



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

HEARING DATE: APRIL 11, 2019

Date: April 4, 2019

Case No.: 2013.4117CWP

Project: **San Francisco Biodiversity Policy**

Staff Contact: Lisa Fisher 415-575-8715, lisa.fisher@sfgov.org

Reviewed by: Adam Varat, 415-558-6405, adam.varat@sfgov.org
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Recommendation: **Recommend that the Planning Commission adopt a resolution to support the City's biodiversity vision throughout the built environment.**

BACKGROUND

Biodiversity, the variability among living organisms and the ecological complexes of which they are a part, is essential for thriving and resilient ecosystems, upon which we all depend for food, health and well-being, clean air, and clean water. Today, biodiversity is in a state of crisis worldwide and locally due to habitat loss and climate change. California is the only global biological diversity hotspot in the United States, defined as an area containing at least 1,500 endemic species with less than 30% remaining due to human-caused impacts.

In San Francisco, 95% of our land area is developed and its remaining natural heritage, including a dozen distinct ecological communities and several endangered species, is in a precarious state. From the Pacific Ocean to the Bay, the City is a unique natural environment worth protecting. The Planning Department has an important role (independently and in collaboration with our fellow City agencies) to help San Francisco be a sustainable and healthy city for all its inhabitants; human, animal, and plant. Our history of cherishing and managing open spaces for biodiversity requires ongoing commitment, as well as thoughtful integration with equitable solutions for other City challenges like affordability, mobility, and climate change.

The Planning Department is in its fifth year working with the Department of the Environment to enhance biodiversity through a range of policies and tools, providing direct resources and in-kind planning, graphics, GIS, and IT support. Through this, we have helped facilitate an inclusive Inter-Agency Biodiversity Working Group to understand the City's biodiversity needs and opportunities, pursue key strategies, and build a coalition for implementation together. Some recent highlights include:

- The SF Plant Finder tool, an online data base of habitat supportive plants that are climate appropriate and cost neutral, which builds on adopted City lists and is used by residents, designers, and City staff alike.
- A Biodiversity Training module to enable City staff and the private sector to best use a biodiversity lens in their work.

- Draft Biodiversity Design Guidelines to standardize advice to City and private-sector project teams.
- New policy tools like the Citywide Biodiversity Resolution, Department-level surveys, and public commitments. Thoughtful analysis revealed years of robust yet ad hoc policy and planning around biodiversity, but no comprehensive San Francisco principles. This model did not sufficiently empower staff efforts to support greening at the policy or project level and relied on staff advocates rather than institutional practice.

Our support for co-developing Citywide Biodiversity policy is summarized in five main points:

1. Our shared assessment of existing biodiversity policies and programs at the departmental and citywide level revealed the potential value of a more cohesive San Francisco statement.
2. As the City sees more pavement turned than ever before, including landscaping best practices help maximize co-benefits for our communities such as open space, cleaner air, and experience of nature daily.
3. Numerous acres of new public parks and open spaces are being planned and designed throughout major development areas, as well as new private open spaces and green roofs. As we work with project sponsors and fellow departments on the design and quality of our physical environment, institutionalizing key city values like biodiversity within the San Francisco project process will help realize a greener city.
4. Integrating ecological systems and green infrastructure into our engineered environments helps enhance our resilience and ensure a healthy future for all San Franciscans.
5. Elevating biodiversity to a citywide priority helps enhance coordination between department efforts and open new pathways for implementation and maintenance funding for more nature into our public spaces.

2018 SAN FRANCISCO BIODIVERSITY POLICY

On April 17, 2018, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the San Francisco Biodiversity Policy (Resolution No. 107-18) to elevate biodiversity as a citywide priority and ensure greater collaboration across 15 City agencies. It established a framework for City departments to convey commitment and inspire action for protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The resolution contents built on almost two years of inter-agency collaboration and was co-sponsored by Supervisors Sandra Fewer and Jane Kim. Resolution No. 107-18 outlines a Biodiversity Vision: *San Francisco is a place where our local biodiversity thrives in climate-resilient ecosystems that integrate healthy native wildlife and plant habitats throughout our city's physical environment, connecting ALL San Franciscans to nature daily and inspiring stewardship of our unique natural heritage in every neighborhood.* At the resolution hearing, the Planning Department articulated the following rationale for its commitment to biodiversity:

- Connecting with nature daily is a basic human need that enhances quality of life and happiness.
- Greening may be realized in all urban forms: parks, plazas, yards, sidewalks, streets, facades, and rooftops—and as the city grows, densifies, and warms, the quality of our shared open spaces will be ever more critical.
- Planting standards that support biodiversity also support broader sustainability aims such as water conservation and quality, healthier air, and environmental justice—especially as these elements are further stressed by climate change.

In response to Resolution No. 107-18, the 15 named City agencies:

- Completed internal Biodiversity Surveys by October 2018
- Delivered public statements/resolutions/memos of support, including commitments and strategies for helping the City to achieve its biodiversity vision (in progress)

CURRENT PROPOSAL

The Planning Department can bolster citywide biodiversity through its role in updating the General Plan, developing area and neighborhood plans, reviewing and entitling development applications, and contributing to streetscape and public realm plans. Together with the 2018 Citywide Biodiversity policy, this resolution helps establish direction and momentum to both institutionalize a biodiversity lens into relevant agency work—and empower staff to encourage equivalent integration in private sector projects. The resolution before the Planning Commission outlines specific opportunities for supporting biodiversity throughout the built environment:

- Leverage and update the Planning Code to support a robust ecosystem, such as Section 139 (Standards for Bird Safe Buildings), and best increase city greening with native and non-native/non-invasive plants, such as landscaping and permeability in setbacks (Section 132) and Better Roofs (Section 149);
- Consider opportunities for biodiversity throughout sections of the Planning Code that maintain spaces that can be landscaped, such as rear yards (Section 134), usable open spaces (Section 135), streetscape and pedestrian improvements (Section 138.1), privately owned public open spaces (Section 138), and mid-block alleys (Section 270).
- Better enhance nature in public and private property by applying a biodiversity lens to area plans, major development agreements, public realm plans, the Better Streets Plan, Urban Forest Plan, Residential Design Guidelines, Urban Design Guidelines, and general policies.
- Sustain the City's SFPlantFinder online tool and provide regular updates as needed to enhance plant palette content and ease of use by staff and the public.
- Continue to support the mapping (GIS) of critical habitat features in unprotected lands and use it to inform the potential for ecological restoration, wildlife corridors, creek daylighting, community gardens, tree planting, and other habitat elements within suitable sites.
- Seