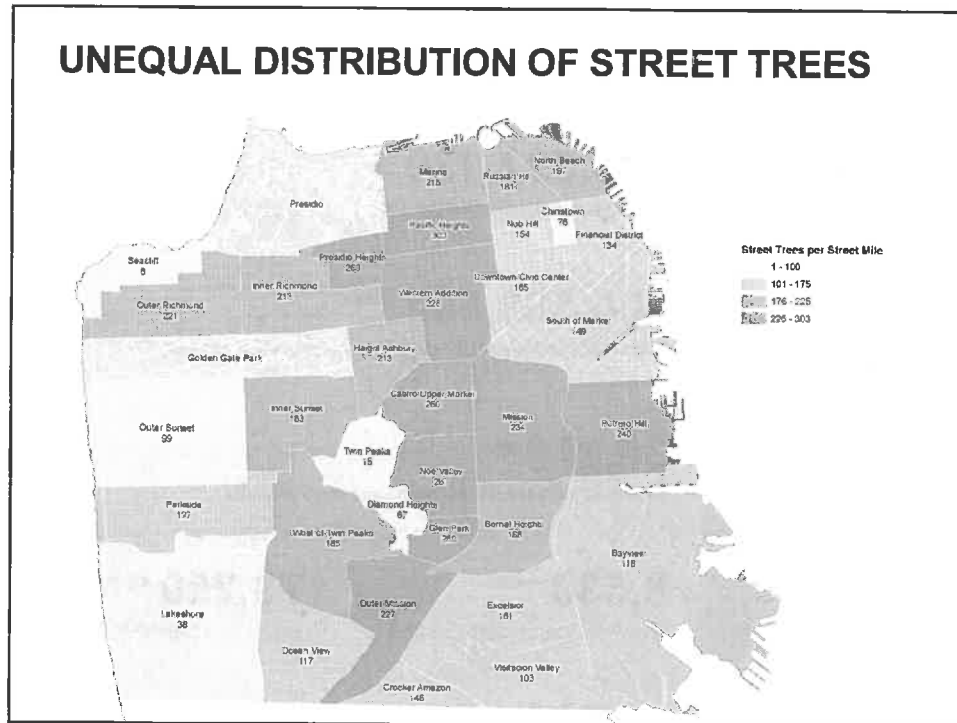
A CAPITAL ASSET

Only piece of infrastructure that **INCREASES** in value over time
= **MORE BENEFITS**



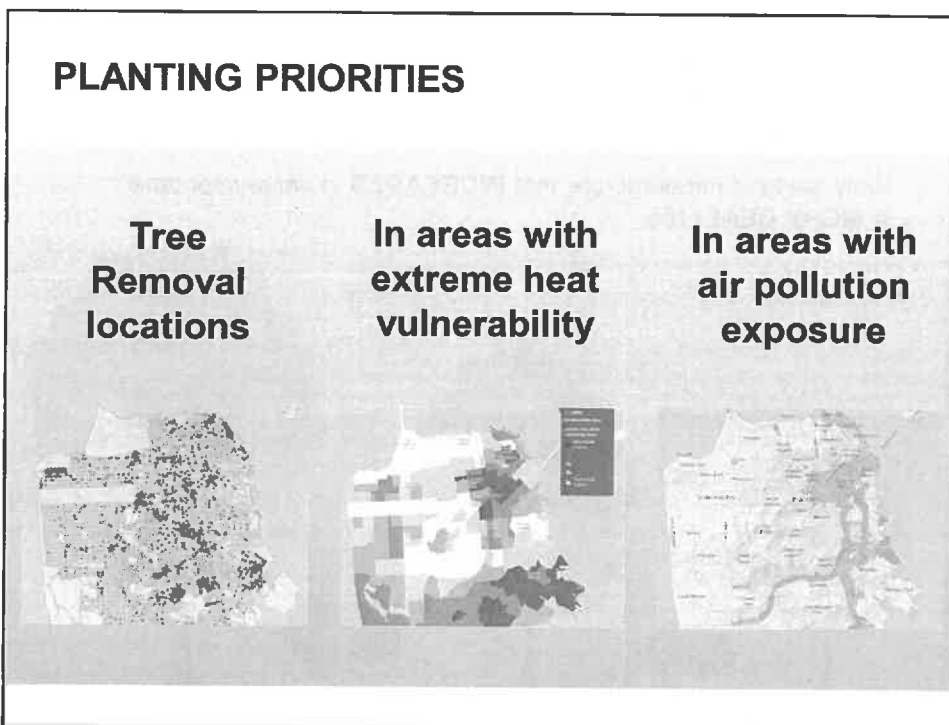
14

UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF STREET TREES



15

PLANTING PRIORITIES



16



17

PLANTING + WATERING NEEDS



COST TO PLANT ONE TREE

\$500



COST TO WATER ONE TREE

\$1,500

For 3 years until established

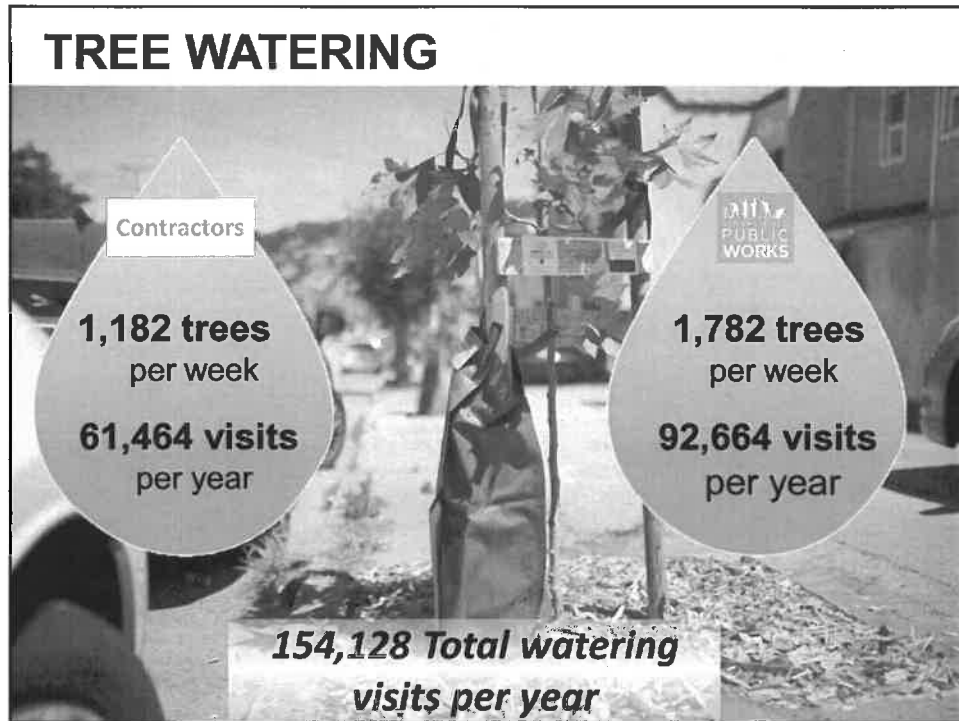


PLANT 50,000 NEW TREES

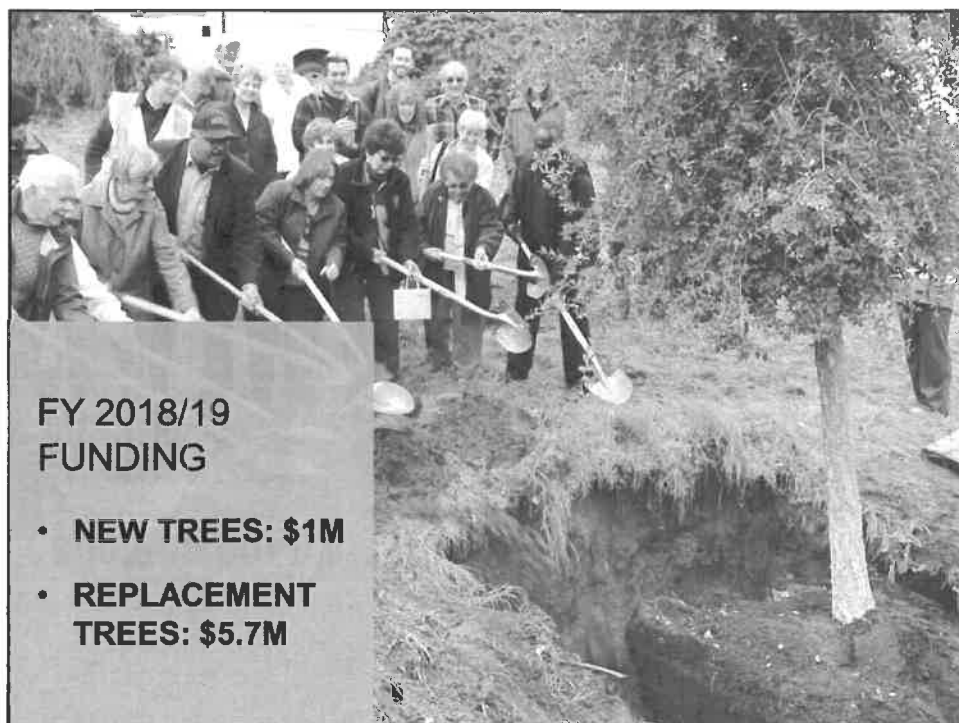
\$100,000,000

For new trees over 20 years

18



19



20



NONPROFIT PARTNERS

- **Friends of the Urban Forest**
- **Climate Action Now!**

21



NEW SOURCES + TOOLS

- **New funding strategies**
- **RFQ for improved data management**

22

San Francisco Public Works

Maintains AND
plants and establishes street trees

23

Thank you!

Questions?



San Francisco Public Works

24

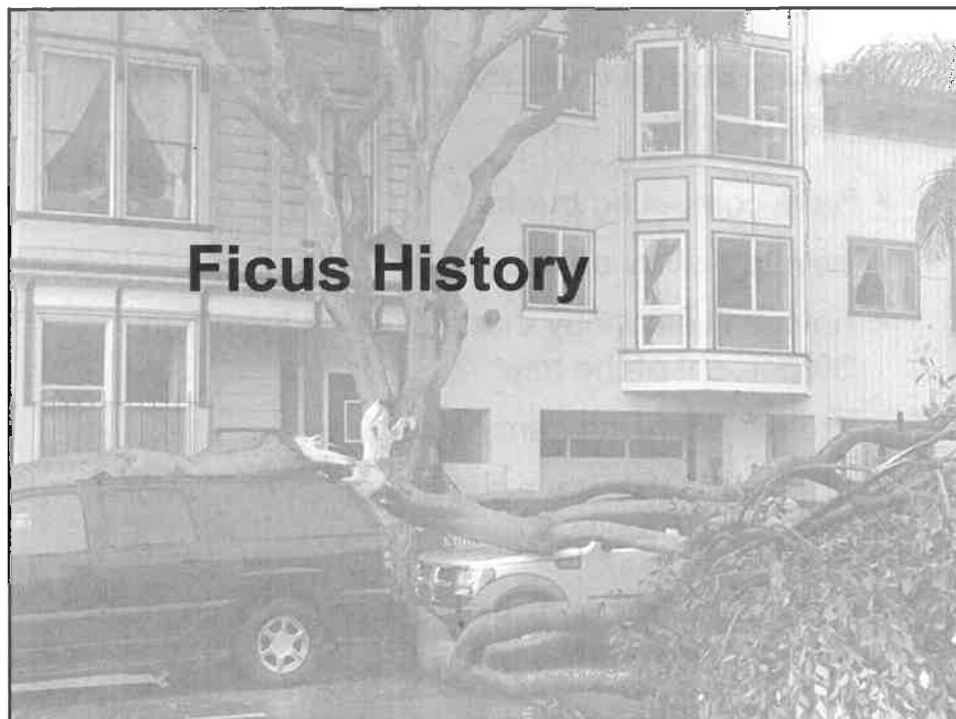
APPENDIX

L

Ficus Tree Assessments and Removals in San Francisco




1




Ficus History

2



- Ficus trees are common in SF (more than 7,000) and have an impressive canopy
- 2014 Director's Order eased removal criteria to address increased number of large limb failures as ficus began to age
- Public Works is in the process of identifying specific ficus trees that are vulnerable to failure near schools, senior centers, along highly travelled corridors, neighborhood commercial districts and on busy street corners



3

Ficus trees are considered vulnerable to failure if:

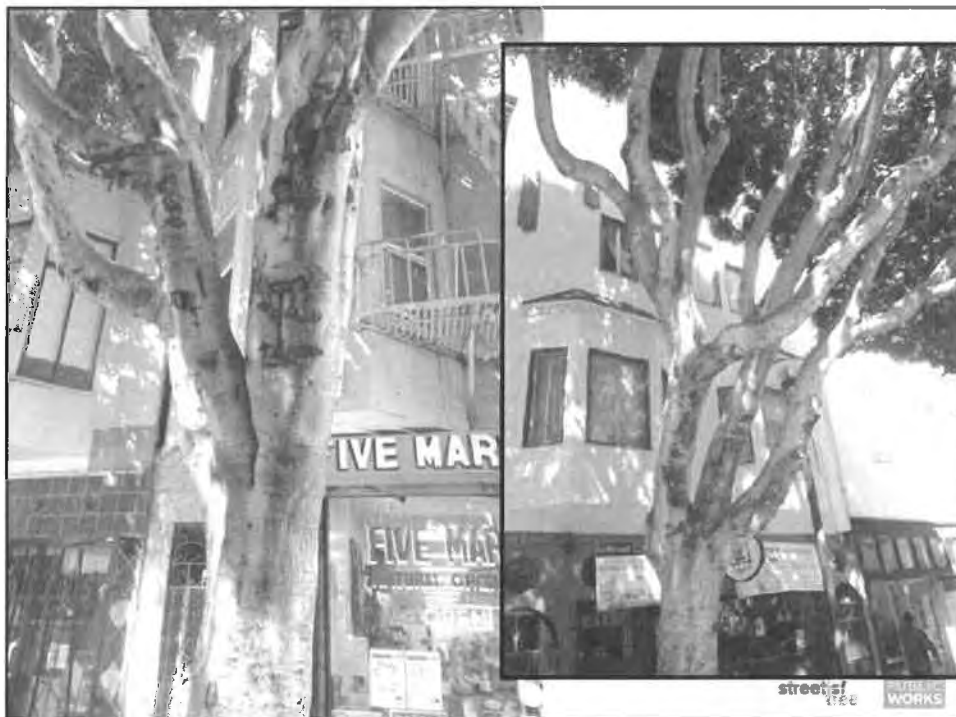
- have competing trunks
- have a history of limb failures
- have a live canopy that makes up less than 30 percent of the tree
- are experiencing canopy decline
- have roots that have been significantly pruned
- are at least 50 feet tall
- have a canopy or trunk that conflicts with streetlights or power lines



4



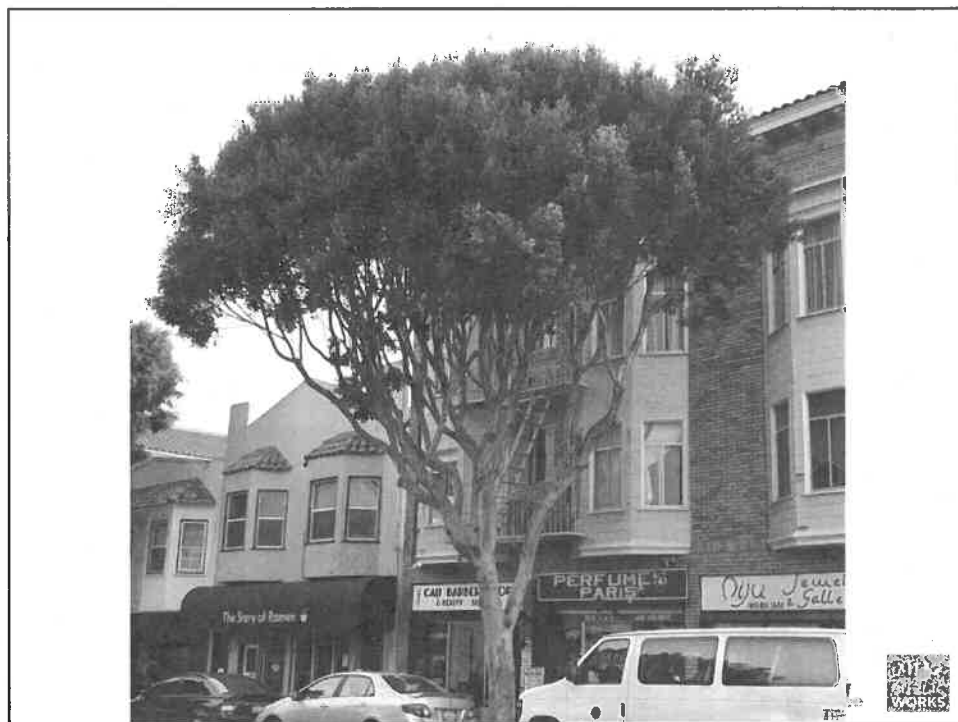
5



6



7



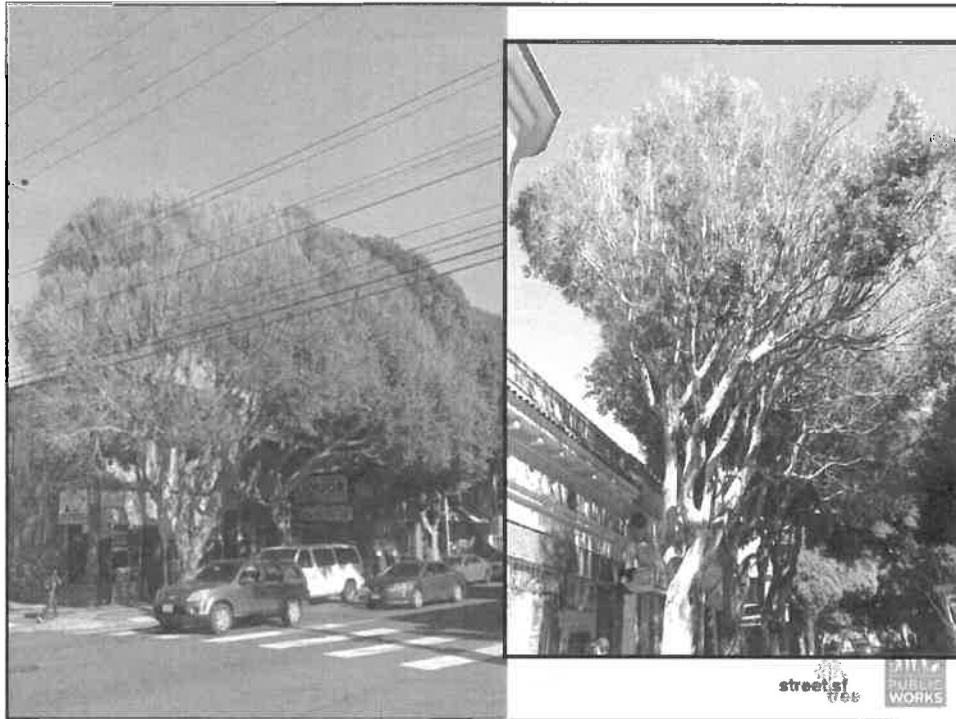
8



9



10



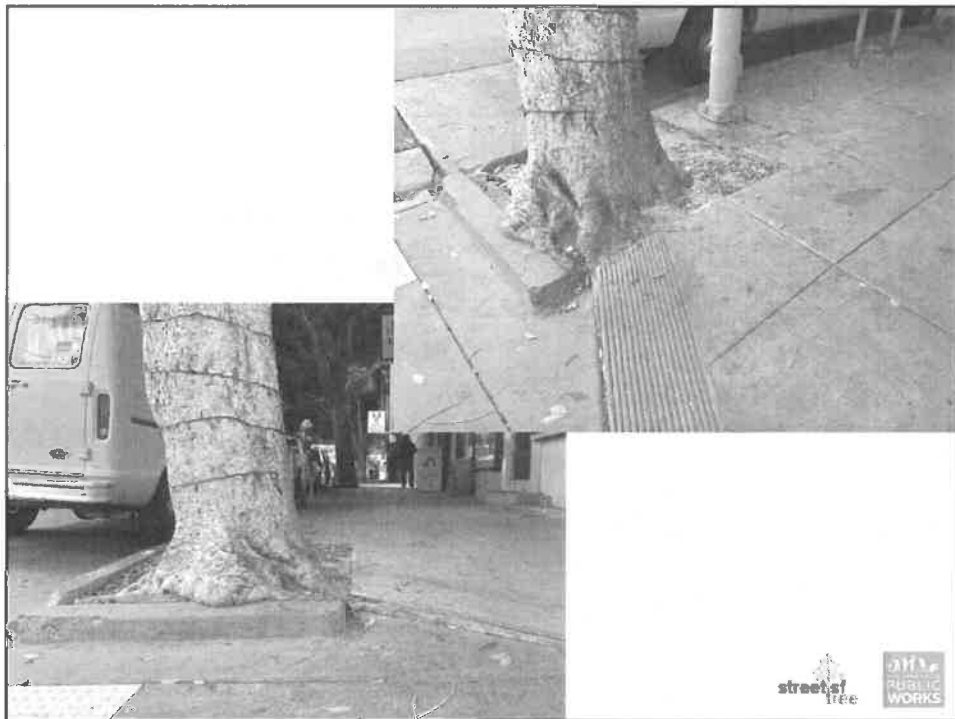
11



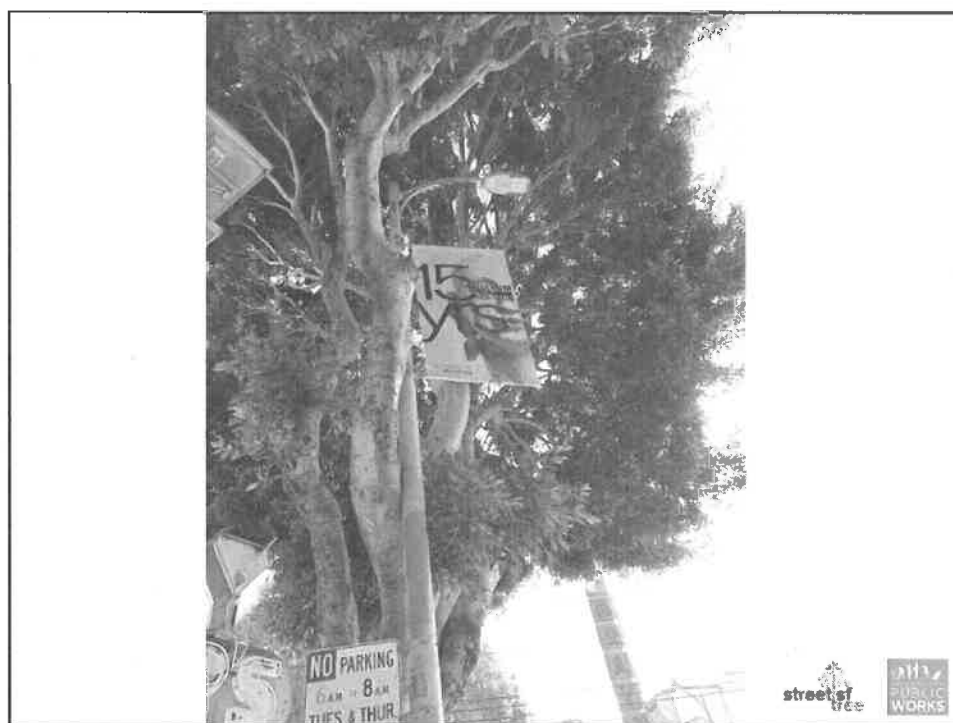
12



13



14



15

Examiner
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2017

Breaking News > The City > San Francisco News > Transit

Storm knocks down trees, causes Muni delays

Trending Articles

- Mayor Blankenbiller says agency LGT 102 is critical to future of city
- SFPD's new body camera policy: Police officers must wear them at all times
- New version of housing agency's bill calls for 'subsidized' to 'affordable' housing
- Residents left in shock for weekend of 'Navigation Error'
- Is it really a 'public health issue'?

Massive tree falls onto Dolores Street, smashes Audi

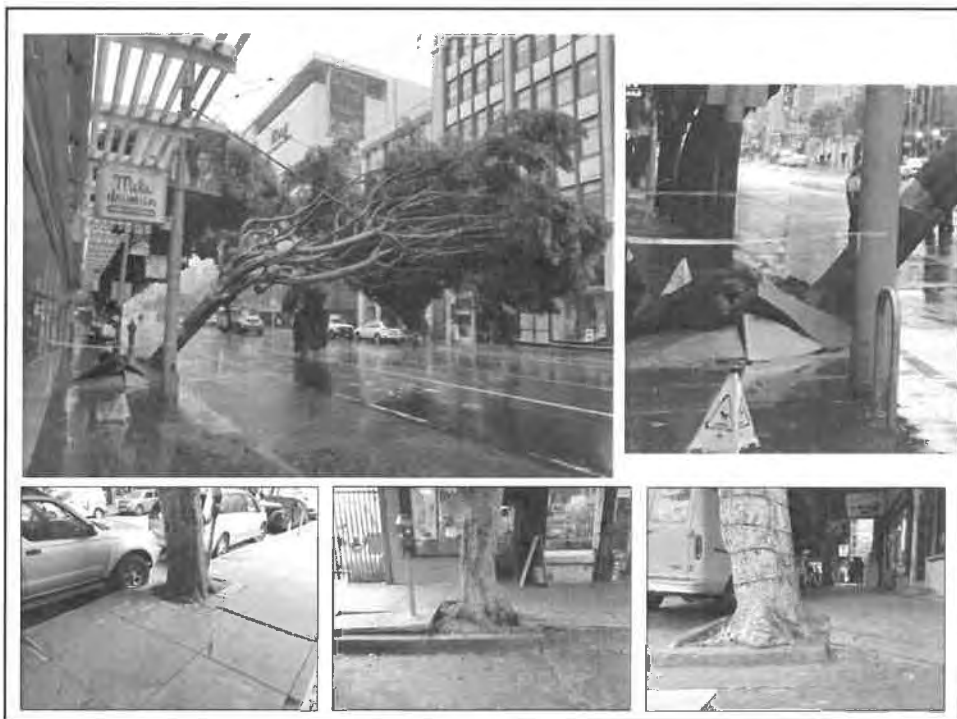
By Amy Galt SFGATE Published 2:58 pm PDT Friday, May 13, 2016

A Tree Falls On Fell Street

16



17



18

Additional issues

- Pruning for building clearance caused imbalance
- Narrow sidewalk



19

Citywide Ficus Removals

- Fillmore Street
 - Trees removed and in process of replanting
- Oak / Fell Streets
 - Trees removed and in process of replanting
- 16th and Church Street (Everett Middle School)
 - Trees removed and replanted
- Columbus Avenue (Washington Square Park)
 - Seven trees
 - In hearing process
 - Replacement tree species already picked out
- Hayes Valley
 - 29 trees
 - Public notification period ended recently
 - Hearing will be scheduled for April 2019
 - Will be replanted 2-3 months after removals take place



20

“Stop the BUF war on ficus trees. The Bureau of Urban Forestry (BUF) has targeted dozens of ficus trees for removal.”

– SF4All

Is BUF Clearcutting Ficus?

Not every Ficus is a removal candidate. It is case by case. Our comparison shows that our Urban Forestry Inspectors are upgrading a large percentage of Ficus trees from removal to “Prune Only.”

In comparing three of our grids, we upgraded 32% in one grid, 21% in another grid and 50% in the third grid.



21



An objective look at these inspections show that BUF is upholding “worst first” and only removing those Ficus in poorest condition and those found with poor structure that cannot be mitigated by pruning.



22

Common concerns to tree removals

Aren't you supposed to be growing our Urban Forest? Why do these trees have to come out if we want more trees in San Francisco?

Our aim at Public Works is for San Francisco to have a thriving, robust urban forest.

However, while we celebrate the many important benefits that mature trees provide, and while we always look for all alternatives prior to choosing tree removal, protecting **public safety remains our No. 1 priority.**



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Common concerns to tree removals

How can we trust that you will replant the trees you are removing and that you will plant them in a reasonable amount of time?

ANY time we remove a lot of trees in one area we prioritize a replacement tree replanting plan for that area.



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Common concerns to tree removals

How can you ensure the new trees won't bring their own problems?

The City is now responsible for the care and maintenance of all trees in the public right of way. The StreetTreeSF program is funded so that each and every street tree in San Francisco is cared for and inspected on a frequent, ongoing basis.

Structural pruning of new street trees will be managed by Public Works Bureau of Urban Forestry. This should help reduce likelihood of structural failures in the future.



25



sfpublicworks.org/streettreesf

sfpublicworks.org/ficustrees

urbanforestry@sfdpw.org

(415) 554-6700

26

APPENDIX

M

Appendix M

Additional information regarding tree structure and the problematic nature of codominant stems (branches or trunks of similar size), with or without included bark.

Tree Structure

Two general themes in crown form are excurrent and decurrent (see Chapter 2). Excurrent trees form a strong central stem or leader from which branches form that are smaller in diameter and length than the trunk. Whenever excurrent trees deviate from the normal central stem pattern, attention must be paid to the nature and form of the deviation. If the central leader is defective, there is a greater likelihood that the portion of the tree at or above the defect may fail. When the central stem is damaged, the tree will produce one or more new leaders. This may result in multiple leaders with weak branch attachments. Development of decay at the attachment will increase failure potential. Heavy snow and ice loads may cause resprouts to fail (Wagener, 1963). Codominant trunks with included bark do not form connective tissues between stems and are prone to failure.

Decurrent trees lack a central stem and are composed of a system of scaffold branches that are similar in diameter and length. The relative size and arrangement of the scaffold branches is important to structural stability. Two or more leaders about the same size or branches near the same size as the trunk are more likely to fail than if one leader or the branches were only half the size (75% of the diameter) of the main trunk (Fig. 16-6). A trunk is not able to grow around a branch when both are near the same size. Several relatively large branches arising near the same level on the trunk are even more vulnerable to failure. Also, the weight and leverage of such limbs are great in relation to the strength of their attachments. As trees age, their branches usually continue to spread, further increasing the stress on their attachments.

Many of these structural problems in planted trees begin in the nursery when the leader (terminal) of most decurrent trees is headed to force branching. This results in what

491

Arboriculture

Source: Arboriculture, 3rd Edition, 1999. Section on Hazard Tree Management



Figure 16-6 Double leaders (codominant stems) of large trees can be hazardous, even in upright conifers; gusty winds sometimes create torque forces that can split out one of the leaders. Included bark further weakens the attachment of the double leaders.

appears to be a well-proportioned tree when purchased, but most branches are too low, too close together, and about the same size—and the tree seldom has a leader. These problems are seldom corrected in the landscape, even by “professional” gardeners. **The practice in the nursery of heading trees to force compact branching should be stopped.**

The angle of branch attachment is not a problem unless there is included bark in the attachment branch (see Fig. 14-15) or the branch is about the same size as the trunk. Most branches with included bark are fairly upright while young, so there is little stress on their attachments. As the trees mature, however, the branches become more spreading and greatly increase the likelihood of crotch failure.

Source: Arboriculture, 3rd Edition, 1999. Section on Hazard Tree Management

CODOMINANT STEMS

Codominant stem are stems that originate at about the same position on a stem, and grow to about the same diameter.

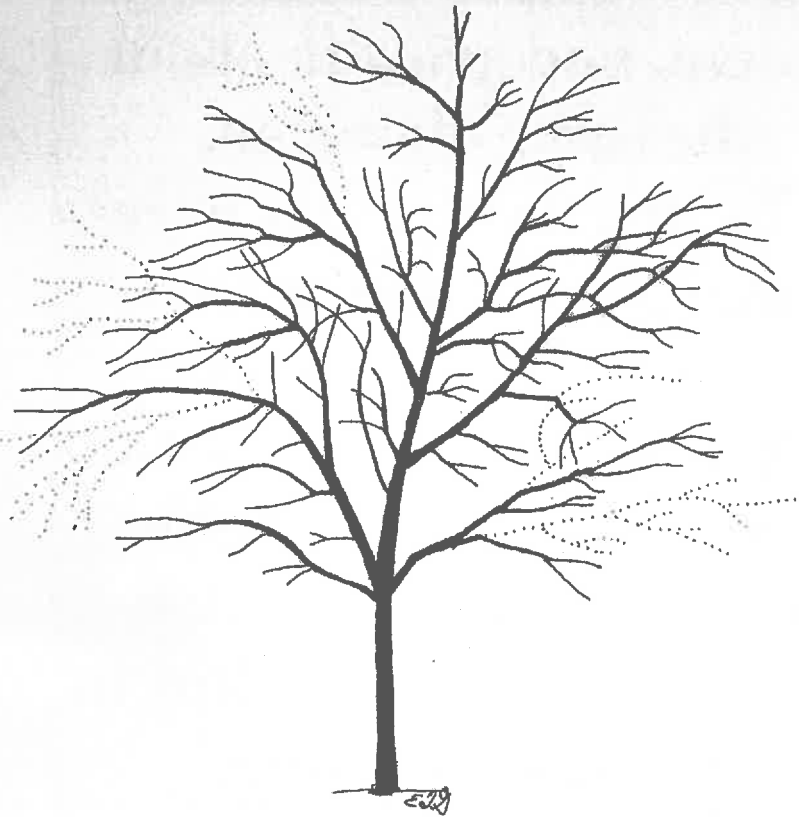
The problem is that over time the stems may push against each other and cracks may form below the stems. If cracks do form, the stems become a high risk for failure under low to moderate loading.

Source: Tree Dictionary . com

http://www.treedictionary.com/DICT2003/tree_pruning/codom_leaders/index.html

Best Management Practices

TREE PRUNING



**Companion publication to the ANSI A300 Part 1: Tree, Shrub, and
Other Woody Plant Maintenance—Standard Practices, Pruning**

Source: Best Management Practices, Tree Pruning, Companion to ANSI A300 Part 1,

embedded inside the union as the two stems grow and develop. This condition weakens the union, making the tree prone to failure at that point. There is no traditionally shaped branch bark ridge at the top of the union when included bark is present (Figure 11). Branches and stems with included bark should be removed or shortened on young trees. Removal on large trees may not be a good option because of the potential for decay. Reducing the stem's length can minimize the likelihood of the limb tearing from the tree.

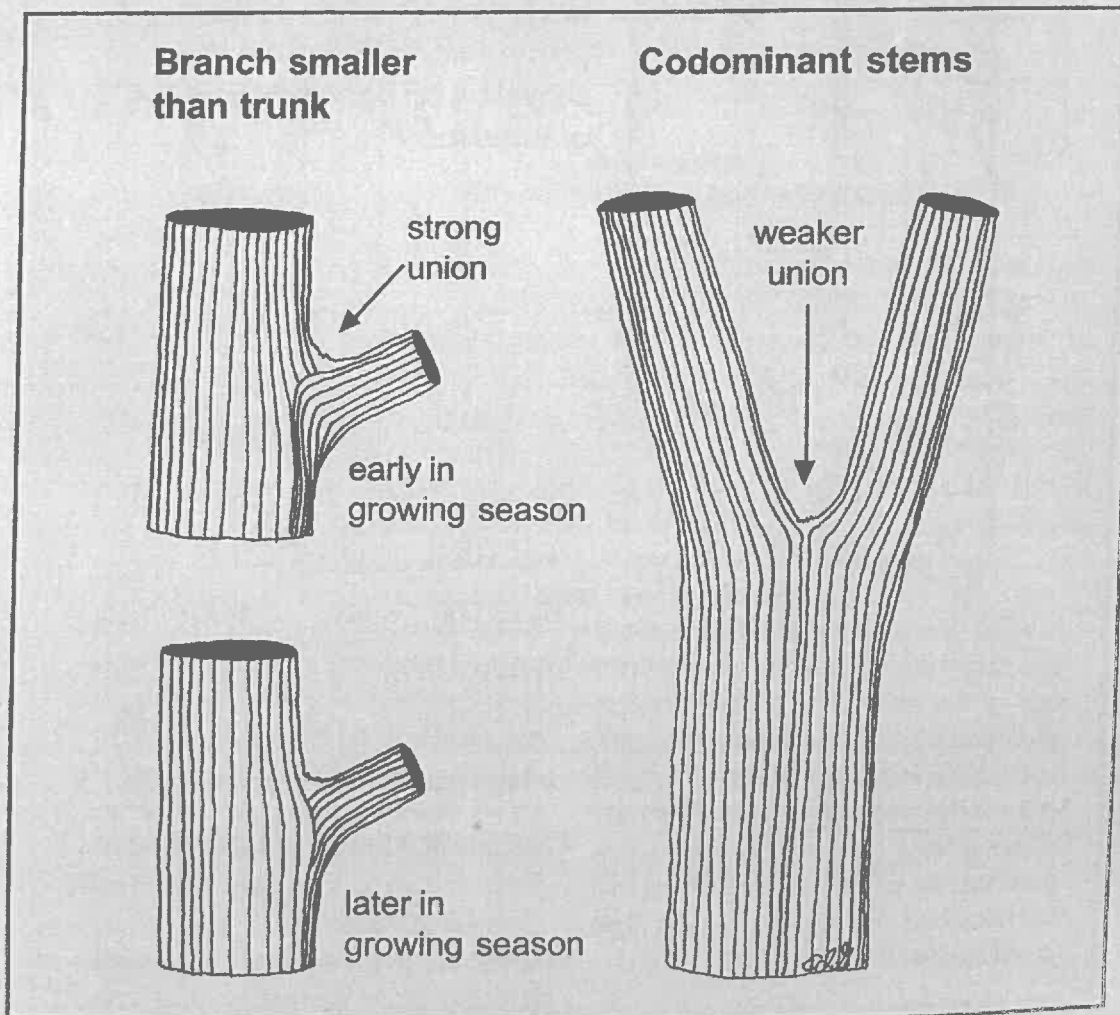


Figure 10. Small branches are well connected to the trunk as a result of overlapping trunk and branch tissue in the union (left). Codominant stems are not as well connected because wood tissue does not overlap in the union (right).

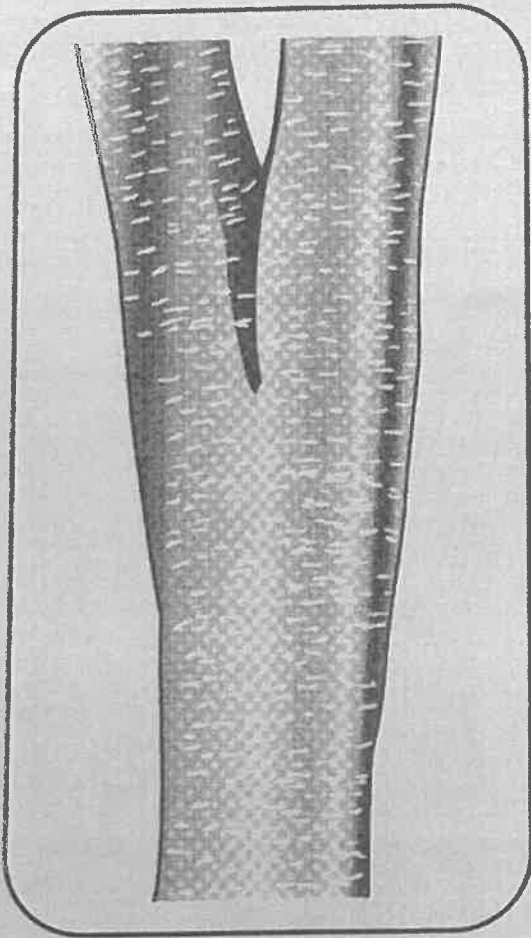
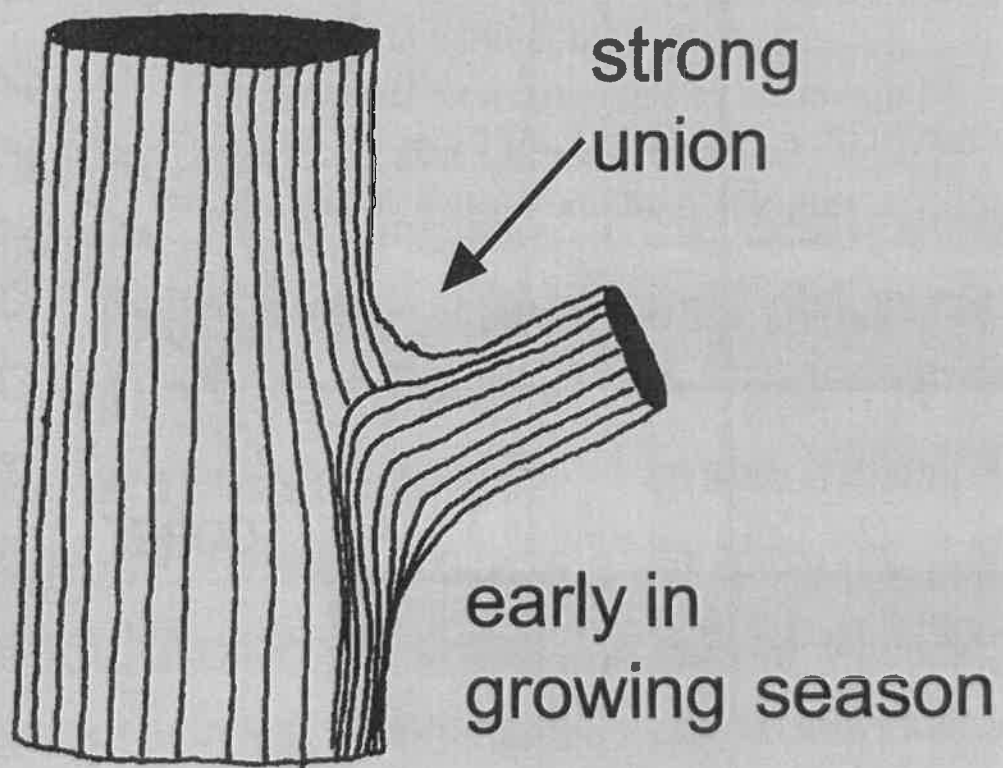


Figure 8.6 Codominant stems are prone to failure as the tree grows larger. One of the stems should be cut back (subordinated) or removed.

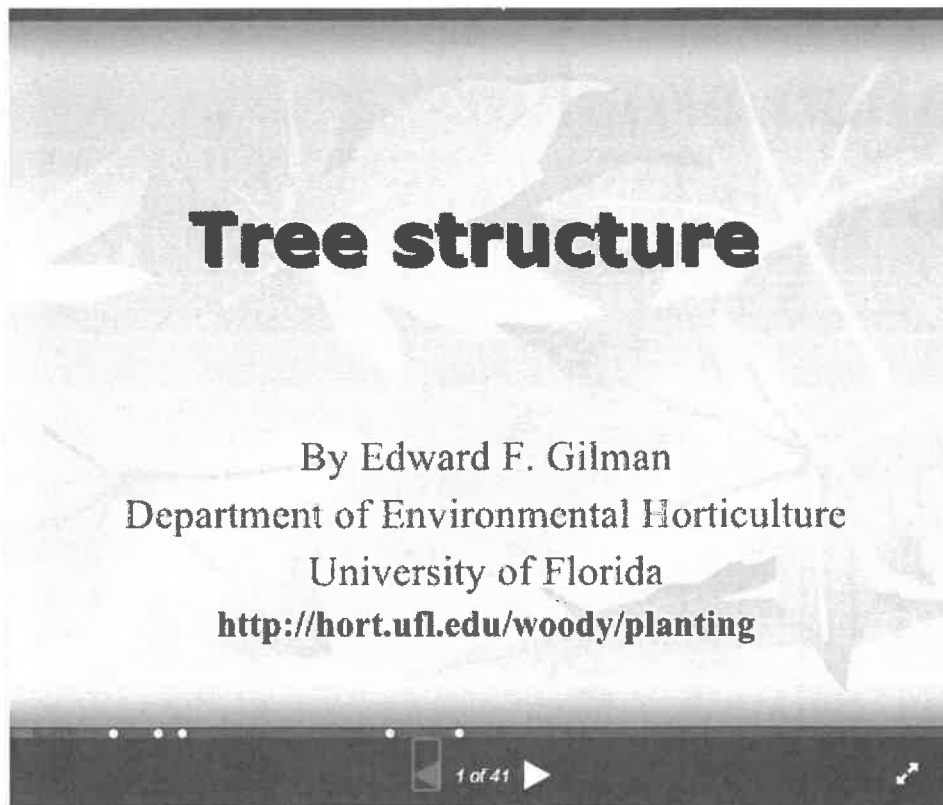
below the lowest permanent branch and among the scaffold branches. These branches should be retained temporarily because they help provide energy back to the trunk, contribute to trunk taper development, and provide shade to the young trunk tissues. The smaller temporary branches can be left intact; larger ones should be subordinated.

This training process should be spread out over

Branch smaller than trunk

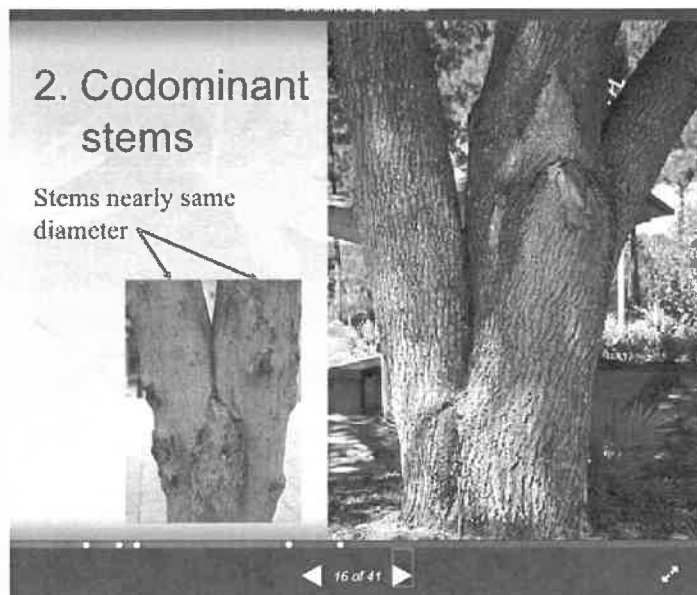


Source: Best Management Practices, Tree Pruning, Companion to ANSI A300 Part 1,
Branch Attachments, Pg. 18



Treestructure

1,796 views



Treestructure

1,796 views

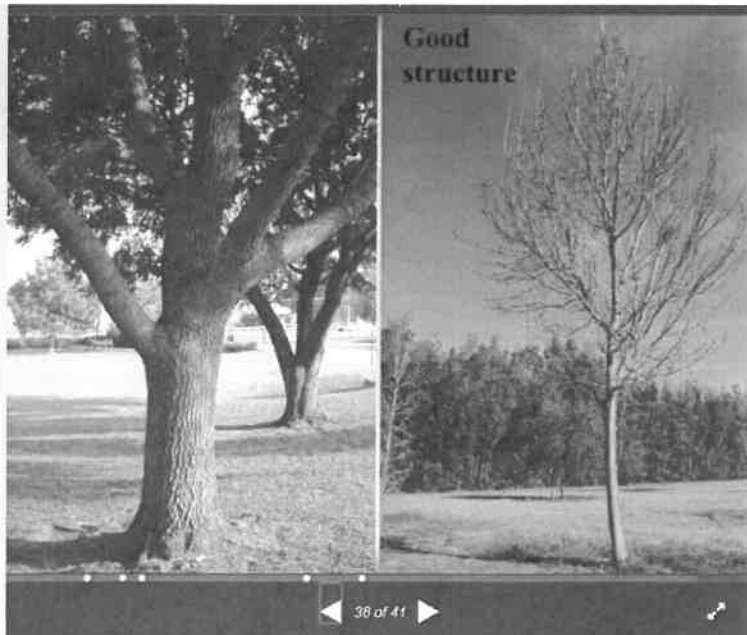
4. Structurally sound tree

- Scaffold branches spaced vertically.
 - Rule of thumb: about 5% of tree's ultimate height.
- Scaffold branches spaced radially; none directly above another.
- Consistently maintain 60% L.C.R.

37 of 41

Treestructure

1,796 views



38 of 41

Treestructure

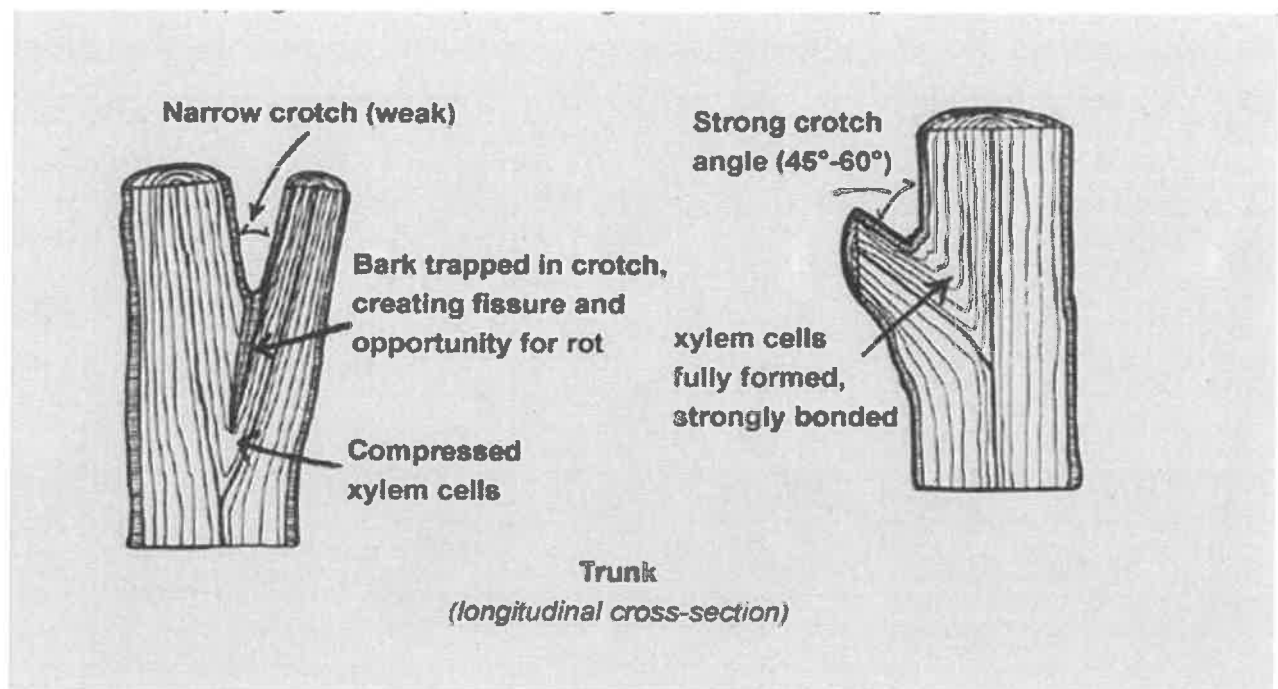
1,796 views



Treestructure

1,796 views

Source: <https://www.slideshare.net/AnnKoenig/treestructure>



Source: <https://www.phillyorchards.org/2016/01/21/pop-pruning-guide-fruit-trees/>

PUBLIC COMMENT

From: Sophie Kay <sophie kay@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 12:37 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Cc: DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW); Jensen, Kevin (DPW); Sarieh, Nancy (DPW); Crawford, Nicholas (DPW); SFForestNews@gmail.com
Subject: Mission Trees

SEP 09 2019

APPEAL #

19-097/099/100

101

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

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing express my discontentment of the decision to cut down the 48 trees in the Mission. Although I am new to the area, I love these trees and I think they should stay in the neighborhood. I understand these trees require maintenance costs and possible litigation, but I strongly believe that having foliage is an important part of the outdoor community. Trees make a huge difference to the community looks and feels!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sophie Kay
Mission District Resident

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

BOARD OF APPEALS

From: Mya Byrne <myadriene@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 10:35 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: Don't tear down the 24th St Trees!

SEP 09 2019

APPEAL #

19-097/099/100/
101

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

Please, for the love of all that's holy, do not cut down the 48 trees slated for destruction on 24th Street. There is no reason to, and in our city, both the tradition of the 24th Street tree canopy and the need for trees are essential. Do not desecrate our neighborhood!

Mya Byrne
Mission resident

917.365.7650

www.myabyrne.bandcamp.com

Instagram: @myabyrne

New single! <http://bit.ly/mya2019vid>

"Well-crafted songs." John Platt, WFUV, NYC

"Shades of the Grateful Dead." No Depression

"One of America's best living songwriters." Strange Fire Magazine

"Mya's music reaches everyone...it is life-affirming." Ron Olesko, SingOut!

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

BOARD OF APPEALS

From: Kit Solowy <kitsolowy@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 11:41 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Cc: DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW); Jensen, Kevin (DPW); Sarieh, Nancy (DPW); Crawford, Nicholas (DPW); SFForestNews@gmail.com; Mar, Gordon (BOS)
Subject: Trees on 24th Street

SEP 09 2019

APPEAL #

19-097/099/

100/
101

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

Dear SF Board of Appeals, BUF, DPW, and other concerned parties:

My name is Kit Solowy, and I am a resident of San Francisco.

I would like to appeal the decision on the removal of The 48 ficus trees along 24th St. in the Mission District. Aside from the obvious beautification these trees offer our neighborhood, I'd like to protest the removal on the grounds that:

- 1) these are culturally significant to the area and are a key identifying factor of the Mission neighborhood. They are a landmark for the community here.
- 2) most if not all of these trees appear to be in good health, with lots of foliage and new growth
- 3) these trees compose a massive canopy in the area, are a vital source of fresh air and carbon reduction, and also form important habitats for birds and other beneficial wildlife.
- 4) despite their claims, BUF / DPW has not done an adequate job of outreach for informing the community of these removals, in order to give the entire community a chance to attend the original hearings.

Thank you for reconsidering the removal of these vital natural landmarks.

With appreciation,
Kit Solowy

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

BOARD OF APPEALS

From: Tiff Chang <tiffanychangdesign@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 12:15 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Cc: DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW); Jensen, Kevin (DPW); Sarieh, Nancy (DPW); Crawford, Nicholas (DPW); SFForestNews@gmail.com
Subject: Trees in the Mission

SEP 09 2019

APPEAL #

19-097/099/100/101

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

Dear Board of Appeals,

My name is Tiff Chang and I am a resident of San Francisco. I recently heard that 48 trees in the Mission are at risk of being cut down. I am writing to protest this, and suggest that you instead find money from tech business and other pockets of wealth or loopholes to fund the maintenance of the trees.

I understand that the land we know as San Francisco had no original canopy before all of the buildings as it was mostly sand dunes. However, I think maintaining a canopy is good for tourism, for the residents' health and wellbeing, for the air we breathe, for the light and heat they reflect and absorb from the sun related to climate change, and particularly I think cutting them down in the Mission would be an act of racial and environmental injustice.

Please respond via writing.

Thank you,
Tiff

Tiff Chang
tiffanychangdesign@gmail.com

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

From: June LS <jsvizh@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 11:59 AM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: Trees

BOARD OF APPEALS

SEP 09 2019

APPEAL # 19-097 / 099/100 / 101

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

Please stop cutting down the trees. We like the trees. They provide shade and cooling. They are a part of our lives. We need more of them not less. Please stop cutting down healthy trees. It is the least you could do.

June LS

--

June LS
(they/she)

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

BOARD OF APPEALS

From: Allison Sponseller <asponseller@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 7:54 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Cc: Sarieh, Nancy (DPW); DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW); SFForestNews@gmail.com; Jensen, Kevin (DPW); Crawford, Nicholas (DPW)
Subject: Appeal for trees

SEP 09 2019

APPEAL #

19-097/099/100/101

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

Dear SF Board of Appeals,

I recently learned of the decision to remove 48 ficus trees along 24th St. in the Mission. This is very concerning to me, and I would like to appeal this decision. These trees are very beautiful, making this stretch of 24th St. one of my very favorite places in the city to frequent. We simply do not have enough foliage in SF, and we need to preserve the healthy trees that we have. Most of these trees appear to be in very good health, and they are a vital source of fresh air and carbon reduction.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Allison Sponseller
410B Duboce Ave. 94117

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

BOARD OF APPEALS

From: Danny Spitzberg <stationaery@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 11:31 AM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Cc: DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW); Jensen, Kevin (DPW); Sarieh, Nancy (DPW); Crawford, Nicholas (DPW); SFForestNews@gmail.com; MOD, (ADM)
Subject: Trees and the breeze

SEP 09 2019

APPEAL # 19-097/099/
100/101

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

Dear friends

one of the few remaining reasons I love San Francisco is the fact that it has a public park within 10-15min walk of most anywhere in the city.

Trees make this lovely feeling even more real and accessible for everyone.

I read that you're looking to cut down some 48 trees to save costs on maintenance and to eliminate the liability of broken branches.

I implore you to please preserve these trees and keep SF beau-tree-ful!

Sincerely,
Danny Spitzberg

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

From: K L <klwarner@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 11:14 AM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: Please stop destroying the 24th st canopy and let the public speak

BOARD OF APPEALS

SEP 09 2019

APPEAL # 19-097/099/100/101

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

Hello -

I would like to protest the current planned destruction of dozens of trees on the mission 24th street corridor. Your scattershot removal of oxygen and habitats across the city is potentially damaging to the health of all it's residents.

I see these sentenced trees growing leaves. I grew up in a family of florists and landscapers. I KNOW that these trees are not dead and yet the public is told that they are. Why? Maintain them and they won't be a hazard, that is the cities' responsibility, not the trees, birds, squirrels and humans who rely on them for air and shade and safety.

Not to mention, the public is given nothing more than a notice, often 2, 3, 4, 5x plastic wrapped, so it's totally unreadable. The public deserves a database anyone can access of which of our public resources and habitats are being destroyed, and for what scientifically-verified reason.

From what I can tell, there has been no widespread environmental impact study on any of these massive landscaping decisions, which is simply shortsighted and in my view, irresponsible. We have weather and temperature events we've never had before, removing shade and oxygen is going to make that process more rapid and extreme.

On the proceeding grounds, I would appeal the cities' decision to kill old growth trees and the essential habitats they hold on the 24th street corridor. Please do the actual right thing.

Best,
Katie Warner
Capp St, San Francisco, CA

From: Thea Rupert <dumont.thea@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 12:32 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Cc: DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW); Jensen, Kevin (DPW); Sarieh, Nancy (DPW); Crawford, Nicholas (DPW); SFForestNews@gmail.com
Subject: Please don't cut down the trees on 24th street

SEP 09 2019

APPEAL # 19-097/099/
100/101

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

To whom it may concern:

Please do not cut down the trees on 24th street. Trees should not be cut down because they provide habitat for squirrels and insects. They also provide shade on 24th street which can get very hot on a sunny day. Trees should not be cut down because they absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas emitted by vehicles, and they will clean the air on 24th street. These trees should not be cut down because they have been a long term fixture of 24th street.

I live in San Francisco, I go to school at CCSF. I believe that the community was not properly informed of the decision to cut down these trees, I did not even know until today and hence why I am imploring you in this letter to please not cut them down. The few old trees in this city that still stand mean a lot to me, and I think they mean a lot to other residents as well.

Trees in this city and on this street (24th street) do more than provide shade, provide a habitat for small animals and insects, clean the air and mitigate the effects of greenhouse gases; they also beautify the city and make us residents continue to want to live here. These trees are our neighbors. Please do not cut them down.

Best,
Mary Thea Dumont
San Francisco Resident

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

From: Ainsley Tharp <ainsleytharp12@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 10:01 AM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: TREEES

BOARD OF APPEALS

SEP 09 2019

APPEAL # 19-097/099
100/101

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

Dear SF Board of appeals,

I don't think it is necessary to destroy 48 trees. These trees are alive they help support life and health in the community. Are earth is burning, clean water is becoming a luxury item, the ozone is thinning. **Trees** lower air temperatures making **urban** areas more inhabitable for humans and wildlife. **Urban** forests help reduce global warming by absorbing (sequestering) and storing carbon dioxide CO2 from the atmosphere.

SF a so called "Green city", yet actions like this are happening. Lets invest in our future instead of trying to cut costs now. We need co-existence not extermination.

I understand that your budget is probably cut and by chopping these trees down it will help cut costs, but the world is already on fire, as a city lets not help add ti the dystopia.

Sincerely a concerned citizen,

Ainsley Elizabeth Tharp
|videoeditor| |projectiondesigner|
|dancer/choreographer|
ainsleytharp12@gmail.com

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

BOARD OF APPEALS

From: Megan Shea <missmeganshea@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 8:27 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Cc: DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW); Jensen, Kevin (DPW); Sarieh, Nancy (DPW); Crawford, Nicholas (DPW); SFForestNews@gmail.com
Subject: Disputing the removal of mature trees on the 24th street corridor

SEP 09 2019

APPEAL #

19-097/099/

100/101

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

Dear SF Board of Appeals, BUF, DPW, and other concerned parties:

I am writing to express my displeasure, disagreement, and appeal of the decision to remove the ficus trees along 24th St. in the Mission District. Aside from the obvious beautification these trees offer our neighborhood, I dispute their removal because:

- the trees appear healthy, as evidenced by lots of new growth
- the trees are a culturally significant landmark for the local community
- there is no apparent reason for their removal, and their replacement will take a human lifetime to grow to maturity
- they are a critical wildlife habitat, a source of shade in a warming environment, and reduce carbon and produce fresh air
- there has not been enough time provided for public response.

Thank you,
Megan Shea

SEP 09 2019

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

From: Emma Rutland <emma.rutland@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 9:14 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB); DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW); Jensen, Kevin (DPW); Sarieh, Nancy (DPW); Crawford, Nicholas (DPW); SFForestNews@gmail.com
Subject: 24th St Mission Trees

APPEAL # 19-097/099/100/101

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

Dear SF Board of Appeals, BUF, DPW, and other concerned parties:

I would like to appeal the decision on the removal of The 48 ficus trees along 24th St. in the Mission District. Aside from the obvious beautification these trees offer the neighborhood, I'd like to protest the removal on the grounds that:

- 1) These are culturally significant to the area and are a key identifying factor of the Mission neighborhood. They are a landmark for the community here.***
- 2) Most if not all of these trees appear to be in good health, with lots of foliage and new growth***
- 3) These trees compose a massive canopy in the area, are a vital source of fresh air and carbon reduction, and also form important habitats for birds and other beneficial wildlife.***
- 4) Despite their claims, BUF / DPW has not done an adequate job of outreach for informing the community of these removals, in order to give the entire community a chance to attend the original hearings.***

Thank you for your consideration,

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

From: Naomi Gingold <naomi.gingold@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 9:12 AM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: trees

BOARD OF APPEALS

SEP 09 2019

APPEAL # 19-097/099/

100/101

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

Did you not hte latest news about the importance of trees and climate change?
\please dont cut more down

@naomigingold
www.naomigingold.com
www.notthehellokittyshow.com

Cell: 1-646-709-1315
Skype: Naomi.Gingold

From: Erica Garrecht-Williams <erica.garrechtwilliams@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 1:53 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Cc: DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW); Jensen, Kevin (DPW); Sarieh, Nancy (DPW); Crawford, Nicholas (DPW)
Subject: The mission trees! NO!

SEP 09 2019

APPEAL # 19-097/099/
100/101

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

Dear San Francisco Board of Appeals,

My name is Erica Garrecht-Williams and I am clinical social worker and a Bay Area resident of 9 years (who has had my entire career in San Francisco). I heard about the recent plan to cut down the iconic trees that line 24th street in the Mission district of SF and I am devastated. Those trees are so beautiful and so integral to the character of San Francisco. There are so few pieces of the heart San Francisco left as gentrification has pushed the diverse working class community out of the Mission district and other neighborhoods they called home and in which they found home. The trees bring peace, keep the sun off our shoulders, improve the quality of our air, and remind us that we are in a wild, beautiful place, even in the heart of the city.

I humbly ask you to appeal this decision.

Please don't knowingly contribute to the loss of our city.

Sincerely,

Erica Garrecht-Williams, MSW

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

BOARD OF APPEALS

SEP 09 2019

From: Carolyn Herlehy <herlehycj@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 4:23 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Cc: DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW); Jensen, Kevin (DPW); Sarieh, Nancy (DPW); Crawford, Nicholas (DPW); SFForestNews@gmail.com
Subject: Appeal to cutting Trees on 24th street

APPEAL # 19-097/099/
100/101

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

I am disturbed to hear about the plan to cut down the trees on 24th street in the Mission.

Please do not take away the natural beauty of our streets.

Thank you

Carolyn Herlehy
617.960.7056

Bicicletas Por La Paz
Bicicletas Promo Video

SoundCloud
Biketopia Music Collective

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

BOARD OF APPEALS

From: Rachael Perlman <rachaelperlman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 3:57 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Cc: DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW); Jensen, Kevin (DPW); Sarieh, Nancy (DPW); Crawford, Nicholas (DPW); SFForestNews@gmail.com
Subject: Saving Mission Trees

SEP 10 2019

APPEAL # 19-097/099/100/101

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

Dear Board of Appeals,

I'm writing to protest your plan to cut down 48 trees in the Mission. Being exposed to greenery and any form of nature has been empirically shown to have positive effects on mental health (and vice versa), something which I'm guessing was not factored into costs when deciding to cut down the trees. The main reason to keep them isn't for aesthetic appeal; it's for psychological well-being of those who live in the area. Please reconsider! And thus help avoid additional mental health costs in the future.

All the best,
Rachael Perlman

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

From: Diana King <diana.grace.king@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 9:52 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: 24th Street Trees

BOARD OF APPEALS

SEP 12 2019

APPEAL # 19-097 | 099 | 100 | 101

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

Hello,

I am writing to protest the cutting down of 48 trees on 24th street. I represent a communal home of 13 people in Bayview who also do not want these trees to be destroyed only for the benefit of saving money. The trees make the neighborhood beautiful and it is always a delight to be able to see them from the top of Bernal Heights. It would be a huge loss, not just for the people who live in Mission but for all San Francisco residents who pass through and enjoy spending time in this part of the Mission. Please consider reallocating money to take care of the trees properly instead of cutting them down.

Thank you,

Diana King
Certified Massage Therapist
415-941-8375
Diana.grace.king@gmail.com

From: Iswari Espana <iswariespana@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 11:38 AM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: DPW Ficus Work Order, appeal request on behalf of neighbors in 3000 block of 24th St.

SEP 23 2019

APPEAL # 19-097 / 099 / 100 / 101

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

We, the residents of 3192 24th St. and the following businesses/business Owners: 3198 Jelly Donut, 3186 Luz De Luna, 3172 Texture Barbers, 3174 Pyramid Records, 3166 Chili Cha Cha #2, 3164 Las Tres Ninas Blancas E Hilario, and 3160 Gacela Salon, all object to the "DPW Ficus Work Order 183151," and by this means we are protesting the action. The work order calls for the removal of Ficus trees in front of our residences and businesses. **Thus, we are appealing the decision to remove more trees in our block.**

We are opposed the order for the following reasons:

- There has been no environmental impact study conducted on the work order.
- Our buildings lack air conditioning and energy efficiency, the trees offer protection from weather patterns and this improves the cost in our energy bill.
- Trees elicit positive reactions from customers. Environmental studies show that customers infer that they will have better experiences in more attractive settings. Customers connect with the culture, vibe and flora/trees when they come to our cultural district.
- It's selfish to consider vehicle damage as an argument for destroying the habitat of animals and our neighborhood.
- There is no replacement plan or protocol.

The removal of these trees affects our business and the livelihood of the merchants on this block. We are fervent supporters of the Department Of Public Works and we hope that you give us consideration on the matter. We also

request that you cease and cancel order.

Respectfully,

3192 Residents: Iswari Espana/Esperanza Trejo/Rosario
Trejo/Santiago Espana -Trejo

Business:

3198 Jelly Donut,

3186 Luz De Luna,

3172 Texture Barbers,

3174 Pyramid Records

3164 Las Tres Ninas Blancas e Hilario

3160 Gacela Salon

3166 Chili Cha Cha #2

Iswari España

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

BOARD OF APPEALS

From: Mark Scott <deepbrews@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2019 4:05 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: Comment on Appeals # 19-097, 19-099, 19-100, and 19-101 for Tree Removal on 24th Street

OCT 18 2019

APPEAL # 19-097 | 099 | 100 | 101

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

Dear Sir / Madam,

As a homeowner at 908 Capp St, San Francisco, CA 94110 I would like to submit a comment with regards to the Appeals # 19-097, 19-099, 19-100, and 19-101 for Tree Removal on 24th Street. Please record the fact that I am fully in support of the removal and replacement of the subject trees on 24th street near my home. I have seen over many years how unhealthy and destructive these trees have been and although it is sad to loose so many at once I am in full favor of removing the trees that have been identified as such by the Public Works department. I would encourage the City and Department to not only replace them but actively seek out other locations both on 24th street and the surrounding streets (such as mine on Capp) where additional trees could be added to enhance the Urban Forest landscape. Hopefully with active ongoing management of the trees in our City such large scale removals will not be necessary in the future but that is acknowledged legacy of poor management practices over many years.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Scott

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

From: James Guzzi <jamie@ceremonydjs.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 20, 2019 3:45 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: 24th St. Trees

BOARD OF APPEALS

OCT 21 2019

APPEAL #

19-097/099/100/101

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

Dear Friends,

I am writing today in regards to the proposed removal of up to 48 of 24th Streets iconic Ficus Trees.

As a 19 year resident of the neighborhood and 24th St. small business owner, I can attest that the trees are a big part of why we live in the neighborhood and what makes it a great place to live.

Aside from shade from the sun, and respite from the fog, wind and rain on many a cold walk home, I think it's fair to say the trees are a big part of our symbolic understanding of who we are as a community.

I know I myself and friends have marveled over the years at the forethought of the city planning agencies to have planted them so many years ago, and when we see the photos of the neighborhood before the trees are very grateful that someone cared to invest in the neighborhood more than 50 years ago, that we may have a beautiful place to live today.

I don't have much. I don't own a home. I don't have a fancy job. I don't have a lot of things people would consider the American Dream. But what I do have, is decent rent control on a beautiful Edwardian apartment in the Mission District of San Francisco and these trees.

I understand that it takes resources to maintain the trees, to prune them and clean up after a storm, not to mention the damage and the liability they can cause with regards to adjacent people and property.

That said, it seems to me the appropriate solution is to allocate funds to maintain the trees, not tear them down wholesale or even to replace them with sturdier trees that perhaps will bear fruit for future generations of much wealthier San Franciscans decades from now.

The trees are a public good for those of us that call 24th St home and they are a key part of our neighborhood identity. If it is a city priority to preserve and protect our neighborhood character as I know it to be, surely our iconic trees must be both celebrated and protected. I know the Golden Gate Bridge costs millions of dollars a year to maintain, but nobody proposes tearing that down do they?

In conclusion, I'd like to thank the city's department of forestry for having the kind forethought to invest in our communities with beautiful foliage to improve our lives and no doubt raise property values back in the 70s.

Might I suggest that the current authorities honor their legacy by maintaining the trees which we all so dearly love and appreciate and appropriate the necessary funds post haste for their continuance and maintenance.

Those of us who still live here don't have another 50 years to wait for another tree to grow and we aren't going to be buying a plot of land with a tree in it in Northern California any time soon.

Warmest regards and sincere thanks.

James Guzzi



James Guzzi

Owner, Ceremony DJs

415.505.7427 | jamie@ceremonydjs.com | www.ceremonydjs.com | [2645
24th St., San Francisco, CA 94110](https://www.ceremonydjs.com/2645-24th-st-san-francisco-ca-94110)



Check out our reviews on [The Knot](#) and [Wedding Wire](#).

Still need a photographer, caterer, florist?

[Book our friends](#).

Now offering [lights](#)!

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

From: Holly Coley <holly.coley@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 8:44 AM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: 24th street trees

BOARD OF APPEALS

OCT 21 2019

APPEAL # 19-097 / 099 / 100 / 101

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

Hello,

I am writing today in regards to the proposed removal of up to 48 of 24th Streets iconic Ficus Trees. Please do not remove the trees! Leave them be.

The natural beauty and protection these trees offer is priceless. Our city needs to trees to improve the air quality, especially now that so many cars drive our streets...and that number seems to be growing.

Please do not remove them, love them.

Sincerely,

Holly Coley

Help me fund my new clay studio!

<https://hollycoley.studio/>

Instagram

Facebook

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

From: NYOB NYOB <nyob415@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 3:36 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: Appeal Nos. 19-097, 19-099, 19-100, and 19-101.

BOARD OF APPEALS

OCT 21 2019

APPEAL # 19-097/099/100/101

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

I was recently advised of the City's continuation of tree removal along 24th Street.

I'm strongly opposed to this matter.

For the three decades, I've found the department that deals with tree trimming for the City lacking. Over that time it would take months sometimes over a year for someone from the City to arrive to trim a tree.

The City eliminated so many large beautiful trees along Potrero Ave. Trees that provided shelter from the winter rains and shade from the summer sun.

Yes, the City replaced them with a different type of tree. But it will be many a generation before they can support what the other trees once did. And how long will it take for these new trees to be able to remove the CO2 from the atmosphere over San Francisco?

Now you are destroying the trees along 24th, Street.
The same trees that provide shelter and help clean the air.

Trim the trees that can be trimmed and only take out those that are dying. This way the new trees have time to mature while the older trees can still provide shelter and shade as well as help battle climate change.

Thank You.

M. P. R. Howard
2635-23rd. Street/ # 07
San Francisco, CA. 94110
1-(415)-206-9958

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

From: Hanna Azar <hannajazar@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 12:57 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: Removal of tree- Appeal Nos. 19-097

BOARD OF APPEALS

OCT 23 2019

APPEAL # 19-097/097/100/101

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

Hello,

I received a postcard in regards to this appeal No regarding the removal of 48 tree along the 24th Street corridor.

I am in favor of the removal of these trees. They appear to be dangerous as I have witnessed tree branches that have fell.

Furthermore, they cover a significant portion of the frontage of most of the retail businesses alongside the corridor making it unattractive for businesses due to reduced curb appeal.

Jerry J Azar

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

From: Hanna Azar <hannajazar@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 5:41 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: Appeal Nos. 19-097

BOARD OF APPEALS

OCT 23 2019

APPEAL #

19-097/099/100/101

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

Hello,

I received a postcard in regards to this appeal No regarding the removal of 48 tree along the 24th Street corridor.

I am in favor of the removal of these trees. They appear to be very dangerous, as witnessed in Hayes Valley and other neighborhoods with similar old trees. Furthermore, they cover a significant portion of the frontage of most of the retail businesses alongside the corridor making it unattractive for businesses due to reduced curb appeal.

Hanna J Azar

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

From: Kelly Egan <kellye28@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 8:46 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: 24th Street tree removal - opposition

BOARD OF APPEALS

OCT 24 2019

APPEAL #

19-097/099/100/101

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

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for taking the time to hear from the voices of residents concerning the matter of removing the trees along 24th Street. I have been a resident of 24th street since 2011. Several of the large ficus trees have already been removed from my block, resulting in much more noise pollution along this busy street and less privacy for myself and those around me with windows facing the street.

I am opposed to the removal of these trees and the replacement with smaller trees. I understand that the trees pose a danger for being top-heavy--I don't understand why the manpower isn't instead spent on trimming them back periodically. My main reasons why I am opposed to their being removed is as follows:

-Biodiversity

These big billowing ficus trees are home to countless numbers of birds and insects. Like so many other residents in this city, they will be displaced when the trees are removed. I don't think the smaller trees that are meant to replace the ficus trees could hold the number of species these trees currently do. The new trees I understand would also be a different type of tree and, deciduous so they would not support life year round. Thus the ficus tree removal would deliver a blow to the nonhuman populations of the neighborhood.

-Privacy

Ever since they have started cutting down the ficus trees along this street, you can see much easier into other people's windows. As residents of a busy street, I believe the sense of privacy the trees offer is reassuring and counteracting to the stress of living on a busy street. While perhaps not immediately obvious, this is a mental health issue that can affect residents on a subconscious level and should not be overlooked.

-Noise Pollution

To continue on the mental health issue, noise pollution can be the cause of sleep loss, lack of concentration, general agitation and anxiety. My bedroom window faces the street and I am constantly plagued by the sound of idling diesel trucks, blasting music at all hours of the night in particular due to the late-night restaurant across the street, people shouting, skateboarders, street events, etcetera. Sometimes it seems like the noise is constant and it is especially awful late at night and early in the morning. I have found myself being even more affected by it over the past few years, which coincides with the removal of the ficus trees that used to be on my block. Like thick carpets that soak up noise, big leafy trees like this are important for buffering the noise on busy commercial streets.

-Shade

Small deciduous trees would not offer shade the way these trees do. As someone who is highly susceptible to skin cancer, I always cover up, but greatly exposed environments bring anxiety and the dailiness of exposure to sun brings greatly increased risk of skin cancer.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration in the matter. Overall, my argument is that the ficus trees lend to maintaining certain aspects of health, including environmental health but also and perhaps especially mental health, in this neighborhood. These affects are subtle but pervasive, and should not be overlooked.

Thank you!

Best,

Kelly E.

--
kellyjeanegan.com

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 27, 2019 7:19 PM
To: Board of Appeals (PAB)
Subject: Appeal Nos 19-097, 19-099, 19-100, 19-101

BOARD OF APPEALS

OCT 28 2019

APPEAL 19-097/099/100/101

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

Dear Board Members,

As a resident of 24th Street, I support the removal of street trees that are damaging sidewalks or have unstable limbs. I support removal of those trees which pose a safety concern and/or legal liability resulting from tripping hazards and/or property damage. I also support healthy mature trees (that aren't a liability) for all the aesthetic, health and environmental benefits they bring to the community.

While I'm not aware of the specifics of the request to remove the 48 street trees or the details of the appeals, I have lived on 24th street long enough to know that many of the trees pose safety concerns and are a liability. I know there has been a multi-year fight regarding some of these trees and I can understand residents being upset if all the trees are planned to be removed at once and replaced with saplings. Having said that, mature street trees make 24th Street wonderful.

Why not phase the removal/replanting process over several years? Why not offer to re-plant with older trees so residents don't have to wait 30-years to have tall shade trees? Given the underground electric utilities enjoyed by 24th Street, we have a perfect corridor for mature large trees. Urban street trees have a hard life and many saplings get vandalized or otherwise don't survive.

Lastly, please consider the changing climate when selecting tree species for the future. They will need to be able to survive in a warmer, drier and perhaps windier climate.

Thank you for considering my comments. Please redact my email and home address.

Sincerely,
Ray Saracino

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

From: Sharon Clark <shaycleez@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 1:36 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: Appeal Nos. 19-097, 19-099, 19-100 and 19-101

BOARD OF APPEALS

OCT 29 2019

APPEAL # 19-097|099|100|101

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

This email is in support of appeals 097, 099, 100, and 101.

We live in an apartment on the top floor of a building along 24th Street. When we moved in, one of the things we loved about the apartment was that the trees created a serene outlook while giving us privacy and deadening some of the street noise. Should the trees be removed, our apartment would become much more exposed - to noise, weather, and the street below. When searching for a home, one of the things we looked for was these pleasant outlooks, and I feel that our property would be less desirable and therefore less valuable without them. Please reconsider removal of these trees - everyone needs a bit of nature, even within the confines of a crowded city.

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

From: Martin Steinman <jaysteinman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 9:35 AM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: Comments in opposition to 24th Street ficus tree removal

BOARD OF APPEALS

OCT 31 2019

APPEAL # 19-097/099
19-100/101

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

I'm disturbed and dismayed by the city's decision to strip almost all of the ficus trees from 24th Street.

I've lived on the corner of 24th and Hampshire Streets for the last twelve years, and was in love with the corridor long before that. I chose to live here because it felt like a neighborhood. It felt like I was not just anywhere, but in a specific place, with its own vibe and its own rhythm. I know I'm not the only one who thinks this way, and I know that for a lot of people, the street trees play a big part in creating the sense that 24th Street is something unique and special. They put a roof on the street, enclosing the space. Their curving trunks and ropy branches unify the street from one end to the other. It looks different than other streets, and it feels different. When I'm on top of Potrero Hill, or Bernal Heights, or Twin Peaks, the line of foliage stands out in an instant. It shows me where home is. In the past, when ficus trees have been removed – as in the gap between Florida and Alabama streets -- the block in question suddenly looks barren.

I was at the last hearing about this trees, and I've read the city materials. I know that a good number of the trees are in poor health, and some have structural weaknesses. I know they bulge out the sidewalks. I understand that some trees may urgently need to go, and others may need significant pruning. But I can't see a reason why the city would at once rip out almost all of them. It's hard to see a threat so dire as to justify making the streetscape bleak for the next 30 or 40 years. Our trees, like our neighbors, keep the character of the street even as they get a little old and a little raggedy. An old ficus, short a few branches and with a thin canopy, does a lot more for the street than a juvenile ginkgo.

In short: These trees mean a lot to me. They are an integral part of what sets 24th Street apart, and what ties it together. Removing them en masse feels like an assault on the essence of the neighborhood. Everyone knows that over time, trees will need to be replaced. But don't do it like this.

The city has spent a great deal of time and treasure reckoning with the threats to its character and its livability. It's hard dealing with the market forces that threaten to rob San Francisco of its quirks and charm. But as for the ficus trees, it's easy. The trees are already doing the work. Let them keep doing it.

Martin Steinman
24th Street resident
Program coordinator, Immigration and Deportation Defense Clinic, USF School of Law

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

From: Josh Lewis <joshglewis@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 10:43 AM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: 24th Street Tree Removal

BOARD OF APPEALS

OCT 31 2019

APPEAL #

19-097/099/100/101

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

To whom it may concern:

As someone who lives near the corner of Capp Street and 24th Street I am very familiar with the pros and cons of the 48 trees along the corridor between Mission Street and Potrero Avenue. I understand the cited issues of brittle limbs that break in high wind and the damage that the roots can cause the nearby businesses and sidewalks. However, I believe the value of the trees to exceed the known problems and wish them to remain.

I believe I am reasonable and can understand the desire for safer, more pragmatic tree choices. However, I have a few concerns regarding removal of the current trees and thus wish it to not occur:

- If removed it will take new plantings 30+ years before they are remotely what the current trees are now. Can we really afford to wait that long? The trees currently provide needed shade as the temperature of our beautiful city continues to rise as well as offering to us cleaner air as our city grapples with poor air quality, particularly in fall and winter months. Those benefits are needed now not 30 years from now. Doesn't removing these benefits work against our green initiatives?
- How much will it cost to remove these massive, mature trees and replace them with new plantings? Is capital cost of replacement worth the perceived savings? Is there not a more prudent way to handle these issues?
- 24th street is a respite for the neighborhood and all who come to it because, in very large part, of its tree cover. What value do you put into the peaceful, inviting atmosphere such trees create?
- In a neighborhood, and city at large, that is struggling to keep its soul as well as grow sustainably, how do we justify removing such a neighborhood staple as these trees? They are a large part of the character of this neighborhood as well as being an anchor of the past for long time residents and perfect example of green urban landscape.

Please do not remove these trees. As I hope to have expressed adequately, they represent far too much sustainable, environmental, financial, and emotional well being for this neighborhood and the City.

grace & peace
Josh Lewis

NOV 04 2019

APPEAL #19-097/099/100/101

Appeal Nos. 19-097; 19-099, 19-100 & 19-101 October 25, 2019

Re: Trees on 2790-2794 - 24th St

Enclosed are pictures somewhere around the time they were planted and pictures of them now.

There is also a picture of the section of the tree at 2794 - 24th Street that broke off and did damage to my building as well as the bill I paid of \$4500 to repair the damage. Do I get reimbursed for this??

Also included is a recommendation from my Insurance Company to trim the trees back at least 3 feet because of fire danger. You can see by the pictures they are actually over lapping the roof and was told they were not trimming the trees until 2020!

Another major concern are that the tree roots are lifting the pavement!

So as you can see I am in favor of the removal of these trees. Not only for the fire hazard (see lines in trees) and uplifted pavement is just waiting for an accident to happen.

I AM the co-owner of 2790-2794th 24th St the corner building which includes 1185 - 1195 York St.

Any questions please feel free to call me.

Janice Grappi
(650) 368-5116

P.S. See over

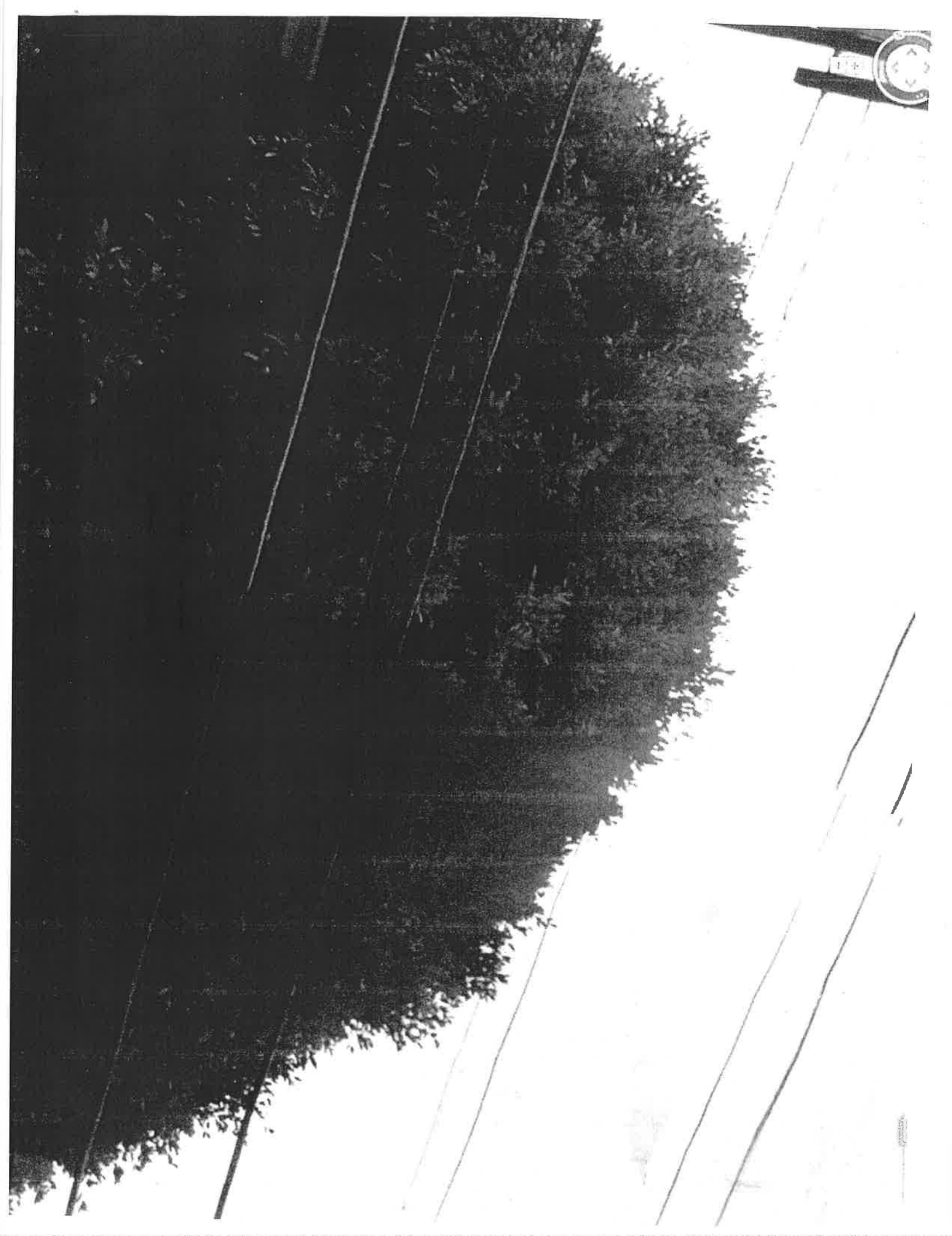
Almost forget to mention have had
to have Roto-Rooter remove Tree
limbs which were in the drain two
years ago as well as this year which
blocked the drain in a garage on York
Street !!



Old Picture of Trees at 2790-2794 24th St.

WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE TODAY.







Taken in
2013

9/10/2012 10:20 AM

the 800 streets



Google

Google A project by Nick Nicholas (https://www.linkedin.com/in/nicknicholaou), using the Google Maps API (https://developers.google.com/maps/ (https://maps.google.com/maps/@37.7528873,-122.480494,0a,112.6y,31.45h,146.12t/data=!3m1!1e3!1sseqk4DA3h...mAll_yPy_AduQ12e0?rsn=1&app=) https://www.google.com/cbk?cb_client=api_v3&output=report&image_key=11e2..._seqk4DA3h...mAll_yPy_AduQ12e0?rsn=1&app=)

Proposal & Contract

VICTOR MENDOZA

03/6/2019

Date:

420 Plymouth Ave.
San Francisco CA. 94112

Phone: (415)794-5123

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO: Janice Greppi

STREET: 2790 & 2792 24th Street

CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE: San Francisco, CA

DAY PHONE: (650) 368-5116

EVENING PHONE: (650) 368-5116

JOB LOCATION: 2790 & 2792 24th Street

We hereby propose to furnish in accordance with specifications below, all material and labor necessary to complete the following
Proposal to repair the storm damaged, provide a roof maintenance on the two buildings next to it

Storm Damage Repair

- Remove the damaged old dent flashing and discard
- Fix the damaged crown molding
- Install approximately 10 ft of 2 x 4 galvanized gravel Stop
- Waterproof by using one ply of modified bitumen membrane

PRICE: \$450 YES () NO ()

For the Roof Maintenance Above the Taqueria

- Clean the entire roof and clean the lower rear flat roof and haul away the debris
- Check the main drain and the rear lower flat drain and clean it as needed
- Apply roof cement around all the penetration pipes such as plumbing pipes, chimney stocks air vents and gravel stop joints and whatever else is needed

PRICE: \$900 YES () NO ()

For the Roof Maintenance Above the Liquor Store

- Clean all the leaves from the entire flat roof and haul away the debris
- Check and clean the main drain as needed
- Apply roof cement around all the penetration pipes such as plumbing pipes, chimney stocks air vents and gravel stop joints and whatever else is needed
- Check the roof for any cold wells and repair it as needed

PRICE: \$900 YES () NO ()

****TO ALL PROPERTY MANAGERS, AGENTS, CONTRACTORS ETC...PLEASE HAVE THE OWNER SIGN PROPOSAL
ALONG WITH YOUR OWN SIGNATURE IN ORDER TO PROCEED WITH THE ABOVE WORK THANK YOU!**

Note: Please remove and/or secure any items hanging on interior walls or other objects which may fall. Due to vibration, during process. VICTOR MENDOZA will not be responsible for any breakage of such items.

WE PROPOSE to perform the above work in accordance with the drawing and specifications submitted and complete in a workmanlike manner according to the standard practices.

For the sum of:

With payments to be made as follows: 10% down payment with signed contract and PAY IN FULL UPON
COMPLETION OF THE JOB (5% late penalty per month past 30 days for late payments)

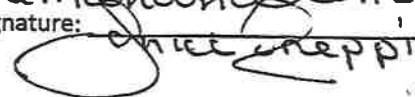
~~X~~
2018-
11-04
: B
→

In order to control the fire hazards and to ensure proper drainage from the roof of the building, the trees need to be trimmed back at least three feet from the roof. The roof, chimneys, gutters and downspouts must be cleared of debris on a regular basis.

Response/Actions Taken:

~~The trees belong to the city of San Francisco and have called them to request that they be trimmed back from the roof. See Victor Mendez for the roof maintenance enclosed~~

Insured/Representative Signature:



Date: 9-16-19

Received from my Insurance Co.

BOARD OF APPEALS

NOV 07 2019

APPEAL # 19-097 | 099 | 100 | 101

Oct. 22, 2019

Dear Members of the Board of Appeals. Please, please oh please do not remove the ficus trees on 24th St. (my old beloved neighborhood) - my lungs are already aching at the prospect leafy, leafy trees stay oh stay and shelter me.

Sincerely

Erwin Schultz - in the concrete jungle that is the Tenderloin which is why me and my wheelchair take the bus down to 24th st. to be with my friends on that lovely shady street. I live at % Rm 431, William Penn Hotel, 160 Eddy St. SF CA 94102

Mejia, Xiomara (BOA)

From: Julie Karasik <karasik.julie@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2019 9:42 AM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: Do not cut down old trees

BOARD OF APPEALS

NOV 12 2019

APPEAL # 19-097/099/100/101

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

Your policy of removing old trees here in San Francisco is completely unacceptable. Why would you do such a horrible thing? In this time of climate crisis especially: How dare you?

Do not remove any trees from 24th or anywhere else.

Longaway, Alec (BOA)

From: Sarah Bliss <sarahbliss@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 6:10 AM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Cc: Jensen, Kevin (DPW); SFForestNews@gmail.com; Sarieh, Nancy (DPW); Crawford, Nicholas (DPW); DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW)
Subject: Please save the 24th Street Trees! 🌳

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

Dear SF Board of Appeals, BUF, DPW, and other concerned parties:

I would like to appeal the decision on the removal of The 48 ficus trees along 24th St. in the Mission District. Aside from the obvious beautification these trees offer the neighborhood, I'd like to protest the removal on the grounds that:

- 1) they are culturally significant to the area and are a key identifying factor of the Mission neighborhood. They are a landmark for the community here. When I first moved to San Francisco eleven years ago, I fell in love with the 24th Street corridor with all its beautiful trees and twinkle lights. They add so much character and beauty to the neighborhood. Why would you want to cut them down?***
- 2) Most, if not all of these trees appear to be in good health, with lots of foliage and new growth.***
- 3) These trees compose a massive canopy in the area, are a vital source of fresh air and carbon reduction, and also form important habitats for birds and other beneficial wildlife.***
- 4) Despite their claims, BUF / DPW has not done an adequate job of outreach for informing the community of these removals, in order to give the entire community a chance to attend the original hearings.***
- 5) Lastly, and probably most importantly, these trees were not properly noticed to the community.***

I beg of you, please don't cut down these trees. They are such an important part of the city and cutting them down would be huge loss for us all.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Sarah Bliss

BOARD OF APPEALS

DEC 17 2019

APPEAL # 19-097

19-099

19-100

19-101

Longaway, Alec (BOA)

From: Becca Vershbow <rvershbow@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 7:52 AM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB); anna greenberg; DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW); Jensen, Kevin (DPW); Sarieh, Nancy (DPW); Crawford, Nicholas (DPW); SFForestNews@gmail.com
Subject: Please do not chop down the trees in the mission!

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

I have just learned about the plan to cut down several trees along 24th street in the mission. This is the first I have heard about this so I am just writing now to ask that you do not take this action. I lived in this area years ago and those trees were a central part of my experience as a resident. Additionally, as the air quality gets worse in San Francisco, are oldest trees are protecting us the most by cleaning the air for us. As we now understand, and I would imagine that many of the involved San Francisco Forest agencies do, there is so much more to trees than we have ever understood. These trees are members of our community and should be kept safe. I am very appreciative of the gardening and planting organizations in San Francisco. Please continue to do the fantastic work of bringing as much green to our beautiful city as possible. Thank you for your consideration!

--
Becca Vershbow

"Some [films] make people laugh, some make people cry and some, like the documentary film, "CIRCLES," can bring people together to invoke change" read [more](#) here

BOARD OF APPEALS

DEC 17 2019

APPEAL # 19-097

19-099

19-100

19-101

Longaway, Alec (BOA)

From: Julie Ann Ferreira <sonoranjules@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 8:05 AM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Cc: DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW); Jensen, Kevin (DPW); Sarieh, Nancy (DPW); Crawford, Nicholas (DPW); sfforestnews@gmail.com
Subject: 24th St. Trees

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

Hello,

I write to implore you to save the 24th street trees. Now is not the time to cut down healthy trees. In fact, there has never been a time for it.

San Fransisco and your department should be leading the way in a tree effort to combat global warming by sequestering carbon - NOT cutting down healthy iconic and community building trees that are doing some crucial and necessary work on behalf of all of life.

Perhaps you have forgotten what drew you to this work in the first place; I am sorry if that is so.

Here you are, and we need you.

We need you to do better. We need you to use your power for good - for people and planet.

We are done with short term profit gains and savings that cost us the long game amd we need to to act as though lives depend on these trees - for countless do.

<https://youtu.be/-Q0xUXo2zEY>

Sincerely,
Julie Ann Ferreira

BOARD OF APPEALS

DEC 17 2019

APPEAL # 19-097
29-099
19-100
19-101

Longaway, Alec (BOA)

From: Nicky Dyal <nickydya@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 8:40 AM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Cc: DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW); Jensen, Kevin (DPW); Sarieh, Nancy (DPW); Crawford, Nicholas (DPW); SFForestNews@gmail.com
Subject: save the trees on 24th street

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

hello board of appeals,

i first moved to the mission in november 2005. i lived in a tiny closet-sized room above the lively corner of 24th and folsom, watching, learning and growing into the proud artist and community member i am today.

it is so sad to hear the trees are slated for removal.

not only did the trees on 24th street provide me shelter from the rain and sun, they sheltered my emotional and spiritual growth from misfit to belonging in a city i now call home.

the trees are an important cultural anchor for the diverse community living in the mission.

many people were not notified of their impending demise in a fair, accessible or timely manner.

please reconsider your decision to remove the trees. for the people, the beauty and the environment.

sincerely,
nicky dyal

BOARD OF APPEALS

DEC 17 2019

APPEAL # 19-098

19-098

19-100

19-101

Longaway, Alec (BOA)

From: Alana Glaser <alanaglaser@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 12:53 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Cc: DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW); Jensen, Kevin (DPW); Sarieh, Nancy (DPW); Crawford, Nicholas (DPW); SFForestNews@gmail.com
Subject: Don't Cut Down 24th Street's Trees!

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express out rage regarding the removal of San Fransisco's trees!

The Bureau of Urban Forestry must not cut down **48 iconic trees** along 24th street!

These trees that have been in this neighborhood and part of this community for *many decades*. They provide a *healthy* setting for all of us, and provide habitat for birds and wildlife. They improve air quality, provide shade, and retain water. And, mostly, these trees beautify our neighborhoods.

The city may intend to save some short-term money but San Fransisco's gentrification and condo-ization are repelling tourists and residents at alarming rates. I am one such former resident. The tree remove will only hasten the destruction of the Mission's Latino and multi-cultural identity of this area.

Sincerely,
Alana Glaser

BOARD OF APPEALS
DEC 17 2019
APPEAL # 19-097
18-099
19-100
19-101

Longaway, Alec (BOA)

From: Bailee S <baileesims@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2019 5:55 AM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Cc: DPW, Urbanforestry (DPW); Jensen, Kevin (DPW); Sarieh, Nancy (DPW); Crawford, Nicholas (DPW); SFForestNews@gmail.com
Subject: Mission Trees

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

Please don't cut down the trees on 24th Street. The decision would be irreversible, and a shameful mistake.
Thank you, and bless you,
Bailee

BOARD OF APPEALS

DEC 19 2019

APPEAL #

19-097

19-099

19-100

19-101

Longaway, Alec (BOA)

DEC 30 2019

From: xenobio@prontomail.com
Sent: Sunday, December 29, 2019 9:03 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: Trees Appeal for Larkin St and also area of 24th Street between Mission St and Potrero Ave

19-097
APPEAL #19-099

19-100

19-101

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

Appeal#18-135 and #18-136 for 100 Larking Hearing on January 15, 2020.

Appeals #19-097, #19-099, #19-100 and #19-101 24th Street between Potrero Avenue and Mission Street on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 5:00 pm City Hall Room 416.

Amita Halbe::

Trees are the largest of all land plants, and act as a kind of environmental "buffer" for the ecosystem they dominate. They help improve the extremes of climate, such as heat, cold, and wind, and create a surrounding where humans, mammals, insects, birds, etc., can live comfortably. Trees complement animals in the global environment.

Mammals/Humans take in oxygen from the air and exhale carbon dioxide. Plants use this carbon dioxide in their growth processes, store the carbon in woody tissues, and then return oxygen to the atmosphere as a waste product.

This process is known as photosynthesis, and is very essential to life. Carbon captured from the atmosphere by photosynthesis is eventually recycled through the environment in a process known as the carbon cycle. Trees have an especially important role in the carbon cycle. Tree leaves also act as filters to remove atmospheric pollutants from the air. This effect is particularly beneficial in urban areas.

Today, many urban areas are faced with excessive population, along with the pressure of unplanned economic development, industrialization, and vehicular emissions. This has led to considerable rise in urban pollution, affecting air, water, and land. Air pollution has increased rapidly in many cities and metropolises, specially due to vehicular traffic and industrial emissions.

Secondly, the urban areas are growing at an alarming rate, and the cost of building and maintaining air quality, water and energy needs for residents has created a seemingly impossible challenge. Cities need to incorporate ecological principles into better urban planning and development. Trees are the lungs, water filters, and air conditioners of our cities. Cities need to build according to nature's laws and rise above the financial, ecological, and social tides of urban growth.

Today, we can see only walls, buildings, cars, large signboards/hoardings, tar roads, runways, and concrete instead of plants, gardens, or trees. Today, trees are disappearing from our surroundings faster than we can imagine. There is a dramatic loss in their numbers in urban areas. Sometimes, even if replacements are planted, they are often species of trees that will not become large. These are of no benefits to the ecological system. We are used to having clean looks and pure finishes (houses, cars etc.), and a polished lifestyle. But, we never take care of nature. We are the only ones responsible for the imbalance of nature.

A general survey of a metropolitan city shows that due to huge quantity of concrete and less quantity of trees, there is very less rainfall. The final result is that due to modernization, fast life and ignorance towards nature, today, nature is

almost disappearing due to this imbalance. This is a major contribution towards global warming. It has also resulted in other lop-sided calamities like flash floods, acid rain, drought, etc.

The risks to our health and well-being from removing trees are far higher. The benefits that urban trees bring, are only just being formally recognized. We now know that they can reduce urban temperatures by 4°C (7°F); more urban canopy cover will be critical as temperatures climb as a result of global warming. Urban trees also absorb pollution of all kinds, particulate, chemical and noise; but their ability to do this depends upon their size.

Tree cutting is done due to three reasons 1. Road re-alignment projects which seem to require completely unimpeded sight lines, despite the slow crawl of urban traffic.

2. There are concerns about the hazards posed by "dangerous" trees.

3. Increase in concrete jungle, i.e., huge increase in buildings, malls, concrete roads, flyovers, etc.

Solution

- * The effort should be one of retaining the trees, rather than reaching for the chainsaw at first sight of a "problem".

There are ways of reducing risks other than felling.

- * Planting trees can beautify the highways. And try to hold existing trees as possible.

- * The tree's right to live should be recognized and it should be allowed to live until it is proved it cannot do so without a clear and demonstrable, quantifiable, danger.

- * Tree planting should be done in the surroundings of big societies, apartments, bungalows, thus, they should be maintained on regular basis.

- * Plant street trees in new locations, by willingness of public to contribute money for this purpose. Plant those that are not harmful.

- * Apply one tree, one family strategy so that the purpose of saving the environment can be a success.

It is high time we acted.

You, me, and in fact all of us together. This is our planet. Let us work together to save it, and preserve it the way it should be for generations to follow.

Preserve trees, save them, and plant more. That is the only way ahead.

Bottom line is that man should never challenge nature

Longaway, Alec (BOA)

From: fedexxit@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 1, 2020 12:53 PM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB)
Subject: Appeals Hearing #19-097, #19-099, #19-100 and #19-101

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

Good people, we need MORE trees to help combat this climate crisis. Please do NOT sacrifice 48 Ficus trees. We all breathe the same air and I am certain San Franciscans would appreciate theirs being at least a little cleaner. Thank you for being wise. ~Marielle Marne

BOARD OF APPEALS

JAN 02 2020

APPEAL # 19-097

19-099

19-100

19-101

SAVE THE TREES ON 24th STREET

(Public Works Order No. 201124)

Appealing Public Works Order No. 201771

FILE

Public Comment:

Petition:

Save the Ficus Trees in San Francisco

Website on change.org

<http://chnge.it/TkgpWNwJ>

BOARD OF APPEALS

JAN 02 2020

APPEAL # 19-097

19-099

19-100

19-101

Supports of the signed petition: 4,472

Recipient: Dr. Mary Wardell Ghirarduzzi, President, Rick Swig, President

Letter: Greetings,

Save the Trees Around The Main Library in San Francisco.

Requesting a hearing on the 19 Ficus trees planned for removal around the Main Library.

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Michael Nulty	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-05	"This is the unnecessary removal of 19 beautiful trees that bring so many benefits to Civic Center. Please keep all the trees since they are all healthy."
Andrew Stern	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-05	"It's the city's responsibility to take care of the trees on the sidewalks. Use the money you collect from the citizens of SF for the right reasons, instead of wasting the money as the city government does so often. Do the right thing!"
Deetje Boler	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-05	"These trees are an enormous contribution to the health and beauty of the street and most frequented entrance to the Library. They are also home to birds that sing and nest there at night."
Claudia Landivar	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-06	"We need more trees, not fewer! And this policy seems disingenuous—which should not be tolerated at any level of government."
Frank Swilling	Daly City, CA	2018-07-07	"We need every healthy, non-invasive tree we can get."
Martha Bridegam	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-16	"Another case of the city removing trees with no visible explanation. Doesn't make sense unless they affirmatively want to make the streetscape less welcoming."
Edward Hilton	Alameda, CA	2018-07-16	"Many years ago I volunteered w/ SF Friends of the Urban Forest, and planted a lot of trees, possibly even these."
Betty Traynor	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-19	"I strongly oppose the removal of these trees on Larkin and Hyde for the reasons stated in the petition. We need these trees at the library and am surprised the library management is not opposing their removal also. I also question why there are no signs on the trees to be removed; as of today, 7/18/18, only one sign on a tree on Grove St."
Mari Mack (Tamburo)	California	2018-07-20	"Stop removing our urban forest!"
Matthew L. Steen	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-20	"What are the reasons for this action? The Trees are maturing and appear undamaged and healthy. I'd like to point out that the continuing removal of healthy street trees negatively impacts the density and volume of our urban forest canopy (now at 13%) and runs counter to climate change policies outlined in the SF General Plan. It also removes a source of cooling and shade for the many senior citizens that frequent the library. "
Stefan Jon Silverman	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-21	"I like saving trees, they keep the air healthy"
Carol Hogan	Ormond Beach, FL	2018-07-21	"Will San Francisco become a city devoid of green? Save the trees!"
Michael Hampton	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-21	"I support saving the trees adjacent to the SF Public Library. They need to be properly maintained. e.g., pruned, trimmed, properly watered. Trees provide comfort and shade, beauty to the urban landscape."

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James David Anderson, PH.D.	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-22	"Since when did Prop E allow the DPW to REMOVE healthy trees? If diseased, yes, but then REPLACED. Lacking personnel? Hire more. A "world class city", a \$10 billion budget, one of the nation's highest, and we can't maintain our trees?"
Russell Deason	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-22	"Removing ANY trees in SF that are not diseased or damaged is wholly idiotic"
Brienne Lee Brown	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-22	"San Francisco is the least green city I have ever seen. Please refrain from removing mature trees from this city, especially since you do not plan on replacing with anything else."
Dianne L Nowak	Millbrae, CA	2018-07-23	"Save the trees!"
Karen Ulring	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-24	"What an outrage to remove these healthy and beautiful trees. DO NOT DO THIS!!!!"
Sarah Aird	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-25	"Those are some of my favorite trees. They are one of the primary locations for birds in the center of San Francisco, something I noticed many years ago and love. Science continues to show the benefits to humans of having trees in urban areas (helps people psychologically, emotionally, lowers crime rates, etc). I don't understand why in the world the city of San Francisco would consider removing those trees. And how does removing healthy trees fit in with the city's plan to plant ~2,000 more trees in San Francisco over the next two years to meet the city's climate goals of being carbon neutral?"
Iryna Moskalenko	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-25	"Trees and other live plants bring so much beauty and peace to otherwise concrete faceless urban buildings. Considering the dingy beginning of the Tenderloin area, there won't be much to admire and look at. Killing healthy trees like that is a like a crime. It is a shame to be living in such affluent City that fails to take care of trees and streets. What a disgrace!"
Lenore Prischmanm	San Rafael, CA	2018-07-27	"San Francisco is so bereft of trees already. Those we have are of extreme value and cant be replaced for what they have invested in them already. This is an idiots plan and needs to be replaced."
ely lemus	skokie, IL	2018-07-28	"We need more trees around us!"
David Magness	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-28	"So this is how the City of San Francisco, professing to be the "leader" in being a "green" city, actually is? By cutting down existing trees because the DWP is too damn lazy to maintain them?It seems that the remaining tree, of what had been 3, next to my building on Ellis street at Hyde, is also under threat of being removed, given the evidence of no-parking signs and spray paint marks on the sidewalk at the base of the tree!just more proof of how hypocritical the "City" is when it comes to being a "champion of the environment"!What bullshit!"
vicki duffett	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-29	"Our city needs more, not fewer healthy, beautiful trees!"
John Lowell	San Francisco, CA	2018-07-31	"The roots of these ficus trees are not buckling the sidewalk. San Francisco BOS & Mayor Breed are committed for San Francisco to

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			be more of an egagef Green city. To cut down these trees would counter their & our will."
Jocelyn Cohen	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-01	"the Ficus trees are a signature tree for this area. Unfortunately, they are now on the bad tree list. Seems everytime we finally get mature trees with a particular species they go on the "bad tree list." These ficus trees could be beautifully cared for and pruned to be elegant and be an asset to the entire SF and in particular the Civic Center neighborhood. Shame on BUF, our City tree agency should be preserving mature trees and giving them the care and proper pruning they deserve. Jocelyn"
Desiree Barrera	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-02	"I'm a sf native and feel the importance in this"
Lance Mellon	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-02	"bad idea to return the tree maintaince to the city. this group of people are in line with parks and rec and want to put in artificial grass, cut down all non native trees and would like to pave over all of nature if they could. this group should be removed from office. they don't have a clue to how to coexist with nature."
Lorry Clark	Sandy Springs, GA	2018-08-02	"What kind of boondoggle do the Cityfathers wish to propagate in what they consider a forward-looking area - the stupidity and shortcitedness of this rapeing of the land when completely unnecessary only demonstrates the war against Nature and the weakness of the San Francisco's leadership!"
Patricia Roberts	Abiquiu, NM	2018-08-03	"My birthplace, San Francisco deserves a green canopy!"
Adrian Dukart	Mesa, AZ	2018-08-04	"I don't live in California, but trees are trees and we all need to breathe! Good luck x"
Nicholas Gregoratos	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-04	"We need more trees not fewer."
John Ventrella	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-04	"John Ventrella"
Joseph Thomas	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-05	"All that is needed is for those trees to be trimmed properly.If any trees need removing, it's the thousands of hideous London plane trees. And replaced with native species....."
Barbara Blaser	Pittsburg, CA	2018-08-06	"We need trees for beauty and life. Stop it!"
Pam Dannenberg	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-07	"I believe in having and keeping trees in San Francisco. This helps to provide shade, combat carbon emissions from cars, create a healthier environment and to preserve the beauty of the City by replacing cement with green, living things. Please do not remove these healthy trees. Thanks!"
Ramona Confer	Hayward, CA	2018-08-09	"Test"
Deetje Boler	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-09	"They apparently do plan to "replace" them as they say. But I say they do not need to be "replaced" and anyway one cannot actually replace a living tree; you can put another tree there instead (somehow - how? are they going to dig up its roots? if so at what expense and mess on the sidewalks for how long? And for what good reason? The trees have not been trimmed for years. They should be correctly maintained, instead of being

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			"removed", i.e., killed. Mayor Brown did that to the trees in Civic Center Plaza, to the regret of all. Don't let it happen again!"
Aaron Goodman	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-09	"Trees matter, and the city is chopping them down too fast, anyone there paying attention to global warming?"
James Tracy	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-10	"I work right around the Main Library. I don't see how one could justify making this part of the neighborhood even more gray. Stop disrespecting the Central City and let the trees live."
Tom Edminster	Pacifica, CA	2018-08-10	"Green canopy & green in San Francisco is important."
Gary Virginia	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-10	"What is the reason for the proposed tree removals and what are the proposed replacements? Healthy, mature trees are expensive and add many benefits to our urban landscape. Any new smaller trees will be dwarfed by the tall buildings and take away 90% of the benefits listed of the current trees. The fact that neighbors and merchants OPPOSE the removal should prompt a public hearing to share facts, reasons, alternatives. Thank you."
Tom Wetzel	Hayward, CA	2018-08-11	"Tom Wetzel"
Barbara Artson	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-12	"I'm signing this petition because I care about the trees in San Francisco, especially about those wonderful ficus trees enhancing our Civic Center."
N A	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-13	"Please do not remove these trees! They are beautiful and are home to birds."
Sally Rosenman	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-13	"We need the trees!!!"
john stallone	Petaluma, CA	2018-08-15	"Cutting down healthy trees is downright stupid."
Hugh KENNY	LOS ANGELES, CA	2018-08-15	"It's an idiotic move to cut mature trees in our climate difficultirs"
Susanne Rigsby	Meadview, AZ	2018-08-15	"Urban forest growth is important"
susann thomas	dallas, TX	2018-08-15	"i love trees"
Courtney Clarkson	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-19	"These trees are young mature trees that provide tree-mendous benefits to this dense urban area. All of us who regularly visit the Civic Center Farmer's Market enjoy these trees because the neighborhood has so many difficulties that having a nice piece of nature keeps all of us grounded and better connected. Trees provide traffic calming for the busy streets, but also provide "people calming" and a common connection to nature. The City is reckless in how they approve and dis-approve tree removal permits, and cannot justify this with small replacement trees going back in."
John Lewis	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-20	"Trees are an important ecological and aesthetic life of our city."
Kim Mosteiro	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-22	"It is detrimental to the health of our community."

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Nann White	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-24	"Not sure why you would want to eliminate fully grown healthy looking trees that create shade and habitat unless the building was undergoing demolition. So I agree the trees should stay."
Beverly McCallister	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-25	"Trees clean smoked filled air and provide much needed homes for birds."
ethan davidson	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-27	"Why is this even a question> In these times of glabal warming, of course we don't want to cut down 19 healthy trees. Trees give us oxegen, they give us good ari quality and help control the climate. They give us beauty and a sense of peace. That part of town is kind of depressing, but without trees, it would be so much worse."
Diane Fenster	Pacifica, CA	2018-08-28	"With the onset of climate change, we need every tree we have Ecologically unsound to remove them!"
Allan S. Manalo	San Francisco, CA	2018-08-30	"I love the Ficus trees guarding the Main Library. We don't have enough trees and greenery in our Civic Center neighborhood. Please save these trees!"
Jerry Clark	Chico, CA	2018-09-17	"We have to stop changing the direction of the city's design with every new department director. This should be be on the ballot or at least we can sway the Board of Supervisors to get on this."
jean hansel	San Francisco, CA	2018-10-18	"The trees are important and need to be saved."
Michele Francis	San Francisco, CA	2018-10-18	"I love trees, I love shade, I love the birds and bees who need a home."
C Martin	San Francisco, CA	2018-10-18	"These trees appear healthy. They are mature, established trees providing a home to birds, shade for all and help clean the filthy, poluted SF air. We need more mature trees in SF, not less. Newly planted and young trees fall victim, get damaged & die at a high percent due to the antics of young, drunken men on the weekends and/or rages by people with mental health needs.The city should retain as many mature trees as possible, better protect new & young trees, and plant tree varieties that are likely to grow strong and grow tall in as many areas as possible. Plant more trees. But retain and properly maintain the trees we have. Keep these trees."
abby kovalsky	san francisco, CA	2018-10-19	"Please let SF have some dignity left!"
Deetje Boler	San Francisco, CA	2018-10-19	"When were these trees last trimmed?"
Margaret Nagela	Blank, IL	2018-10-19	"No trees - no clean air."
HL Vicini	San Francisco, CA	2018-10-20	"Please help keep San Francisco Green!"
Deborah Denehy	San Francisco, CA	2018-10-21	"This has got to STOP!"
Karen Campbell	San Francisco, CA	2018-10-21	"Mature trees are vital to the quality of life within the city and are essential for mitigating the effects of climate change. Trees provide much needed green space in the urban environment improving the quality of the air we breathe, providing shade as well as habitat for

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			bird life. Please do not remove these significant and cherished trees of San Francisco."
Linda Iau	San Francisco, CA	2018-10-21	"City officials, please don't be short sighted and remove mature trees to save on maintenance cost, which pales in comparison to longterm benefits for the community. Trees provide so much health benefits for people and the environment."
Loretta Ippolito	San Francisco, CA	2018-10-22	"Why is there a city order to remove ficus trees in the first place? Perhaps we need to work on getting this order rescinded."
Laurence Griffin	San Francisco, CA	2018-10-22	"Please leave these trees alone"
Ian Atlas	San Francisco, CA	2018-10-29	"Trees are the health and wealth of our beautiful city!"
David Elliott	San Francisco, CA	2018-10-30	"We should be planting trees not removing them."
Jacob Wang	San Francisco, CA	2018-10-31	"but only because they are healthy"
J DeJong	pacific, CA	2018-11-01	"Trees are an important feature of the city"
Linda Sutherland	Bendigo, Victoria, Australia	2018-11-04	"Just visited from Australia and loved the trees, we all need to breathe!"
Starr Rohrman	Penngrove, CA	2018-11-10	"Starr Rohrman - love those trees!"
Steve Leialoha	San Francisco, CA	2018-11-10	"Isn't this the exact opposite of what they should be doing? In their attempts to make the Civic Center more attractive they should be planting more trees, not eliminating what's there."
Jeannine Cuevas	San Francisco, CA	2018-11-10	"California is losing millions of trees in these fires. They're a symbol of life. Don't kill them."
M. A Reybear	US	2018-11-25	"Trees are very important In Our polluted city! We should be planting more instead!"
John Rizzo	US	2018-12-05	"With the climate change disaster looming, we need as many large urban trees as possible."
jeffrey Doney	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-06	"outrageous to remove the beautiful, Mature trees !For so many reasons!"
Pat Tibbs	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-08	"We MUST save our trees if we want to save our planet. Think long range!"
Charles Marsteller	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-10	"In a few years, it may be illegal to cut down any trees. It is more likely that there will be an urgent need to plant billions more to deal with the Carbon crisis."
Michael Nulty	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-11	"1) The Library declared the trees around the Main Library back in 2016 a problem the same year that Proposition E was introduced and passed by San Francisco voters.2) Bureau of Urban Forestry claims that 19 ficus trees around the Main Library are not a safety problem.3) Street sf tree report on Proposition E for 2017-2018 "Prioritize 1 tree pruning, removal and sidewalk repair around bus stops, schools and senior centers." 4) Street sf tree report 2017-2018

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			"No funds for planting included in program."5) Department of Public Works requires for 10 or more trees to be removed a fee of \$1,542.00. Unable to verify that the Main Library paid or got a free waiver."
Helen Opie	Granville Ferry, Canada	2018-12-11	"I am signing because reducing urban forests is cutting off your nose to spite your face and because I have friends there who have breathing problems and don't want you to exacerbate ANYone's health problems"
Judy Irving	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-11	"save these healthy trees for the birds!"
Shraz Chica	Australia	2018-12-12	"Sue Stevens"
Helene Wenzel	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-14	"We need more, not less greenery to soak up the emissions that are threatening our planet. Other countries have wrapped concrete pillars in foliage, covered roofs with gardens.....The cost of maintaining pales in the face of the damage this will add to."
Julia Ballard	Broomfield, CO	2018-12-15	"We need more of these beautiful trees, not less. Leave them be."
M. Wilks	Phoenix, AZ	2018-12-16	"I grew up in the bay area. Tree lined streets kept the summer temps mild, air cleaner, neighborhoods and cities tranquil due to wildlife trees support. Trees, as well as grass, in city areas and neighborhoods are needed to help in the fight against climate change. What they provide far outweighs any maintenance costs. The idea that in San Francisco, trees have to be fought for to be kept from being removed is shocking.And ficus trees do not become huge trees. There is no need to remove them. They should fall under legal protection considering the tree's are over 60 years old. These 1960's tree's deserve some respect for what they have contributed for decades to the streets of San Francisco, to its people, it's wildlife, it's air , and climate. They should be protected not killed. This is a protest in person issue people, we need a 1060's approach, get out there and protect those trees they keep us alive."
Alejandra Rassvetaieff	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-17	"we need trees in San Francisco"
Michelle Phillips	Kalispell, MT	2018-12-21	"Proud resident of a town belonging to "Tree City" by Arborday Foundation-City officials should be ashamed and embarrassed; cutting trees down to save on maintenance costs. Very sad."
Vivian Imperiale	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-25	"We need trees"
cornelius nilmeier	SF, CA	2018-12-25	"As retired city gardener,who has trimmed those very trees working for Park and Rec.DPW doesn't have expertise or personnel to determine health,worth of our precious trees."
James Pounders	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-25	"We need green in our city."
mn parker	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-26	"Trees good. No tree? No good."
Tim Conor	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-27	"If this is truly a way for the city to reduce the cost of maintaining the trees in SF than this flies in the face of good science that points to trees are a good green practice for curbing pollution. What are

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			you guys thinking. Enough with cutting all the trees down weather on van ness ave or in front of the library."
Chris Cojuangco	Daly City, CA	2018-12-28	"We need more trees in this part of town, PERIOD. and put up some murals, for crying out loud."
Iewis may	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-28	"Please don't destroy these beautiful trees!"
Dorian Rhodes	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-28	"Trees don't compromise a city's safety, they remind its residents who they are – part of a larger world, a world of green & ancient things. Trees are already too scarce as it is & libraries are community gathering centers, as trees have been thru the centuries; they belong together."Trees exhale for us so that we can inhale them to stay alive. Can we ever forget that? Let us love trees with every breath we take until we perish." — Munia Khan"
Brook Sutton	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-28	"It is inappropriate to be removing trees in San Francisco, regardless of personal plant and tree preferences. Add more trees you like, but don't remove established healthy trees you don't like, just because of species or maintenance convenience."
Anastasia Glikshtern	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-29	"The city tries to kill as many trees as it possibly can."
Bev Jo	Oakland, CA	2018-12-29	"Killing even one tree is criminal. This is outrageous...."
Jack Gescheidt	Petaluma, CA	2018-12-29	"Ohmygoodness, you've got to be kidding — now we're killing beautiful, life-sustaining, carbon-sequestering, shade-making, neighborhood-enhancing mature trees, apparently to save maintenance costs? (If there's some other justification for this, I'd like to know it.) This is exactly the opposite of what we should be doing in all cities everywhere, and in progressive, supposedly environmentally aware SF, we certainly know better. Thanks for starting this petition, I'll help spread the word and let's top 2,500 signatures and bang on the Board members to end this stupidity. Trees in cities, here and everywhere, are great ecological allies and dearest of friends, providing countless service, including calming us crazy humans to the point of even reducing street crime. Read more about the benefits of trees: http://www.TreeSpiritProject.com/WhatTreesDo"
Conrad Minshall	San Jose, CA	2018-12-29	"The Department of Public Works is creating a shameful legacy for itself with the focus on "sweeps" of the homeless – including via unnecessary waste of precious water in negligently hosing down large areas rather than spot cleaning as needed – and killing large numbers of street trees.Life is not risk-free, and trying to make it risk-free is unrealistic. The costs of elevating safety above all other values are too high, and ultimately will make people fragile and fearful – not necessarily safe.Limbs fall off trees and hit people, just like lightening occasionally strikes people, but these are rare events. We should no more cut down trees to eliminate the risk of their falling limbs causing injury, than we should (if it were within our power to do so) eliminate lightening from storms because it might injure or kill someone.If, contrary to statistics and common sense, you have an excessive fear of being hit by a falling tree limb, avoid walking under these trees, or if you do, wear a helmet. Don't kill th"

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Conrad Minshall	San Jose, CA	2018-12-29	"Maintenance yes, killing no."
Conrad Minshall	San Jose, CA	2018-12-29	"That might indeed be part of the plan. The city government already shamefully spends money to make the streetscape less welcoming – removing benches people can sit or sleep on, embedding pieces of metal into concrete walls and embankments to make them unfriendly to skaters, etc."
Mary Anne Kayiatos	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-29	"The city needs more trees not less, especially since chopping down all the trees down the middle of Van Ness taking away two lanes for traffic. Traffic is absolutely horrible on Van Ness and all the parallel streets. So the level of carbon dioxide into the air has increased tremendously and the number of trees to absorb it has decreased immensely."
Nancy Rieser	Crockett, CA	2018-12-29	"Do NOT destroy trees because it make cleaning around preexisting landscape easier and cheaper. Does not the City have a commitment to public health, city wildlife, not over burdening water sewer systems and fighting climate change?"
Mary Sue Meads	Oakland, CA	2018-12-29	"Cutting any mature and healthy tree adds to the No .2 climate issue: deforestation, and will derive the area of shade and the air cleansing ability of older trees. Cutting them i a very stupid and short sighted plan."
julie long gallegos	san francisco, CA	2018-12-29	"This ugly main library needs all the beautification these distinctive trees give; the green orbs are a welcome sight amongst the marble angles of the Civic Center. Don't cut the trees. SF's urban canopy is way to small as it is."
Kenneth Torregrossa	Brooklyn, NY	2018-12-29	"Trees are necessary for many reasons ... but mostly for our health & well being"
Susan Shalit	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-29	"San Francisco chopping down our city trees flies in the face of sanity by creating blight and adding to climate change. Most cities are trying to plant more trees! San Francisco policies are the height of ignorance, idiocy, laziness and the poorest of priorities."
Diana Scott	SF, CA	2018-12-29	"The city should not be removing healthy trees, and Bureau of Urban Forestry violates its own guidelines when it supports their removal. This is a cynical move; money must be found for tree maintenance, not removal. From an urban landscape perspective, too, tree removal hardens the SFPL building's visual edge, in stead of humanizing the street. Smaller plantings are an inferior substitute."
Ted Harazda	Bradenton, FL	2018-12-29	"I'm a life-long "Tree Hugger"...and proud of it !"
George Horbal	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-29	"It's not called THE TREE OF LIFE for nothing."
Mike Zonta	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-29	"We don't need to be cutting down our trees. We need to be planting new ones (especially in the desolate streets of the Sunset."
Susan Conforti	Auburn, CA	2018-12-29	"We need more trees not less."

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xen bioa	san francisco, CA	2018-12-29	"SICK but not the trees = the ones who plan to cut cut cut and chop chop chop healthy trees So all new city hires have some sort of work rather than sitting round drinking coffee and eating donuts - thats why those trees are going to disappear"
Sally Pina	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-29	"I'm signing because the "volume of our urban forest canopy, already the smallest (at 16%) of any major American city today" is really a sad state of affairs. With so few trees in our city, except in Golden Gate Park and a few other areas, why in the world would you want to remove trees?? Saving money? It's not worth all the other benefits these beautiful trees provide, particularly in the Civic Center where many tourists go and many, many people enjoy the shade and beauty they provide. Come on San Francisco, you can do better than removing some of the very few trees that still exist in our city. This is not forward thinking, this is short term thinking to save a few bucks while destroying some of the natural beauty still existing in our beloved city."
Zach SF	San Francisco, CA	2018-12-29	"so true!"
Maxina Ventura	San Leandro, CA	2018-12-30	"No trees should be removed from around the library. Each tree has inherent worth but especially in a congested urban area, we need the carbon sequestration, the oxygen provided, and the moisture transpired in an otherwise polluted area. These trees, additionally, provide needed habitat for local critters."
Jurek Zarzycki	Fremont, CA	2018-12-30	"Trees are life! We need trees the way we need fresh air and the way we need clear mind."
Alicia Lippman	Sacramento, CA	2018-12-30	"Cutting down trees because you're too lazy or cheap to maintain them is just... wrong."
DEWITT CHENG	San Francisco, CA	2019-01-01	"More trees, not fewer. Create jobs for the unemployed or underemployed. SF has the money; does it have the spine and heart?"
MESHA MONGE-IRIZARRY	San Francisco, CA	2019-01-02	"It makes no sense to sacrifice trees that give us shade and oxygen"
Nedra Ruiz	San Francisco, CA	2019-01-02	"These trees bring beauty and shade!"
Bridget Kelly	San Francisco, CA	2019-01-02	"Stop the madness! We love our trees- and the tree Nazis need to stop. No more miss nice guy here. As usual, our localGovernment DIES NOT LISTEN TO US, we the people!"
Roberto Campos	San francisco, CA	2019-01-03	"I want to alert people signing this petition and its founder John Nulty that Department of Public Works has also put notes on the Ficus trees around Washigton Square park! They also cut several in the marina and mission district."
Anakh Sul Rama	San Francisco, CA	2019-01-03	"We need more trees!!!!"
Trey Pitsenberger	Garden Valley, CA	2019-01-03	"It takes years for these trees to grow, and it seems it would be better to trim the trees?"

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Zach SF	San Francisco, CA	2019-01-04	"Write an email to the officials responsible for this mess. Tell them you are against this! The hearing judge has to read all emails.urbanforestry@sfdpw.org, david.froehlich@sfdpw.org, chris.buck@sfdpw.org, sally.bentz@sfdpw.org, urbanforestrypermits@sfdpw.org, matt.czajkowski@sfgov.org, matt.czajkowski@sfdpw.org, apglikshtern@gmail.com"
Bill Quinlan	Toledo, OH	2019-01-04	"The trees are part of my city's history and only beautify the area. When I came back home I look forward to seeing them. Don't get rid of them."
Saundra Holloway	san diego, CA	2019-01-06	"Every day a 40 foot tree takes in 50 gallons of dissolved nutrients from the soil, raises this mixture to its topmost leaves, converts it into 10 pounds of carbohydrates and releases about 60 cubic feet of pure oxygen into the air. Pure....OXYGEN!"
Gentry Smith	Oakland, CA	2019-01-08	"I witnessed a beautiful, majestic, 150+ year old ginko tree get destroyed because the city of Ashland Oregon wanted to expand the local library despite protests to save the tree. A few years later the library closed down altogether. I suppose to them, killing the tree seemed like a good idea at the time. What's happening in San Francisco raises the bar of senselessness to a new level. There is certainly enough wealth to invest in and protect trees, especially in urban areas. They add life (eg the energizing element) and are a vitally important part of any city's infrastructure."
Roland SALVATO	San Francisco, CA	2019-01-09	"Cutting these trees is all about providing jobs for an overstaffed city administration."
Edward Hilton	Alameda, CA	2019-01-11	"What does San Francisco Friends of the Urban Forest have to say? I volunteered with them for the period of 20 - 25 years ago and planted a LOT of street trees. It seems to me that they would have a well thought out position."
Zach SF	San Francisco, CA	2019-01-18	"They actually say they are cutting these down for our "health and security!" wow."The reasons for removal stated on the application were primarily focused on health and security issues around the library: light transmission, air movement, visibility, and the false sense of cover that has promoted activities on the sidewalk."Here are the direct emails for board of appeals executive director Julie Rosenberg and also Gary Cantara. Feel free to email them that you protest this decision! Also, if you have a disability they will grant your request to attend by phone (ADA and local law).julie.rosenberg@sfgov.orggary.cantara@sfgov.orgAll emails if you want to CC:urbanforestry@sfdpw.org, david.froehlich@sfdpw.org, chris.buck@sfdpw.org, sally.bentz@sfdpw.org, urbanforestrypermits@sfdpw.org, matt.czajkowski@sfgov.org, matt.czajkowski@sfdpw.org, gary.cantara@sfgov.org, boardofappeals@sfgov.org, julie.rosenberg@sfgov.organd the hearing is 1/23/19 Room 416 at City Hall @ 5pm!"
Matthew L. Steen	San Francisco, CA	2019-01-18	"https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2267037223619432&id=166

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Dorothy Lewis	San Francisco, CA	2019-01-21	"Trees add beauty, graciousness, shade & charm to city streets & especially civic structures."
Jóna Bjarnadóttir	Reykjavík, Iceland	2019-01-21	"Jóna Bjarnadóttir"
Evan Owski	San Francisco, CA	2019-01-21	"This is clearly targeted at poor and homeless people who often spend time near the library. We need more trees, not fewer. Keep the trees!"
xen bioa	san francisco, CA	2019-01-25	"so what the hell'o is that woman who is going along with murder of trees doing - is this going thru or what are we to tie ourselves to the trees as was in forests - walking round sf have seen TONS of trees tagged - some really are cankered etc but most are just not the 'right' kind - this library is semi brutalist architecture - ugly and hard - yet so many have swallowed the koolaid what they are told - that it is a thing of beauty = NOT The trees are things of beauty and life and keep keep cool air/ aid in pollution/harbor nesting birds safely/ and so on the real problem are the humans not the trees"
xen bioa	san francisco, CA	2019-02-06	"those birds are called brewers blackbirds - shiny black ones are malelighter colored/ grayish are femaleslove'm they are wonderful and if given chance will hop on table and peck at muffins - they nest in groups and watch out for each The trees are their safe zone - the progressives here in sf are immune to animal rights"
Dan Spaeth	San Francisco, CA	2019-02-10	"Taking down all the ficus trees in Hayes Valley would make our neighborhood relatively treeless. During the fires this summer, the only outdoor respite from the smoke was under the trees. It's also counter the city's own policy of more green. Learn how to prune them properly so they don't fall on streets. That's really what is needed."
Stephanie Courtney	Smithfield, Ireland	2019-02-11	"This is not the time to be removing trees from the city, the state or the planet."
chiedza kundidzora	berkeley, CA	2019-02-13	"I believe we need to keep SF green. It becomes more barren and filthy everyday. Our city should be working to plant trees, not tear them down"
denny pallenberg	san francisco, CA	2019-02-13	"Just b/c the city is now responsible for these trees you want to cut them down. Seems like a very poor solution to management of trees in an urban area. SAVE THE TREES! Get rid of bureaucrats making stupid decisions."
Gary Ferns	Cotati, CA	2019-02-13	"San Francisco needs more trees, not less!"
Michaelle Carter	Eugene, OR	2019-02-14	"These trees are living and honored citizens (more like people than corporations) and unlike corporations they share there wealth with all."
Bonnie McGregor	San Francisco, CA	2019-02-14	"We've seen this before, remove thousands of trees and put in twigs. When a tree is sick do a removal, not before."

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Stephen Albair	San Francisco, CA	2019-02-16	"I live two houses in from the Boulevard. The trees not only are green, and there is not enough of it in this city, they break the horrible sounds coming from the cars."
Lee Jewell	San Francisco, CA	2019-02-18	"We must plant more trees not remove them. Trees are important for our canopy diversity and for free house gas mitigation."
Natalie Downe	London, England, UK	2019-02-19	"I believe not all of the trees should come down, and the bat and bird habitat assessment / mitigation has not been met"
Dinah Sanders	San Francisco, CA	2019-03-02	"Tree removals have to be done in parallel with tree replacement & sapling maintenance. We are seeing removals (including of trees that, yes, pose some risk) but not seeing successful replacements in Hayes Valley. On the issues I noted in the public hearing in November 2017 regarding ficus removal at Fell & Laguna, the situation remains largely bad:- no new trees have been planted by the city in the 400/500 blocks of Fell as far as I know, not where the 16" diameter Brisbane Box at 536 Fell was (appropriately) removed by the city when it began leaning, nor in the empty planting sites at 530 and 540 Fell- condition of small saplings near 522 is worsening- the 11" diameter Brisbane Box at 528 Fell remains in Fair condition and would be the only mature survivor on the north side of 500 block if proposed removals at corner take place- the approx. 30' tall Black Acacia at 556 Fell which was killed by truck directed to the curb lane during city construction in September 2010 was replaced finally after a couple years,"
Dinah Sanders	San Francisco, CA	2019-03-02	"One question I look forward to asking tomorrow on the rescheduled tree tour (Sunday 3/3 at 10am, meeting by 531 Grove), is whether the city still has a limitation of only being able to water 1000 trees across the whole city. If watering remains the constraint against planting—and it seems to be based on comments in that November 2017 hearing and observation of that city lot of ready-to-plant trees in boxes we watched slowly die over on Octavia—than how do we change that? How do we increase the city's capacity to plant AND ensure sapling survival or re-planting?"
Dinah Sanders	San Francisco, CA	2019-03-02	"At the tree hearing I attended in November 2017 FUF was said to be focusing ONLY on districts with lowest tree coverage and least financial resources."
dominique prandi	san francisco, CA	2019-03-08	"City wants to cut many ficus trees near 16 th St & Valencia..we need to save the trees since they look perfectly healthy and are good for the beauty & health of our neighborhood..they are my favorite trees!"
Jose Luis Gutierrez	San Francisco, CA	2019-03-09	"Save the 24 th street ficus"
xen bioa	san francisco, CA	2019-03-26	"WTF what is taking so long to see that the city is WRONG that the tree cutting massacre is WRONG that the library is WRONG that the city is not progressive but damaging that the trees have never been an issue as they are that the trees are Nuisance to the ones who like to see themselves as liberal its a crock of BS"
xen bioa	san francisco, CA	2019-03-26	""its a crock of BS" we mean that liberal progressive establishment plus the city's making up that all those trees marked for destruction

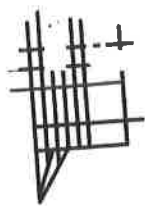
Name	Location	Date	Comment
			are ill we have looked at many of trees marked for cut down many trees are doing well Thats the crock we are to believe that the city \ library is all knowing and righteous it's like some cult of righteousness and back room deals (whatever)"
Matthew Coelho	San Francisco, CA	2019-04-19	"This is terrible news! Having lived in this neighborhood for the past 7 years, I often stop just to take in the view of all of these beautiful trees intermixed with the busyness and happens on 24th. Apart from that - why remove these healthy, beautiful trees?"
Martin Rapalski	San Francisco, CA	2019-04-19	"The city hiring professional arborists would prevent the removal of these trees. They're only a problem because they've been improperly pruned by DPW workers with little or no training."
M Rex	Stockholm, Sweden	2019-04-20	"We need MORE trees, not less!"
Inger John	Newport, Wales; Cymru, UK	2019-04-20	"Any trees that don't HAVE to be felled should be allowed to stay."
Cristalle Boone	Cass City, MI	2019-04-21	"...because I lived & walked San Francisco for 12yrs."
ian montgomery	San Francisco, CA	2019-04-21	"What the hell is wrong with the people?? Yeah, remove all the trees so it saves us a few dollars. What a pack of morons. Leave the bloody trees alone. They enhance our city and lives in so many ways. Unbelievable."
Lorraine Cathey	San Francisco, CA	2019-04-22	"I love the ficus trees. They provide much-needed shade, and abode for the many songbirds. As a science teacher here in the city, I roundly protest the removal of these trees, especially since it is hinted that the removal is based solely on finance, not on ecology nor aesthetic. Shame!"
Lisa Awbrey	San Francisco, CA	2019-04-22	"As a San Franciscan and a landscaper....I am ashamed of my city. These are mature trees that no longer require irrigation. They provide beauty, shade, habitat for birds and cooling for our hot urban areas where reflected heat is a problem. It's almost as if the city is trying to punish the majority of voters who emphatically voted for the city to maintain and protect a valuable resource: our urban forests and our sidewalk trees."
sue terence	San Francisco, CA	2019-04-22	"I am a teacher and as lover of nature. I appreciate the immense contribution of urban trees to humans and all other creatures."
Michael Patton	San Francisco, CA	2019-04-22	"Maintain the trees and keep the mature growth! Stop decimating our city!!"
Denise Toledo	San Francisco, CA	2019-04-23	"The city needs more trees to clean purify the air, less trees means less filtering"
Jo Ann Shain	San francisco, CA	2019-04-23	"Trees are good for our urban environment and for us."
Josephine Huerta	SSF, CA	2019-04-23	"It needs to be done!"
Jessica Patty	Daly City, CA	2019-04-23	"Leave our trees alone."

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Kevin Leong	San Francisco, CA	2019-04-23	"Too many people and not enough trees and park."
Lawrence Schrupp	San Francisco, CA	2019-04-24	"These trees shade the sidewalks and businesses of 24th Street all the way from Potrero Avenue to Mission Street. What an ill-considered, destructive move by the inaptly-named Bureau of Urban Forestry. Is the DPW in business to maintain the city, or just to make its own job easier? Disgraceful. And just let a homeowner try to remove a damaged street tree that threatens a building; the bureaucracy is not so keen on that. What a misdirection of tax dollars."
Therese George	Crockett, AL	2019-04-24	"What lovely trees! Trees make a neighborhood. Increases property value, as well as helps keep the air clean, AND they are BEAUTIFUL! Please don't remove them!"
Hilary Davis	San Francisco, CA	2019-04-25	"We love are trees! They are the only habitat for birds in the city. They also provide,shade and beauty to our nrighborhoods."
Allison Vogel	Crockett, CA	2019-04-26	"Nature must be preserved not stripped away."
Nolen Barrett	San Francisco, CA	2019-04-27	"Fewer trees = ugly, and we pay too much money to live in a baron, ugly city."
Patricia Holderby	CROCKETT, CA	2019-04-27	"Removing more trees???? Ridiculous! Save these Ficus trees - they are beautiful, and they help keep our air clean and our lungs clean!"
Elaine Becker	Roanoke, VA	2019-04-29	"We NEED trees!"
Dena Aslanian-Williams	San Francisco, CA	2019-05-01	"One of the silliest things I've read. Stupid idea. I love those broccoli trees"
Samuel Saravia	South San Francisco, CA, CA	2019-05-02	"The City's Fickle Feeling for Ficuses is a Familiar Failed Focus of Funding For the Future of our Foliage."
Samuel Saravia	South San Francisco, CA, CA	2019-05-02	"The City's Fickle Feeling for Ficuses is a Familiar Failed Focus of Funding For the Future of our Foliage."
Ann Savoie	San Francisco, CA	2019-05-02	"Trees are beautiful!!!"
Michelle Jacques-Menegaz	San Francisco, CA	2019-05-02	"We need more trees, not less!Removing trees is not the solution to reducing maintenance costs."
Janet Anjain	Daly City, CA	2019-05-03	"Janet Anjain"
nancy weber	San Francisco, CA	2019-05-06	"We need more trees we voted for more trees - it's very important for health And beautifies neighborhoods"
Michael Nulty	San Francisco, CA	2019-05-07	"Agreed!"
Michael Nulty	San Francisco, CA	2019-05-07	"Agreed!"
Jan Naft	San Francisco, CA	2019-05-16	"Just because the city is stupid, doesn't mean they should destroy life."

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Amy Mullen	San Francisco, CA	2019-05-18	"These are beautiful trees that provide shade, are an integral part of the Mission, and support bird life. Remove our beloved trees!"
Yvette Mendez	Austin, TX	2019-05-22	"The cutting down of trees in urban areas further contributes to climate as well as diminishes needed oxygen in an already polluted environment. Stop the cutting down of ficus trees!"
Sylvia Nunez	Sacramento, CA	2019-05-22	"Trees are our connection to life and health of all creatures!"
Suzanne Cortez	Sanfrancisco, CA	2019-05-22	"Because There is No reason to do thisTress can be trimmed and Maintained But why cut them down?What about all the trees in the cityAre they going to cut them down too?Why target the Mission?"
gail juarez	Pacifica, CA	2019-05-22	"I have seen these trees grow from saplings over 40 years ago, why must they be destroyed?"
Ada Gonzalez	San Francisco, CA	2019-05-23	"I was born in the Barrio, and grew up with these beautiful trees, why would you want to chop them down they are part of the historic mission district....."
Alejandro Rodriguez	San Francisco, CA	2019-05-23	"The trees add to the aesthetics of this beautiful cultural corner of San Francisco."
Vika Boyko	Oakland, CA	2019-05-27	"We should keep as many trees as we can"
Katherine Johnstone	San Francisco, CA	2019-05-27	"I used to live above my store on 24th st. between Florida and Alabama. These trees bring beauty to the neighborhood and cause no harm. This history of this neighborhood is long and vast, removing these trees is disgraceful. This debate has been going around for 15 years! would you desecrate a mural? I think NOT."
Jessica Finn	San Francisco, CA	2019-06-06	"This is my neighborhood and the trees along 24th street are a precious and beneficial resource in our community. They improve our air, and quality of life as well as provide us shade. There is no good reason to cut them down."
Nancy French	San Francisco, CA	2019-06-06	"I live here and the trees are what keeps this area somewhat livable. Please keep them."
Ariela Morgenstern	San Francisco, CA	2019-06-06	"We need MORE not LESS trees - this is shameful!!"
Cathie Anderson	San Francisco, US	2019-06-06	"We need more trees in the city - not less. They provide much needed nature, cleaner air, and elevate the feel of the neighborhood."
Katherine Robichaud	San Francisco, CA	2019-06-06	"This city needs more trees. They add value to neighborhoods and make the city beautiful, plus help us with clean air."
Fred Zeleny	Baltimore, MD	2019-06-06	"When I lived in SF, those were some of the first trees I saw every morning. If you want to improve the city, get rid of the finance people, not the trees."
Stephanie Mufson	Oakland, CA	2019-06-06	"Trees are important for air quality, and for mental and spiritual health. Everyone knows this.Please don't do this"

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Edna Raia	San Francisco, CA	2019-06-06	"We need more trees in SF, not less!"
Seth Roberts	San Francisco, CA	2019-06-06	"Would make 24'th suck even more!!"
Olaf Guadarrama	US	2019-06-06	"Keep those healthy, beautiful trees!! I enjoy those when I'm wandering the neighborhood, no need to get rid of something that contributes such a peaceful atmosphere to the community. Save the trees!!"
Carson Fuetsch	Fremont, CA	2019-06-06	"Because not only fuck the man- but fuck the cost. We like our trees, I believe this is something worth the cost (and assumed jobs) to keep them"
Amy Galles	Richmond, VA	2019-06-06	"These trees are part of what make 24th street such an important part of the community"
Christian Simonsen	San Francisco, CA	2019-06-06	"We need more trees in SF, not less!"
ayelet cohen	san francisco, CA	2019-06-06	"More trees. Less people"
Jaime Sparr	California	2019-06-06	"Thank you for starting this petition! We already have so few trees in the city, we can't afford to lose them."
diego gomez	San Francisco, CA	2019-06-06	"We need more trees! A garden on every roof by 2020 please! Even one small plant per person living in each building is a great start 💎"
Chloe Krumel	Brooklyn, NY	2019-06-06	"Tree lined streets are part of San Francisco's charm."
Jeremy Howard	US	2019-06-07	"having no trees sucks!!"
Greta Schnetzler	San Francisco, CA	2019-06-09	"The 24th Street trees provide bird and insect habitat, shade, cleaner air and character to the neighborhood. The City's prior abdication of maintenance of trees and sidewalks are to blame for where we are today, they should not be able to get out of this by simply cutting down mature trees, rather than remediating its own neglect. This feels like an attack on the vendors and residents who use the street. I have seen the small, immature trees that would replace the ficus trees and it will take decades for the shade and habitat to be replaced if those trees make it at all."
Gloria Maciejewski	San Francisco, CA	2019-06-30	"You should not eliminate half the the shade and climate controlling canopy in a 3 month period. This would endanger the community more than the suppositions that the healthy ficus "may become" a hazard."
esther gallagher	san francisco, CA	2019-07-04	"we need more new trees, not to cut down the nice old ones!!"
Hayley Nystrom	Los Angeles, CA	2019-07-19	"I used to live in SF, and it can use all the greenery it can get."
Evan Ernstson	Petaluma, CA	2019-07-19	"In a seemingly never-ending attempt to change the landscape (physical and otherwise), the City has deemed its eldest residents a nuisance and wants to kick them out too. Shame!"
Susan Wolfe	Vermillion, SD	2019-08-26	"Trees are essential to the survival of the planet."

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Tony Holiday	San Francisco, CA	2019-08-26	"Treasure seriously important to humans. Destroying healthy trees should be illegal."
roz arbel	san francisco, CA	2019-09-03	"I can't believe how many trees are being slated for removal in San Francisco. Already they've taken out 70 trees on Lone Mountain, 200 trees are being slated to be removed from Laurel Hill, 130 year old pine tree stand is going to be removed from the Presidio this week! Pretty soon there's not going to be any trees left in San Francisco. Is that really what you all want? To have every tree replaced by a skyscraper? It's not enough to say that they're going to be replaced by saplings of this or that. As Thoreau said ;"Every creature is better alive than dead, men and moose and pine trees, and he who understands it aright will rather preserve its life than destroy it.""
Trish Haugen	Vancouver, WA	2019-09-03	"We need to be planting trees to mitigate carbon!"
María Jose Morales	San Francisco, CA	2019-09-23	"The most invasive predators of all the time are the human being. I can believe DPW want to do this when this city has so much money, this is ridiculous. The global warming is real is not a myth. Hope you can get all the needed signatures need!!"
Zach SF	San Francisco, CA	2019-10-02	"Does anyone want to work on this Board of Appeals petition together? I appealed the 24th street tree decision as well and have to prepare a brief for the trees"
Noelia Bermudez	San Francisco, US	2019-10-28	"I'm sing because it wrongTo cut the ♦ tree very wrong"
Gloria Maciejewski	San Francisco, CA	2019-11-07	"Is there a hearing for the 24th street ficus? How did it go this evening for the Octavia street ficus?"
Gloria Maciejewski	San Francisco, CA	2019-11-07	"Please email me at glowglow9@gmail.com with any details - I emailed SF Works director and the Department of Urban Forestry Chris Buck about the appeal hearing for the 24th street ficus and no one has gotten back to me at all."
Adele Framer	San Francisco, CA	2019-12-09	"We need as many trees as we can get. Do not kill healthy mature trees. It takes years to grow one."
Sitka Spruce	Oakland, CA	2020-01-01	"These are healthy and mature trees, and there is nothing wrong about leaving them there. As climate change continues to intensify, these trees will not only sequester carbon dioxide, but also provide shade and evapotranspire humidity into the atmosphere. Cities and urban areas need to be planting more trees, not removing them."



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Mission residents oppose ficus tree removal

By Ricky Rodas | Jun 6, 2019 | Mobile | 8 📱



Photo by Ricky Rodas

It was a packed house at City Hall on Wednesday as Mission residents advocated overwhelmingly for the ficus trees along the 24th Street corridor

What To Do



**Public Works:
Brass Tax:
Supper of
Survivors XI**

January 1 @ 3:00
pm - 6:00 pm

**GLBT History
Museum:
Beyond the
Rainbow: Queer
Symbology
Before and
After Gilbert
Baker**

January 2 @ 7:00
pm - 9:00 pm



"We have too waiting!" A disgruntled attendee exclaimed when the audience was told the hearing officer would be arriving at 6 p.m. and not the established time of 5:30.

The city has outlined a plan to prune some trees and remove others that are considered overgrown and safety hazards.

The meeting kicked off with a presentation by Chris Buck, an arborist from the Bureau of Urban Forestry. Buck cited Proposition E, known as Street Tree SF, the citywide street tree maintenance program managed by San Francisco Public Works.

Since the proposition was passed in 2016, Buck said the city has addressed 26 percent of its tree needs.

He presented the data the Bureau of Urban Forestry has compiled of each individual tree potentially facing the axe. The green giants located on 2700 24th Street are among several considered for removal. According to Public Works, there are currently 133 trees in the corridor and 51 are slated removal. 81 will remain, with every removed tree to be replaced with a less problematic species.

Pending approval, Buck told attendees that the city is committed to a three-month turnaround for removal and replacement. Maple and Ginkgo

A ... ie ...!

January 2 @ 9:00
pm - 11:59 pm

**Brick & Mortar
Music Hall:
Sean Healy
presents
Chuuwee,
Trizz, Sahtyre**

January 3 @ 8:30
pm - 10:30 pm

**The Knockout:
Lauren Yellow's
PUNK ROCK
Birthday Show!**

January 3 @ 9:00
pm - 11:59 pm

View More...



This idea would now assemble entities like Walnut Creek and Palo Alto.

The major issue stems from co-dominant stems that cause the ficus branches to grow on top of each other. Buck said they eventually split apart and can fall onto the streets below. Business owners who operate near the trees say their roots have crept into their shops; passersby have tripped over roots that have cracked the concrete.

Residents, both old and new, say the trees are a part of the cultural fabric of the Mission and should be maintained, not discarded for safer urban foliage. The ficus protectors also cited the important shade and clean air these canopy trees provide. With the trees gone, many are worried about the immense heat that businesses, residents and the homeless will have to contend with.

Public Works hearing officer David Steinberg listened intently to a flood of commenters take to the stand to share their frustrations. A few also outlined alternative solutions such as inputting permeable paving that would minimize sidewalk damage; an engineer and energy specialist even offered to draw up plans for a support system that would keep the trees from falling — free of charge.

Commenters also expressed their disdain regarding the Public Works' neglect of the trees.

Members

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y ea s.

“Are you taking notes? I think it’s important that the hearing officer take notes because you’re going to be making those decisions,” John Elsey, co-chair of San Francisco Tree Campaign, remarked.

Longtime Mission resident Linda Lagunas thinks that “our community has been under siege,” and, regarding the removal of these trees, that “it feels like a violation of our community.”

Many feel these ficus trees are not only important for maintaining the city’s cultural identity, but crucial for the mental wellbeing of their kids. Attendees in their early 20s shared stories about growing up around the trees and taking the longer route back home just to walk down 24th and look up at the vast, leafy green canopy. A young girl cried as she talked about the beloved ficus trees.

Hearing officer Steinberg communicated that he would record the public’s concerns and take his findings to Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru who will make the final decision about the tree removal process. The decision can be protested to the Board of Appeals. Public Works said there is no firm timeline for when the decision will be made.



A bicyclist rides along 24th Street under a canopy of ficus trees in the Mission District in April 2019.

No tree removals without justification

Advocates decry city plans to take down ficuses

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR / Oct. 30, 2019 1:30 a.m. / OPINION

The San Francisco Bureau of Urban Forestry (BUF) is planning to remove 124 ficus trees in six neighborhoods in The City. Neighbors have appealed to stop the removal of trees in the areas of Hayes Valley and 24th Street. Their appeals will be heard before the San Francisco Board of Appeals on Nov. 6 and on Jan. 8, 2020. Settlement talks are currently underway for trees at the Main Library and in North Beach.

In researching for the citizen appeals, advocates have learned that BUF has little or poor data to support its claims that ficus trees generally are a threat to public safety. Citizen groups believe that BUF's internal database is organized in such a way that the bureau cannot identify trees proposed for removal, nor their condition justifying removal.

Concerned citizens listed below urge stopping mass ficus-tree removals until BUF can provide accurate data and convincing studies of the condition of San Francisco's urban forest.

How many ficus trees failed last year? How many over the past five years? Unfortunately, BUF's tree database cannot answer those questions. To explain, here is an example of a recent ficus-tree removal.

What was the "Broccoli Block?" And why does the BUF database not work?

The "Broccoli Block," the 300-500 block stretch of Lombard Street on Telegraph Hill, was lined with more than 30 broad-canopy ficus trees. An iconic photograph of the street still is found on San Francisco travel brochures. In 2015, 28 ficus trees were summarily cut down on those blocks and replaced with fruitless olive trees with little canopy, stripping the much-visited street of its mature shade trees.

The BUF tree database, however, recorded that only one ficus tree was removed in 2015. The database also wrongly said that since 1991, 27 fruitless olive trees have existed on Lombard Street, even though they were only planted there in 2015. When any city street tree is removed, its history in the database also is removed. Thus, lacking accurate data, there is no way to determine how many ficus trees or others failed or were removed over a period of time.

There is no factual evidence of tree failures to justify the current move by the Bureau of Urban Forestry to undertake massive ficus-tree removals, or that ficus trees are more likely to fail than other species planted in The City.

Confusion Identifying trees slated for removal

Each tree in the BUF database has an identifier called a Tree ID. When a tree is proposed for removal, however, the Department of Public Works (BUF's parent agency) identifies trees by a nearby street address. When BUF is asked to specify a Tree ID, it has difficulty doing so because the Tree ID and nearby address do not always agree.

That causes confusion for citizen groups when an accurate list is sought identifying trees proposed for removal. The condition of each of San Francisco's 125,000 trees was rated by the \$500,000 taxpayer-funded EveryTreeSF 2017 city-wide tree survey. To find the condition of a tree, the Tree ID is needed.

We were able to locate the Tree IDs of 118 of the 124 ficus trees BUF currently has slated for removal throughout San Francisco (records of six trees in Hayes Valley are missing). Of the 124 trees slated for removal, 99 are rated "Routine Prune," six have no rating, and only 19 are rated "Priority Removal" by the EveryTreeSF survey.

Trees presently being challenged include 48 trees on 24th Street in the Mission, 28 in Hayes Valley, seven on Washington Square in North Beach, and 19 at the Main Library in Civic Center.

Time to stop cutting down trees without justification

Citizen groups argue that BUF cannot support with evidence its current policy of removing ficus trees en masse because they pose potential dangers of falling. The \$500,000 EveryTreeSF survey shows that at least four other SF tree species pose a greater risk to public safety than ficus trees.

Advocates for protecting trees want factual bases for targeting ficus and mass removal of them throughout The City.

Advocates include Erick Arguello (24th Street, Calle 24 Latino Cultural District, Mission); Susan Cieutat and Natalie Downe (Octavia Street, Hayes Valley); Judy Irving and Lance Carnes (Columbus Avenue, North Beach); and Deetje Boler (100 Larkin St., Main Library, Civic Center).

A Publication of the Coalition on Homelessness



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November 1, 2019

How I Became a Tree Hugger: SF's Urban Canopy Crisis

by streetsheet

by Zach K.

“Save the 24th St. trees? ...Hi, would you like to save the 24th St. trees?”


A bearded activist in a wheelchair is handing out flyers at the 16th and Mission BART plaza while a pink sunset fades across the skyline. Passengers scurry past, traveling their daily commute with hive-like purpose and intention.

“The city wants to cut down 48 trees along 24th street...”

Eventually, an exiting passenger stops to ask a very sensible question: “Why?”

Why is the city of San Francisco spending thousands of dollars of taxpayer money to cut down *thousands* of our public trees?

Well, the person in the wheelchair handing out flyers is me and I'm here to answer that very sensible question. But first, a little background on what is happening:

Unknown to most people, City Hall is currently at war with old growth trees. 
 You may have noticed a yellow notice or two, or three, taped onto some trees in your

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neighborhood. These inconspicuous notices are the city's way of informing you that this tree is about to be killed.

All over San Francisco, trees are being destroyed by the Department of Public Works (DPW) and their underlings at Bureau of Urban Forestry (BUF). According to the 2019 Annual Urban Forest Report, this past year San Francisco lost **2,507** trees[i]. Yes, you read that right – in the middle of a global climate crisis, the bureaucrats at DPW thought it was right to kill off more than two-thousand five-hundred and seven trees!



A row of cut up healthy tree stumps is found along San Francisco's 16th Street in the Mission district

San Francisco actually has the smallest urban canopy of any major city in the United States. According to the 2012 San Francisco Urban Tree Canopy Analysis, less than **13.7%** of our city is actually covered with trees.[ii] We fall behind Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York and are rapidly getting worse. One large park named after our beloved Golden Gate can't make up for a city that is rapidly turning into a concrete desert.

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try not to jumble off too many statistics while the perplexed BART passeng
continues to stare at me. They repeat, "...but *why?*" As with most things related to City

Hall, it has to do with two common annoyances: **money** and **lawsuits**.

In 2016 there was a proposition on the ballot called **Street Tree SF** (Prop E). This measure, pushed by gentrifying property owners, moved ownership of San Francisco's trees away from the responsibility of landlords and onto local government. Many tree activists saw this is a good thing, since trees might be better cared for using a city budget flush from the tech economy boom. It passed with an overwhelming 79% of the vote.[iii]

However, when this proposition got into the hands of DPW and BUF to enact voters wishes, they saw an opportunity for spending less money. The tree that costs the city the least amount of money is a tree that isn't there. A tree that doesn't need watering, pruning, sidewalk maintenance, or graffiti removal. A tree that isn't there won't have a falling branch in a storm which may be hazardous or make a mess somewhere.

Consequently, as it so often happens, the lawyers and the bean counters got together and decided it was best for the city's liability and its budget if they could just cut down all those pesky old trees, especially the old ficus trees.[iv] DPW and BUF refuse to prioritize the value that trees bring in absorbing CO2 and reducing air pollution, providing habitat for birds and other wildlife, improving storm water drainage, cooling our sidewalks and preventing urban heat islands with shade, or beautifying our city.

The increased sun protection and air quality improvements that these trees provide also help the elderly and disabled who are often the first victims of hazardous air conditions such as those created by 2017 and 2018's massive wildfires. They are also increasingly important to our curbside neighbors, most of whom are disabled and need fresh air and shade while living outside in a polluted urban environment.

Destroying foliage and greenery is often supported by law enforcement as well, who wish to survey, ticket, harass, and arrest curbside residents sleeping in the parks or underneath trees. These behaviors are not without precedent: during the gentrifying tech bubble of the late 90's, Mayor Brown deployed police helicopters with infra-red cameras to locate and remove homeless encampments from Golden Gate park.[v] Obviously, destroying the urban canopy is easier and less expensive than flying helicopters over parks to track people down.

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ohammed Nuru, director of DPW, approved a recent budget that is inadequate in planting new trees but provides plenty of money for destroying old ones.[vi] Cit





arborists like Chris Buck essentially write death certificates for trees with their “expertise,” telling scary stories about the way branches fall. Meanwhile, public relations people like Nancy Sarieh claim that “community outreach” was done (despite the fact that hardly anyone in the neighborhood I talk to knows about this), giving the illusion of public consent to mass deforestation. Their tactics for increasing tree destruction also include inferring that trees cannot be cared for properly due to homeless people, needles, and feces.[vii]

Adding insult to injury, the “public” notification process for tree killings has failed to include people with disabilities. People who are sick beyond the 30-day notice period, people who are blind or low vision, or people who have limited mobility. The only way to protest the tree removals, up until about two weeks ago, has been to physically canvas our neighborhoods looking for yellow notices – many of which are destroyed by rain or vandalism (or missing in the first place). It took a full year of advocating and notifying DPW of ADA violations before an attempt was made to address this issue.[viii]

Unsurprisingly, the 24th St. proposed tree destruction has not been met with fanfare.[ix] At the June 5th hearing at City Hall over 50 people commented in support of this defining neighborhood canopy.[x] These comments helped even though this preliminary hearing is judged by the same department wanting to cut down the trees. The “compromise” DPW offered was to reduce the destruction from 72 to 48 trees.

However, as Yoda has said, “there is another.” There is one last hurrah for saving the trees on 24th Street, and that is the **SF Board of Appeals**. Myself and three other appellants recently filed lengthy quasi-legal briefs with photo evidence and other documentation concerning DPW staff negligence, ADA violations, poor outreach, improper care, and other misconduct.[xi]

One of the common bribes for destroying old growth trees is to offer new “replacement” trees. In exchange for killing a healthy 30+ year-old ficus tree, which is a likely habitat for birds and adapted to the harsh urban environment, we might get a sapling in about 5 years.[xii]

Life for young trees in San Francisco is difficult though, and with a city government that won't prioritize their care, they experience a high mortality rate.[xiii] The trees that do survive are usually cared for by *Friends of the Urban Forest*, a non-profit with unpaid volunteers doing tree plantings and maintenance. With DPW's ce, the burden of street tree care falls on the shoulders of these committed ers instead of being budgeted and paid for by the city.[xiv]

This deforestation in San Francisco is just one part of the disease of gentrification that is afflicting our wonderful city. It goes hand-in-hand with the mass-eviction epidemic and the subsequently skyrocketing unhoused population. Sadly, many of our public officials, wealthy landlords, and influential business moguls only want SF streets in a shinier, Valencia-ish, more sterilized, Westfield-Shopping-Mall kind-of-way. **Removing old-growth trees is simply the next logical step after removing old-growth residents.** The “public” process of defending either of them is expensive, vague, and layered in bureaucratic red tape. It is a tidy way of avoiding accountability while maintaining the illusion of a democratic process.

With **over 70%** of our curbside neighbors being **previous San Francisco housed residents**, it's getting harder to blame homelessness on immigration or “not trying hard enough.”[xv] However, some outlets like the *SF Chronicle* are spreading misleading statistics that infer 95% of the homeless “suffer from alcohol use disorder.”[xvi] Linking homelessness with substance abuse can often be used to promote victim-blaming.[xvii]

In the same vein, Muhammed Nuru, Chris Buck, and other DPW lackeys spread fictional and improperly documented statistics on old-growth trees.[xviii] Apparently, the old ficus trees “aren't trying hard enough,” either.

Community residents are getting together though, and we're doing what we can to fight back. We could use your help, too! Write to the SF Board of Appeals (boardofappeals@sfgov.org), or better yet, come to the public meetings to share a two-minute comment about why you disapprove of this deforestation. The meeting to save the 24th St. trees is currently set for **Wednesday, January 8th, 2020**, at City Hall, Room 416 at 5:00pm. There is also a meeting of the same kind to save trees in Hayes Valley on **November 6th, 2019** (same room and time).

You can also learn more by connecting with the SF Forrest Alliance at <https://sfforest.org/> or by reaching out to me directly through my website at: <https://zkarnazes.wixsite.com/access> or by checking out my Youtube videos here:

SF's War on Trees - SF Board of Appeals, 11-06-2019



[i] <https://docdro.id/ufMNHAP>

(2019 Annual Urban Forest Report)

[ii] <https://docdro.id/859wkOF>

(2014 San Francisco Urban Forest Plan – See Page 9)

[iii] <https://docdro.id/eDaUUS9>

(Street Tree SF – Frequently Asked Questions, taken from the Public Works website on 10/29/2019)

[iv] <https://www.change.org/p/bureau-of-urban-forestry-chris-buck-save-the-trees-around-the-main-library>

(A current online petition to save SF's ficus trees)

[v] <https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Brown-shows-polish-humility-3111448.php>

(SF Gate, 1/04/1998 by Gregory Lewis “The incident sparked Brown to suggest using
ers equipped with infrared sensors to fly over Golden Gate Park at night and
t out the encampments.”)

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homelessness_in_the_San_Francisco_Bay_Area

(see “Willie Brown (1996-2004)

http://www.foundsf.org/index.php?title=Homeless_policy_failure

(see “1997”)

[vi] http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=129

(On August 27th, the *Urban Forestry Council* said it has not budgeted to even replace the trees being removed 1:1)

[vii] https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=6&clip_id=32255

(*SF Board of Appeals Meeting* at City Hall on 1/23/2019, see the comments and presentations:

- 2 hrs, 29mins: “The library really cannot control the camping and the activities that go on around the main library all during the night, you’ll find people occupying the space underneath the ficus almost 24/7” – Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Division director of the SF Main Library, arguing that ficus should be removed due to homeless encampments posing a safety risk.
- 2 hrs, 49 mins: “the amount of needles and other challenges” would make it impossible and “would attract a nuisance more than be of help” – Chris Buck inferring that the homeless population is partly responsible for poor tree maintenance, instead of DPW neglecting their responsibilities for installing proper water irrigation systems.
- 3 hrs, 12 mins: “I find it odd that we are attempting to mitigate the homelessness crisis by removing trees” – Public comment response

[viii] <http://sfpublicworks.org/tree-removal-notifications>

(this brand new removal notice page took over a year of advocacy work to create. Anyone can now go online to look at the trees planned to be removed and submit a simple email to urbanforestry@sfdpw.org to protest a removal. A single email automatically triggers a hearing for each tree, which might explain why DPW was t to including this accessible process.)

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[ix] <https://missionlocal.org/2019/06/mission-residents-oppose-ficus-tree-removal/>

(*Mission Local*, 6/6/2019, by Ricky Rodas – article on the hearing for the 24th Street trees)

[x] <https://docdro.id/xIJBOX4>

(*Public Works Order No. 201771* – decision (before appeal) for the 24th Street trees)

[xi] <https://docdro.id/7LgIknM>

(I detailed the ADA violations in my appeals brief submitted to the *SF Board of Appeals*)

and here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IR59R27raiM> (2min, 10 sec)

<https://docdro.id/GTieNEg>

(an additional 24th St. tree appeal brief submitted by Joshua Klipp. This brief includes very useful information and statistics.)

[xii] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-OhLea8c9I>

(Chris Buck responding to a complaint to DPW for not planting trees promised 4 years ago. The trees were finally planted this past week, 5 years later.)

[xiii] https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs158.pdf

Urban Tree Mortality: a Primer on Demographic Approaches, March, 2016 by Lara A. Roman, John J. Battles, Joe R. McBride, "...survival of new young trees added to the system was fairly low, with only 83 percent of new trees surviving for 2 years." – a study of Oakland's urban trees which have a much more hospitable environment.

[xiv] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0ArSA3dMfg>

(Public comment from a *Friends of the Urban Forest* volunteer at *SF Board of Appeals Meeting* at City Hall on 1/23/2019)

[xv] <http://hsh.sfgov.org/wp-content/uploads/FINAL-PIT-Report-2019-San-Francisco.pdf>

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(San Francisco's official homeless count statistics found that over 70% of SF's homeless population were previously housed residents in San Francisco.)

[xvi] <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/SF-counts-4-000-homeless-addicted-and-mentally-14412061.php>

(*SF Chronicle*, 9/4/2019, by Dominic Fracassa and Trisha Thadani – this paper opposed increasing the city's shelters in 2018 (prop C) and recently published some very misleading “statistics.” The title of the article claims half the amount of homeless that were found by the official San Francisco count while also lumping homelessness in with substance abuse.

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Opponents-of-SF-s-Prop-C-homeless-proposition-13763825.php>

(*SF Chronicle*, 4/12/2019, by Dominic Fracassa: “November's Prop. C imposes an average of roughly 0.5 percent in gross receipts tax... The Chronicle, is subject to the tax.”

Ironically, the paper itself is partly to blame for the “Unclear Timeline” in the 9/4/2019 article, due to their opposition to 2018's prop C, which would provide new shelters and improved homeless services.)

[xvii] <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2081&context=jssw>

(*The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*, Sept, 1993 by Elizabeth Tracy Randy Stoecker –

“...a social worker [placed] responsibility for homelessness squarely upon the individual.

‘This may be kind of a rash statement, but people... become homeless...because they screwed up their lives in some way. Whether it's due to chemical dependency, whether it's due to lack of budgeting...it's something that they've created...it's their dance... it really is....’

this disturbing quote from a social worker aptly conveys the prejudiced attitude of victim-blaming when homelessness is lumped in with substance addiction.

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<https://www.sfexaminer.com/opinion/no-tree-removals-without-justification>



(*San Francisco Examiner*, 10/20/2019 – article on database and notification issues with Bureau of Urban Forestry. Chris Buck also admitted to errors in notification during the *SF Board of Appeals meeting* on 1-23-2019)

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Living tributes: planting memorial trees - EP.0019



A tree is a great investment for our future. To highlight that notion, Arbor Day is celebrated throughout the nation and the world.

Each year for Arbor Day, San Francisco Public Works plants “signature trees” to honor community leaders, social change advocates, and local and global humanitarians who strengthened their community through public service, leadership and volunteerism.

Trees provide many benefits to the cities, including better air quality, thriving wildlife habitats, improved well-being, and a more sustainable environment.

Trees green our neighborhoods and parks, offer shade to our urban corridors, and provide tangible benefits to our environment and health.

Trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

The goal of dedicating a signature tree each year to a deserving honoree is to emphasize the importance of being involved in your community, and to underscore the idea that the smallest contribution can grow to be of tremendous value to a community and make a difference in the world.

For over ten years on Arbor Day, San Francisco Public Works has planted signature trees to honor these deserving recipients:

2019 Lawrence Ferlinghetti (video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QoWG31TQzE&feature=youtu.be>))

Ferlinghetti played a prominent role in the literary renaissance of the 1950s. He was named San Francisco's first Poet Laureate in 1998, a role he served in for two years. He co-founded City Lights in 1953 and the North Beach bookstore quickly became a cultural hub for poets, painters and social activists. Two years later, he launched City Lights Publishers, providing a new platform for poets to share their work.

Olive tree, a symbol of peace and friendship, planted in front of 576 Union St., across from Via Ferlinghetti.

2018 Mayor Edwin M. Lee

Lee worked tirelessly to champion civil rights, diversity, neighborhood livability and San Francisco's standing as a Sanctuary City. He stabilized and grew the economy under his watch and added new housing. He served as San Francisco's first Chinese-American mayor from Jan. 11, 2011 to December 12, 2017. He died of a heart attack with two years left on his term.

St. Mary's magnolia, located on Fulton Street, across from Civic Center Plaza.

2017 Rose Pak

influential civic leader who devoted herself to serving the community. She was instrumental in extending the Central Subway into Chinatown, advocating for more affordable housing, rebuilding and modernizing Chinese Hospital, enhancing economic vitality and preserving the rich culture and history of Chinatown

Ginkgo biloba planted in St. Mary's Square in Chinatown

In Cutting Bus Stops, San Francisco Points Towards a More Efficient Bus System

Yonah Freemark

November 15th, 2010 | 26 Comments



» Faster bus services, the mainstay of this city's transit fleet, could reduce operations costs for a stressed transit agency.

San Franciscans, like the denizens of every great transit city, enjoy denigrating their bus and rail system, accusing it of inefficiency, overcrowding, and slow speeds. Despite the overall excellence of the public transportation offered in the Bay Area, those criticisms ring true — especially on Muni, the city's local bus and light rail operator.

Unlike BART, which rockets commuters from one side of the region to the next, Muni vehicles crawl down San Francisco's congested streets, lumbering behind traffic and stopping all too frequently. As of 2008, buses ran on average at only 5 mph downtown, with the overall average speeds of the system depressed at a miserable 8 mph. Meanwhile, costs per passenger are higher than those at peer transit agencies elsewhere in the country. There are plenty of reasons to plan for improvement.

Thus the announcement last month that Muni would be seriously evaluating a plan to consolidate bus stops comes as excellent news. Though a reduction in the number of stops made by local buses would not radically speed up services, it would point towards a gradual improvement necessary to put the system on solid footing.

The general plan will be considered over the next few weeks by public officials but is sufficiently developed to be implemented as soon as the Board of Supervisors agrees to the change. Five high-ridership routes (the 9, 14, 28, 30, and 71) would be altered through the elimination of roughly 10% of stops; in general, distance between stops would increase from about 800' to 975' or more. Each line is projected to see a roughly 5% decrease in overall travel time, with much largest decreases in travel periods in the most congested zones. For instance, the 14-Mission bus would see travel savings of 11-14% on the stretch of Mission Street between 16th and 24th Streets; this happens to also be one of the line's heaviest concentrations of riders.

The positive effects would be consequential for the transit agency's budget: The increased speeds made possible by the reduction of stop locations would allow Muni to run five fewer vehicles during the peak periods, a not-insignificant reduction over the long-term considering the costs of the bus itself, energy, and labor in driving and maintenance. Other transit agencies currently running on a shoestring should examine San Francisco's proposals and evaluate whether similar changes to their own systems could result in similar cost savings.

The improvements in service that would be made possible through the elimination of bus stops could be expanded if the agency were to implement other parallel improvements. Muni bus services — unlike the agency's light rail operations — require riders to enter the bus at the front, rather than allowing them to use the back doors to board (the agency performed a pilot of that idea in 2008, but went nowhere with it). If tickets could be purchased at the stop, customers could simply scan their receipts in the back entrance of the bus without having to interact with the driver, a procedure that is common in Europe. This could dramatically reduce dwell times at station by eliminating the queues that form of people waiting to get on at the front of the vehicle.

Nationwide, bus operators are coming to understand that there is value in running a tighter, more efficient ship that favours quicker running speeds. Many of these suggestions have been made by San Francisco's Transit Effectiveness Project, whose recommendations for bus and rail improvements were made in 2008. That advice, however, has not been appropriately followed due to a lack of funds and community opposition to some components of the plan.

When the transit agency was considering how to handle a \$56 million deficit earlier this year, it was willing to reduce service by 10% — but it wouldn't eliminate stops, despite the potential to save the agency \$3 million a year. That's because, as BART Supervisor Tom Radulovich has put it, "every bus stop has a constituency." People who live or work next to a stop that is to be eliminated will feel as if their lifeline to the rest of the city has been removed.

And that resistance is not unfounded: There would be some negative effects stemming from the reduction of stops: Namely, 10% of riders would be subjected to a longer walk to the bus if the stop consolidation plan is pursued. This could impair the ability of some elderly or impaired people to get to and from work or leisure activities. It could also theoretically reduce ridership in some areas where convenience to a stop is prized above all else.

But there are times when the concerns of the hyper-local must be moderated by the needs of the city as a whole. The minor reduction in bus stops proposed in San Francisco is so limited that the vast majority of people will see no change in access whatsoever, but could experience incremental but important improvements in running speeds. Combined with other measures to improve the quality of the bus lines, stop consolidation is essential in working towards that goal.

The city is planning the introduction of two bus rapid transit lines — on Van Ness Avenue and Geary Boulevard — by 2016. These corridors would receive dedicated lanes, special buses, and unique stations, allowing service practically on par with rapid transit. But the up-to \$449 million price tag of the two projects combined is underfunded. For now, minor improvements to the local bus services such as is being proposed here is the cheap step forward for the city.

Image above: Bus in San Francisco, from Flickr user Mike McCaffrey (cc)

By Yonah Freemark on November 15th, 2010 | Listed: [Bay Area](#), [Bus](#) | [26 Comments](#)

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Danny

[15 November 2010 at 10:56 · Reply](#)

lolz...you are talking about a city whose entire round of recent transit cuts could have been avoided with a 1.5 year pay-raise freeze for a transit union that is already the highest paid in the nation. Not only did the Union not budge, but they forced the city to dig into its capital budgets, which are pretty hard to move due to liquidity concerns, in order to cover costs.

MUNI doesn't exist for San Francisco residents...it exists for the transit union. You can plainly assume that if MUNI makes any changes to their service at all, it is not for the benefit of SF residents.

Tom West

[15 November 2010 at 11:04 · Reply](#)

That pay increase had already been agreed to in a contract signed the union and the city. It's not the union's fault that the city didn't budget properly. The transit cuts could also have been avoided by increasing property tax 0.5%, but that didn't happen either.

Danny

[15 November 2010 at 11:25 · Reply](#)

Actually it is the union's fault that the city didn't budget properly. They are the ones holding the entire effing transit system, a public good, hostage for their own gain. No city can effectively budget when they are forced to negotiate with people that can hold public goods hostage.

Winston

15 November 2010 at 11:51 · Reply

Danny has a very good point. Until the excessive wages and insane work rules for SFMTA's drivers are addressed there is little hope for a functional transit system in San Francisco. They are paid, literally, double what similar private sector workers are paid which means the city gets far less bus service than its citizens are entitled to.

As for the main point of Yonah's post, if ever a city needed to consolidate bus stops, San Francisco is it. It is very often the case that it is quicker to walk than to take the bus for even fairly long trips. In this situation, doing whatever you can to give the bus some kind of speed advantage over walking should give you more ridership.

DBX

15 November 2010 at 11:56 · Reply

The transit unions in certain cities — and Chicago is another (many operators in Chicago get even more than Muni, it's the highest standard of living in the country for a transit operator) — simply exist to extract money from overburdened authorities. Chicago operators are in the process of getting a 15 percent pay increase over four years. Just giving up one of those years would have avoided service cuts in January. But, no. Easier to make the junior people suffer for a year while attrition takes care of the shortfall and then the juniors get called back. Do they care that customers wait a lot longer for service? Not really. Getting \$60K for driving a bus is more important.

And that's a big political problem for transit in general. You're never going to see the kind of support we need for more transit funding when this is the kind of attitude they run with. As far as I can see in Chicago, the cuts basically are a bonanza for cab drivers and nobody wants their taxes or fares to go up to restore the service. Management doesn't help either; they seem to exist merely to provoke unionized labor into greater sullenness and resistance. The only way to break this death spiral is actual reform of the service and the relationship between management and labor; only then will you see support for new funding.

And how on earth do you seem to take it for granted that the city would pass a property tax increase in these circumstances? In THIS economy and political environment? Under CALIFORNIA tax law? Give me a break.

By the way the ticket receipt idea is fantastic. I'd not encountered this in England (though London's Oyster card system is impressive in its own way) but it would be a huge improvement for bus service in the US; a cheap way of making major progress in speed and reliability.

Ocean Railroader

15 November 2010 at 11:25 · Reply

Cutting how a few transit stops wouldn't really hurt anyone in that if a bus stops every 800 feet on a street and say they cut out a stop or two and made it go to say 950 feet or a 1000 feet that wouldn't be to bad. I view buses as something to help pedestrians go over obstacles that prevent them from walking from one sidewalk system to another. And if I were going to remove a bus stop or two I would first make sure that there are good sidewalks in the area so that people could walk safely down the sidewalk to the new bus stop. But if the area didn't have sidewalks I wouldn't mess with it.

Mike Jones

16 November 2010 at 12:20 · Reply

There are always impacts. There will be someone who already resents their long walk to a stop to wait for a bus. They will reconsider their trip if their already distant stop is removed. Of course, the quicker journey time may be compensation, but that will take a while to trickle through. It is not as though all your trips are suddenly 5-10 minutes faster.

Eliminating on-board payment would be a massive improvement. Ironically, AC Transit across the Bay (Oakland) has had multi-door buses ideal for proof of purchase ticketing, but 4 years after buying the buses (Van Hool) it still makes riders board through the front door.

Krazy19Karl

15 November 2010 at 12:25 · Reply

Interesting that they'll be trying this. Last semester I ran a traffic microsimulation study of MUNI route 18 to determine the effects of bus stop consolidation. The intended goals were to look at how bus exhaust might be minimized (result: very minimal losses) and how it might decrease the number of accidents due to rear and front end collisions (decrease in overall property damage, injuries, fatalities due to fewer conflicts).

But the part I thought was most interesting was the travel time savings. It predicted 1 minute, 24 seconds of travel time savings per bus on the route (peak hour). This assumed that the lowest performing stops on 46th Ave between Lincoln Way and Sloat Blvd had been consolidated. I would have preferred to analyze a more frequented route, but many are already consolidated and I needed one with a simplistic neighborhood (no freeways, etc.)

I recommend the data from the Transportation Effectiveness Project for anyone looking for bus ridership data. It was the only place I could find such information.

flaviegagnon

15 November 2010 at 13:01 · Reply

Philadelphia should think about doing a similar exercise. There is a stop at almost every corner downtown. It slows buses down incredibly.

ant6n

15 November 2010 at 13:42 · Reply

Are there systems where you actually scan your ticket at the back of the bus?

I know of systems in Germany and France that have ticket validators in the back of the bus, but that doesn't mean you have to scan it in order to enter. I.e. these are still proof of payment systems.

Max Wyss

15 November 2010 at 13:50 · Reply

Interesting article. Actually, the average distance aimed for is still extremely short, compared to many European cities. There is actually a rule of thumb which says that 300 m distance from a bus stop is definitely acceptable; 500 m too. These numbers would give an average distance of 420 m between bus stops (that's approximately 1400 feet).

Combine that with efficient boarding (open all doors for entering and exiting), the efficiency of the system could be improved quite a bit.

So, this is definitely a first step...

Ted King

15 November 2010 at 14:06 · Reply

"If tickets could be purchased at the stop, ..."

Please keep in mind that SFMuni has a very successful flash pass (FastPass for monthly use and Passport for tourists) and is in mid-switch to the Clipper smart card. There are readers at the back entrances of the buses and LRV's. The cards can be loaded at Muni Metro stations (e.g. the ones along Market Street), most Walgreens (e.g. the one near Geneva and Mission), and automatically. The main barrier is the regulation that people must board through the front door – a reg. that is honored in the breach at some stops.

Another problem is a certain amount of foot dragging by BART. The non-SFMuni stations (two on Mission, Glen Park, and Balboa Park) don't have Clipper reload machines. This is a serious problem at Balboa Park since this is a major node and the terminus for three (3!) LRV lines (J, K, and M). Yes, that's right – Balboa Park is treated as a pure BART station rather than as a joint use facility. Go figure.

<http://www.sfmta.com/cms/mfares/Clipper.htm>

SFMuni Customer Service Center

11 South Van Ness Ave., near Market St. (Van Ness Muni Metro Stn. is just around the corner)

Ted King

15 November 2010 at 14:13 · Reply

My apologies –

s/non-SFMuni stations/non-SFMuni Metro stations/



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3

Here are the new best and worst on-time Muni lines

The 25 Treasure Island comes in on top of an otherwise dreary list

By Adam Brinklow | Nov 27, 2019, 11:06am PST



Via Shutterstock

This week saw more chaos for Muni after as a vehicle in the tunnel at West Portal led the city to suspend Tuesday night's light-rail service and flooding interrupted Wednesday

morning's commute.

But let's face it, there's a limit on how much better things will get for Muni even without those intrusions.

Checking in on the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency self-reported on-time data, the numbers from October reveal that although transit in SF has been pretty consistent in 2019, that consistency has been uniformly terrible.

Note that in City Hall parlance, being on-time means a vehicle is no more than four minutes late and no more than one minute early. Here are the big takeaways.

- For October, the month with the most recent data, Muni vehicles were on-time for just 54 percent of stops. During the same time last year, they were on-time for 53 percent of stop. And in the 12 months since then, the number never cracked 55.
- As a reminder, the city's target for on-time vehicles is 85 percent.
- As usual, Muni is much better at running buses than trains. While the combined scores for bus lines come in at a meager 55 percent on-time for October, it plunges to 44 percent for light rail and historic streetcars.
- Incoming SFMTA director Jeffrey Tumlin critiqued the J-Church line, quipping to Curbed SF that he never takes it because "I like getting to work on time." He wasn't kidding. The J was worse than most other SF trains, showing up on-time for 44 percent of stops in October. The worst regular line in the city was the K Ingleside/T Third Street with 34 percent. Worst overall was the E Embarcadero line, with an unbelievably poor 20 percent showing.
- The most reliable light rail in recent months was the N Judah, which was on track 55 percent of the time in October, followed by the L at 51 percent. But the N was also the most volatile line in the city; its rating ranged from as low as 20 percent in May to 57 percent in June.
- Muni riders place your bets: What is the worst bus line in the entire city? In recent weeks, at least, the dishonors go to the 19 Polk, which only managed to show up on-time 44 percent of the time in October. But if we also include special lines, the worst was the 83X Mid-Market Express, with a truly wretched score of 26 percent.

- The best bus line was the 25 Treasure Island, which managed a 71 percent score. It was the only line to rise above 70 percent in October; it has remained above 60 percent every month except for February. Once off the Bay Bridge, the Treasure Island line has the advantage of competing with essentially no traffic, but this may change in years to come as island development continues.

That means even high-performing Muni lines can seem spotty, but given the state of traffic citywide a little wiggle room is necessary in the numbers.

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List of defunct San Francisco Municipal Railway lines

The San Francisco Municipal Railway (Muni) is the public transit system for San Francisco, California. It began service on December 28, 1912, and a number of bus, streetcar/light rail, and cable car routes it once operated are now discontinued.

Contents

Defunct bus routes

Candlestick Park lines

Defunct streetcar routes

- A Geary-10th Avenue
- B Geary
- C Geary-California
- D Geary-Van Ness
- E Union
- F Stockton
- H Potrero
- R Howard
- 40 San Mateo
- Temporary routes

Defunct cable car routes

See also

References

External links

Defunct bus routes

*	Weekday peak hours only
^	Articulated bus (60 ft.)
♦	Community bus (30 ft.)
(TC)	Trolleybus

Line	Inbound Terminal	Outbound Terminal	Reason for discontinuing	Areas served	Year Started	Year Discontinued
4 Sutter (TC)*	Sutter Street & Sansome Street	6th Avenue & California Street	Low ridership; supplemented by 2 Clement re-routing. It was revived for a while when the 1 California moved to Sacramento St.; a truncated version to Presidio to be re-instated. The 2 Sutter trolleybus is its replacement.	<u>Richmond District</u> , <u>Laurel Heights</u> , <u>Western Addition</u> , <u>Japantown</u> , <u>Union Square</u> , <u>Financial District</u>	1948	2009
5L Fulton Limited	<u>Transbay Terminal</u>	Cabrillo and La Playa	Renamed to 5R Fulton Rapid on April 25, 2015.	<u>Financial District</u> , <u>Tenderloin</u> , <u>Civic Center</u> , <u>Western Addition</u> , <u>Alamo Square</u> , <u>University of San Francisco</u> , <u>Golden Gate Park</u> , <u>Richmond</u> , <u>Ocean Beach</u>		2015
7 Haight (TC)*	Mission Street & Main Street	Haight Street & Stanyan Street	Low ridership; 71 Haight-Noriega was renamed to 7 Haight-Noriega on April 25, 2015.	<u>Haight-Ashbury</u> , <u>Haight-Fillmore</u> , <u>Market Street</u> , <u>Civic Center</u> , <u>Financial District</u>	1948	2009
7L Haight-Noriega Limited			Merged into 71L Noriega limited			
7R Haight-Noriega Rapid*	<u>Transbay Terminal</u>	Ortega and 48th Ave.	Replaced by 7 Haight-Noriega local service on August 14, 2017. ^[1]	<u>South of Market</u> , <u>Embarcadero</u> , <u>Financial District</u> , <u>Union Square</u> , <u>Mid-Market</u> , <u>Tenderloin</u> , <u>Civic Center</u> , <u>Lower Haight</u> , <u>Haight-Ashbury</u> , <u>Golden Gate Park</u> , <u>Sunset</u>	2015	2017
8 Market (TC)	<u>Ferry Building</u>	Collingwood & 19th Streets	Replaced by <u>F Market</u> and subsequently by <u>F Market & Wharves</u> ; 9X Bayshore Express was renamed to 8X Bayshore Express in 2009.	<u>The Embarcadero</u> , <u>Market Street</u> , <u>Financial District</u> , <u>Civic Center</u> , <u>The Castro</u> ^[2]	1945	1995

Line	Inbound Terminal	Outbound Terminal	Reason for discontinuing	Areas served	Year Started	Year Discontinued
8X Bayshore Express[^]	Kearny and North Point	Phelan Loop	Renamed to 8 Bayshore on April 25, 2015.	<u>Fisherman's Wharf</u> , <u>North Beach</u> , <u>Chinatown</u> , <u>Financial District</u> , <u>South of Market</u> , <u>Portola</u> , <u>Visitacion Valley</u> , <u>Excelsior</u> , <u>Crocker-Amazon</u>		
9X Bayshore Express[^]	Kearny and North Point	Phelan Loop	Renamed to 8X Bayshore Express in 2009.	<u>Fisherman's Wharf</u> , <u>North Beach</u> , <u>Chinatown</u> , <u>Financial District</u> , <u>South of Market</u> , <u>Portola</u> , <u>Visitacion Valley</u> , <u>Excelsior</u> , <u>Crocker-Amazon</u>		
9AX Bayshore 'A' Express[^]	Kearny and Pacific	Geneva and Schwerin	Renamed to 8AX Bayshore 'A' Express in 2009.	<u>North Beach</u> , <u>Chinatown</u> , <u>Financial District</u> , <u>South of Market</u> , <u>Portola</u> , <u>Visitacion Valley</u>		
9BX Bayshore 'B' Express[^]	Kearny and North Point	Phelan Loop	Renamed to 8BX Bayshore 'B' Express in 2009.	<u>Fisherman's Wharf</u> , <u>North Beach</u> , <u>Chinatown</u> , <u>Financial District</u> , <u>South of Market</u> , <u>Portola</u> , <u>Visitacion Valley</u> , <u>Excelsior</u> , <u>Crocker-Amazon</u>		
9 Richland (TC)	<u>Ferry Building</u>	Richland & Andover	Part combined with parts of 13 Ellsworth and 23 Crescent to form 67 Bernal Heights; rest replaced by 26 Valencia (portions replaced by 29 Sunset in 1980)	<u>South of Market</u> , <u>Mission District</u> , <u>Bernal Heights</u>	1949	1983
9L San Bruno Limited	Main and <u>Mission</u>	Bayshore and Arleta	Renamed to 9R San Bruno Rapid on April 25, 2015	<u>Financial District</u> , <u>Civic Center</u> , <u>South of Market</u> , <u>Mission District</u> , <u>Portola</u> , <u>Visitacion Valley</u>		
10 Balboa						

Line	Inbound Terminal	Outbound Terminal	Reason for discontinuing	Areas served	Year Started	Year Discontinued
10 Monterey	10th Ave & California	3rd & Palou	Replaced by 23-Monterey and 43-Masonic	Richmond, Golden Gate Park, Inner Sunset, Glen Park, Bernal Heights		
10X Balboa Express						
10AX Balboa 'A' Express						
10BX Balboa 'B' Express						
11 Hoffman	Ferry Building	24th & Douglass via Forest Hill Station	Replaced by 13 Guerrero and 48 Quintara/24th Street	South of Market, Mission District, Noe Valley, Diamond Heights, Forest Hill	1948	1983
11 Hayes					1983	
12 Mission/Ocean (TC)	Ferry Building	Ocean & Phelan	Replaced by 49 Van Ness/Mission	South of Market, Mission District, Bernal Heights, Excelsior, Balboa Park	1948	1983
13 Ellsworth	Crescent & Putnam	Richland & Mission	Combined with parts of 9 Richland and 23 Crescent to form 67 Bernal Heights	Bernal Heights	1970	1983
13 Guerrero	Ferry Building	Clipper & Grandview	Duplicated service on J Church and 48 Quintara	South of Market, Mission District, Noe Valley	1983	1988
14L Mission Limited[^]	Mission and Main	Mission and San Jose	Renamed to 14R Mission Rapid on April 25, 2015	Financial District, South of Market, Mission District, Bernal Heights, Excelsior, Crocker-Amazon, Daly City		2015
15 Third Street[^]	Kearny & Bay Streets	City College	Replaced by T Third Street and 9X Bayshore Express (now 8 Bayshore) ^[3]	Fisherman's Wharf, Chinatown, Union Square, Mission Bay, Dogpatch, Islais Creek, Bayview/Hunters Point, Visitacion Valley ^[3]	1941	2007
15L Third Street Limited[^]						

Line	Inbound Terminal	Outbound Terminal	Reason for discontinuing	Areas served	Year Started	Year Discontinued
15X Bayshore Express[^]						
15AX Bayshore 'A' Express[^]						
15BX Bayshore 'B' Express[^]						
16 Kearny/Third Street			Replaced by 15 Third Street (now T Third Street)		1941	1948
16 Noriega	5th St & Market	48th Avenue and Ortega	Portions merged with the 28 19th Avenue, 71 (now 7) Haight-Noriega.	Downtown San Francisco, <u>Hayes Valley</u> , <u>Western Addition</u> , <u>Richmond</u> , <u>Sunset</u>		
16AX Noriega 'A' Express	<u>Market Street & 4th Street</u>	Ortega Street & 48th Avenue	Combined with 16BX to become 16X (now 7X)	<u>Sunset District</u> , <u>Golden Gate Park</u> , <u>Civic Center</u> , <u>Tenderloin</u>		2009
16BX Noriega 'B' Express	<u>Market Street & 4th Street</u>	Noriega Street & Sunset Boulevard	Combined with 16AX to become 16X (now 7X)	<u>Sunset District</u> , <u>Golden Gate Park</u> , <u>Civic Center</u> , <u>Tenderloin</u>		2009
16X Noriega Express	<u>Market and 4th St.</u>	Ortega and 48th Ave.	Renamed to 7X Noriega Express on April 25, 2015. A different 7X Noriega express went on a slightly different route, as shown on rollsigns.	<u>Tenderloin</u> , <u>Civic Center</u> , <u>Golden Gate Park</u> , <u>Sunset</u>		2015
17 Parkmerced♦	<u>West Portal Station</u>	Arballo and Acevedo	Renamed to 57 Parkmerced♦ on April 25, 2015. Note that there was an earlier 57 Parkmerced♦ that merged into the 17 Parkmerced♦, as shown on rollsigns.	<u>West Portal</u> , <u>Stonestown Galleria</u> , <u>Parkmerced</u>		2015
17X Parkmerced Express	John Muir Drive	<u>Daly City BART</u>	Merged into 88 BART Shuttle	<u>Lake Merced</u> , <u>Parkmerced</u>		
18 Geary						
18L Geary Limited						
18AX Geary 'A' Express						

Line	Inbound Terminal	Outbound Terminal	Reason for discontinuing	Areas served	Year Started	Year Discontinued
18BX Geary 'B' Express						
20 Ellis			split into 71 Haight-Noriega (now 7 Haight-Noriega) and 72 Haight-Sunset (now part of 29 Sunset)		1947	1951
20 Columbus (TC) Midday hours only	Beale Street & Howard Street	Van Ness Avenue & North Point Street	Low ridership; replaced by 41 Union; there was an earlier 20 Columbus, shown on rollsigns.	<u>Financial District</u> , <u>Fisherman's Wharf</u> , <u>North Beach</u> , <u>Chinatown</u> , <u>Financial District</u> , <u>South of Market</u>	2007	2009
23 Crescent	24th & Mission	Putnam & Crescent	Combined with parts of 9 Richland and 13 Ellsworth to form 67 Bernal Heights	<u>Mission District</u> , <u>Bernal Heights</u>	1940	1983
25 Bryant	Jackson & Fillmore	Geneva & Santos	Replaced by 9 San Bruno and rest merged with 27 Noe to form 27 Bryant.	Pacific Heights, Nob Hill, Tenderloin, Union Square, South of Market, Mission District, Portola, Visitacion Valley, Sunnydale	1948	1983
25 Stanyan				108 Treasure Island was renamed to 25 Treasure Island in 2015.	1983	
26 Valencia	<u>Mission Street</u> & 5th Street	<u>Balboa Park Station</u> , <u>San Francisco State University</u>	Low ridership	<u>South of Market</u> , <u>Mission District</u> , <u>Glen Park</u> , <u>Balboa Park</u>	1945	2009
28L 19th Avenue Limited	<u>Fort Mason</u>	<u>Daly City BART</u>	Renamed 28R 19th Avenue Rapid in 2015.	<u>Marina</u> , <u>Richmond</u> , <u>Golden Gate Park</u> , <u>Sunset</u> , <u>Stonestown Galleria</u> , <u>Daly City</u>		2015
29 Visitacion	Mansell & Visitacion	Gillette & Lathrop	Replaced by 56 Rutland	<u>Visitacion Valley</u>	1948	1980

Line	Inbound Terminal	Outbound Terminal	Reason for discontinuing	Areas served	Year Started	Year Discontinued
32 Embarcadero	Hyde & Jefferson Streets	<u>Ferry Building, Caltrain Depot</u>	Replaced by <u>E Embarcadero</u> (defunct from 1998-2015) ^[4] and subsequently by <u>F Market & Wharves</u> and <u>N Judah</u>	<u>Fisherman's Wharf, Ferry Building, The Embarcadero</u>	1927	2000
34 Woodside	Myra & Dalewood	<u>Forest Hill Station</u>	Merged into 36 Teresita	<u>Mount Davidson, Miraloma Park, Midtown Terrace, Forest Hill</u>	1961	
34/36 Woodside/Teresita		Combination of Lines 34 and 36; renamed 36 Teresita				
35 Howard			Replaced by the R Howard streetcar			1941
36 Folsom			Low ridership			1948
38L Geary Limited[^]	Transbay Terminal	Point Lobos and 48th Ave.	Renamed to 38R Geary Rapid on April 25, 2015.	<u>Financial District, Union Square, Tenderloin, Japantown, Western Addition, Anza Vista, Laurel Heights, Richmond</u>		2015
40 Commuter			Weekday peak only service from Caltrain Station to Downtown			
42 Evans			Merged into 19 Polk		1945	1980
42 Downtown Loop	<u>Caltrain Depot</u>	Caltrain Depot	Split into 47 <u>Van Ness</u> and 10 <u>Townsend</u> to improve service in South of Market ^[5]	<u>Financial District, Caltrain Depot, South of Market, Nob Hill, Fisherman's Wharf, Levi Plaza</u>	1980	2001
43 Roosevelt			Partially replaced by 37 Corbett and rest extended and renamed 43 Masonic	<u>Letterman Hospital, Kaiser Hospital, University of California, San Francisco Medical Center, St. Joseph's Hospital</u>		1980
44 Sansome					1941	?

Line	Inbound Terminal	Outbound Terminal	Reason for discontinuing	Areas served	Year Started	Year Discontinued
44 Diamond Heights			Replaced by 52 Excelsior		1971	1980
46 46th Avenue						
50 Crocker-Amazon			Replaced by 43 Masonic		1926	1980
51 Silver	Middle Point & Hare	Bosworth & Diamond (Glen Park Station) (Weekdays) / Mission & Silver (Weekends and holidays)	Replaced by 44 O'Shaughnessy	Glen Park, Excelsior District, Portola, Silver Terrace, Bayview-Hunters Point	1927	1980
53 Southern Heights ◆	16th Street & Mission Street 16th Street Mission Station; Weekdays 16th Street & Bryant Street Weekends	Connecticut Street & 18th Street	Low ridership	Mission District, Potrero Hill	1932	2009
54 Hunters Point						by 1950
55 Sacramento	Howard & Main Streets	6th Avenue & Clement Street	Electrified and merged with 1 California	Financial District, Chinatown, Nob Hill, Richmond, Laurel Heights ^[2]	1942	1982
57 Fitzgerald						by 1950
58 Leavenworth			Replaced by 27 Bryant			
66L Quintara Limited ◆						
70 Northridge						by 1950
70 Lake Merced	Great Highway & John Muir	Daly City Station	Replaced by 17 Parkmerced and 18 46th Avenue			
71 Haight-Noriega	<u>Transbay Terminal</u>	Ortega and 48th Ave.	Renamed to 7 Haight-Noriega on April 25, 2015.	South of Market, Financial District, Civic Center, Lower Haight, Haight-Ashbury, Golden Gate Park, Sunset		2015

Line	Inbound Terminal	Outbound Terminal	Reason for discontinuing	Areas served	Year Started	Year Discontinued
71L Haight-Noriega Limited	<u>Transbay Terminal</u>	Ortega and 48th Ave.	Renamed to 7R Haight-Noriega Rapid on April 25, 2015.	<u>South of Market, Financial District, Civic Center, Lower Haight, Haight-Ashbury, Golden Gate Park, Sunset</u>	1951	2015
72 Haight/Sunset	<u>Ferry Building</u> (weekday peak) / 5th & Market (all other times)	19th & Winston (daytime) / Sunset & Lake Merced (mornings and evenings)	Replaced by 29 Sunset		1951	1983
72 Sunset			Shown on rollsigns; eliminated as redundant with 29 Sunset	1983		
72X Sunset Express						
73 Lincoln Way	5th and Market Streets	Sloat & Sunset Boulevards	Split into 71 (now 7) Haight-Noriega and 72 Haight-Sunset	<u>Financial District, Haight-Ashbury, Sunset District, Parkside</u>		
74X CultureBus	Howard & New Montgomery	<u>Golden Gate Park</u>	Low ridership	<u>SoMA, Golden Gate Park, Union Square</u> ^[6]	2008	2009
75 Legion of Honor						
76 Broadmoor	San Jose Avenue & Flournoy	Broadmoor Village	Subsidy by developer discontinued	<u>Daly City</u>	1949	1955 ^[7]
77 Alemany						
78 Quintara			Now 66 Quintara			
80 Leavenworth			Replaced by 27 Bryant		1951	1974
80X Gateway Express	Caltrain Station	Sacramento & Battery	Replaced by 82X Levi Plaza Express			2013
81 Bacon/Fitzgerald	Fitzgerald & Keith	Huron & Mission	Replaced by 29 Sunset and 54 Felton		1939	1982
82 Chinatown	Pacific & Kearny	4th & Folsom	Merged with present-day 8, 30, and 45 lines		1980s	
83 Pacific	Pacific & Van Ness Avenues	Battery Street & Pacific Avenue	Merged into 12 Folsom-Pacific ^[8]	<u>Chinatown, Nob Hill</u>	1979	2001

Line	Inbound Terminal	Outbound Terminal	Reason for discontinuing	Areas served	Year Started	Year Discontinued
85 Shopper Shuttle						
87X Civic Center Express						
88 Hospital Shuttle						
89 Laguna Honda ♦	<u>Forest Hill Station</u>	<u>Laguna Honda Hospital</u>	Low ridership	<u>Laguna Honda Hospital, Forest Hill</u>		2009
91 Daly City						
92 Owl						
99 BART Shuttle						
108 Treasure Island	<u>Transbay Terminal</u>	<u>13th and Gateview Treasure Island</u>	Renamed to 25 Treasure Island on April 25, 2015.	<u>South of Market, Treasure Island</u>		2015
128 19th Avenue - I-280						

Candlestick Park lines

Through the end of 2013, the four Candlestick Express lines connected Candlestick Park with other points throughout the city. These lines ran before and after San Francisco 49ers games, while the 86 and 87 Candlestick Shuttles also ran during the game.^[9]

Line	Termini ^[a]		Neighborhoods served	Links
75X Candlestick Express	<u>Balboa Park Station</u>	<u>Candlestick Park</u>	<u>Balboa Park</u>	Route map (PDF) (http://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/maps/49ers%20Express%20Routes.pdf)
77X Candlestick Express	California and <u>Van Ness</u> Pre-game	Candlestick Park	South of Market, Civic Center, Pacific Heights, Fort Mason (post-game only)	Route map (PDF) (http://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/maps/49ers%20Express%20Routes.pdf)
	<u>Van Ness and North Point</u> Post-game			
78X Candlestick Express	Funston and California	Candlestick Park	<u>Richmond</u> , <u>Golden Gate Park</u> , <u>Sunset</u> , <u>Stonestown</u> , <u>Galleria</u> , <u>Crocker-Amazon</u> , <u>Excelsior</u> , <u>Balboa Park</u>	Route map (PDF) (http://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/maps/49ers%20Express%20Routes.pdf)
79X Candlestick Express	Sutter and Sansome	Candlestick Park	<u>Financial District</u> , <u>South of Market</u>	Route map (PDF) (http://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/maps/49ers%20Express%20Routes.pdf)
86 Candlestick Shuttle	Bacon and San Bruno	Candlestick Park	<u>Portola</u>	Route map (PDF) (http://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/maps/49ers%20Express%20Routes.pdf)

Line	Termini ^[a]		Neighborhoods served	Links
87 Candlestick Shuttle	Gilman and <u>Third</u>	<u>Candlestick Park</u>	<u>Bayview-Hunters Point</u>	<u>Route map (PDF) (http://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/maps/49ers%20Express%20Routes.pdf)</u>

Defunct streetcar routes

A Geary-10th Avenue

The **A Geary-10th Avenue** was Muni's first streetcar line, running from Market Street and Kearny Street, and later from the Ferry Building, along Geary and 10th Avenue to Fulton Street.^[10] The route was discontinued on December 5, 1932.^[11] In 2009, part of the route was under study to be restored as bus rapid transit and possibly as a streetcar route.^[12]

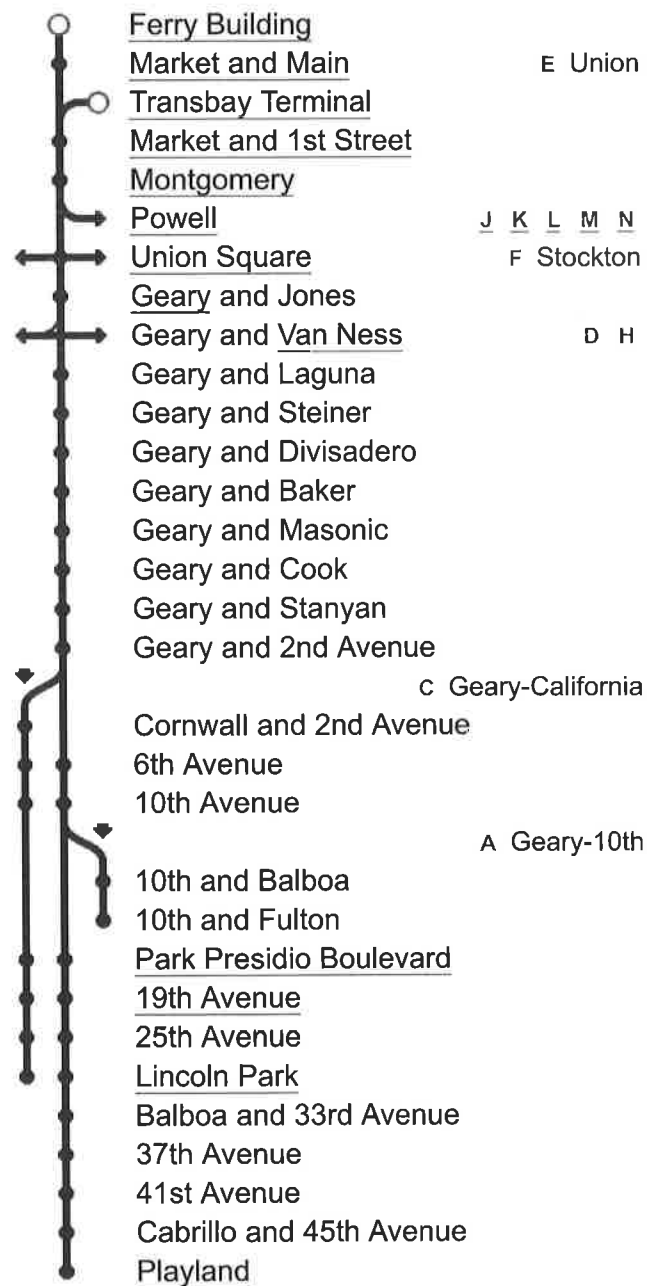
B Geary

The **B Geary** (also known as the **B Geary-Ocean**) was a streetcar route that operated along Market Street and Geary Boulevard to the Playland amusement park along Ocean Beach. It originally ran as a shuttle between 10th Avenue and 33rd Avenue, and was later extended east along Geary and Market Street to the Ferry Building to the east, and along 33rd Avenue, Balboa, 45th Avenue and Cabrillo to Great Highway to the west.^[13] The line was replaced with the 38 Geary bus route on December 29, 1956.^{[11][14]}

There are plans to construct a light rail corridor on Geary Boulevard between Van Ness Avenue and 33rd Avenue. Funding has not been identified to build rail in this corridor, however it was identified as a Tier 1 Long Term Corridor Investment (the highest priority) in 2016.^[15]

C Geary-California

Geary Routes



Z Route letter

The **C California** (also known as the **C Geary-California**)

was a streetcar route that ran from the Ferry Building along Market Street, Geary, 2nd Avenue, Cornwall, and California to 33rd Avenue.^[13] The route was cut short in 1950 to California and 2nd Avenue with the opening of the 1 California bus line, and was removed along with the B Geary on December 29, 1956.^[14] In 2009, part of the route was under study to be restored for Bus Rapid Transit.^{[11][12]}

This route was created shortly after the Market Street Railway's franchise expired on California street. By 1950, the line was essentially a short-turn version of the B Geary streetcar route, which continued out to Ocean Beach.

D Geary-Van Ness

The **D Geary-Van Ness** was a streetcar route created on August 15, 1914 that originally ran from the Ferry Building along Market Street, Geary, Van Ness, and Chestnut to Scott.^[11] In 1918, the route was changed to operate on Union Street instead of Chestnut, and was extended along Steiner Street and Greenwich Street and into the Presidio later that year.^[13]

The route was replaced with buses on March 18, 1950.^[10] This was one of four routes planned as a result of the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition. In 2009, parts of the Geary and Van Ness Corridors it once traveled were up for study for Bus Rapid Transit, and possibly, restoration of light rail transit in the area.^{[12][16]}

E Union

The **E Union** was a streetcar route that ran from the Ferry Building to the Presidio via The Embarcadero, Washington/Jackson, Columbus, Union, Larkin, Vallejo, Franklin, Union, Baker and Greenwich into the Presidio.^[13] The route was replaced on July 20, 1947,^{[13]:204} by an extension of the R-Howard trolleybus route, which in turn was renumbered 41-Union on February 1, 1949.^{[13]:204} The 41-Union still runs today. It was reduced to rush-hour service on October 1, 1988. This was one of four routes planned as a result of the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition.^{[10][17]} Today, the E designation is used for the E Embarcadero historic streetcar route.

F Stockton

The **F Stockton** was a streetcar route that ran from Market and Stockton to the Marina District via Stockton, Columbus, North Point, Van Ness, and Chestnut to Laguna. The Stockton Street Tunnel, opened in 1914, was built primarily for these streetcars.^[18] In 1916, the line was extended from Chestnut and Laguna to Chestnut and Scott, and was extended in 1947 from Market and Stockton down 4th Street to the Southern Pacific terminal on Townsend.^[13] The route was replaced on January 20, 1951,^[11] with the 30-Stockton bus route, which still runs today, and is notable for being the slowest trolleybus route in the city of San Francisco because it travels through the densely populated neighborhood of Chinatown. This was one of four routes planned as a result of the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition.^{[10][17]} Today, the F designation is used for the F Market & Wharves historic streetcar route.

The southernmost part of this route, from Market to Jackson, will again be served by light rail by the T Third Street line when the Central Subway is built. Presumably, after the completion of the Central Subway, the rest of the present 30 Stockton bus line can be eventually converted to surface light rail

extending to the Presidio, depending on where the eventual exit from the subway tunnel is placed.

H Potrero

The **H Potrero** streetcar line was created on August 15, 1914, to serve the Panama-Pacific International exposition.^[10] It ran from Army Street (Now Cesar Chavez Street) and Potrero to a terminal inside Fort Mason, via Potrero, Division, 11th Street and Van Ness. In 1946 the line was extended along former Market Street Railway trackage on Bayshore and San Bruno to Arleta. The southern terminal was cut back to San Bruno and Wilde in 1947, and in 1948 the northern terminal was cut back to Van Ness and Bay. The route was replaced on March 19, 1950, with the 47 Potrero bus line.^[13] The 47 line has since been changed and no longer runs on Potrero, and the only bus line that follows the old H line is the nighttime-only 90 Owl.

A bus rapid transit project is currently in the works with the San Francisco County Transportation Authority. A feasibility study was conducted in 2006, followed by a draft Environmental Impact Statement in 2011. A Locally Preferred Alternative was selected in early 2012. A Final EIS is expected in 2012, along with Caltrans approval. Construction could begin in 2015, with revenue service beginning a year later.^[16] The SFCTA currently does not have plans to revive the H-Potrero streetcar line.

R Howard

The **R Howard** was a trolleybus line created on September 7, 1941. It ran from Beale and Howard on Howard and South Van Ness Avenue to Army Street (now Cesar Chavez Street). It was combined with the E Union in July 1947, and was renumbered 41 in February 1949.^{[13]:204}

40 San Mateo

The **40 San Mateo** was an interurban route that provided service along The Peninsula from 1903 to 1949. Previous service under the San Francisco and San Mateo Electric Railway only reached as far as Baden in South San Francisco. After being bought and sold several times, the line came under the ownership of the United Railroads of San Francisco, under whom it was finally built out to peak service length. The northern terminus was at Fifth and Market whereupon it ran on city streets, then on a largely private right-of-way to a terminal in San Mateo. Service was discontinued as the trackage and rolling stock had fallen into disrepair by the mid 1940s.^[19]

Temporary routes

The **G Exposition**, **I Exposition**, and **J Exposition** were temporary streetcar lines that were created in 1915 and 1916 to serve the Panama-Pacific International Exposition.^[11] The G line was a combination of the E and F routes, running from Market and Stockton to the Presidio. The I line only ran for three days in February 1915, from 33rd Avenue and Geary via Geary, Van Ness, Chestnut, Scott, Greenwich and Steiner to Union. The J line, which is unrelated to the current J Church line, ran via Columbus from the Ferry Building to Fort Mason and later to Chestnut and Scott.^[13]

The **O Van Ness** line operated briefly between June 1, 1932 and July 15, 1932, along part of the E Union from Van Ness and Union to the Ferry Building. During this time, the E line ran down Van Ness to Market instead of to the Ferry Building.^[13]

The **E Embarcadero** line operated between Embarcadero station and 4th and King over the new Muni Metro Extension from January 1998 until August 1998, when it was merged into an extension of the N Judah line. The name was reused for an unrelated heritage streetcar line in 2015.

Defunct cable car routes

Note: Before 1956, the California Street Line extended all the way from Market Street in the Financial District to California and Presidio Avenue on the western edge of the Western Addition.

Line	Inbound Terminal	Outbound Terminal	Reason for discontinuing	Areas served	Year Started	Year Discontinued
O'Farrell-Jones-Hyde	Began at Market and O'Farrell, down O'Farrell to Jones (there was a cable car shuttle from Market and Jones to O'Farrell and Jones), down Jones to Pine, down Pine to Hyde, down Hyde to North Point (used California St. style double-ended cable cars). Section from Hyde and Beach Streets to Washington Street forms the northern part of the Powell-Hyde Line, while section from Washington to California Street is used as non-revenue track.	Hyde and North Point	1956 decision to close down all cable lines except those originating on California St. and Powell St. and end all cable car lines at <u>Van Ness Ave.</u>	<u>Tenderloin</u> , <u>Russian Hill</u> , <u>Fisherman's Wharf</u>	1952 (taken over from <u>California Street Cable Railroad</u>)	1956
Powell-Washington-Jackson	Began at Market and Powell, up Powell to Jackson, out Jackson to Steiner, back downtown from Steiner on Washington (used Powell Street style single-ended cable cars). Forms the Powell and Washington/Jackson one way segments of the Powell-Hyde Line.	Jackson and Steiner	1956 decision to close down all cable lines except those originating on California St. and Powell St. and end all cable car lines at Van Ness Ave.	<u>Nob Hill</u> , <u>Pacific Heights</u>	1944 (taken over from <u>Market Street Railway</u>)	1956

See also

- San Francisco Historic Trolley Festival
- List of San Francisco Municipal Railway lines
- E Embarcadero
- F Market & Wharves

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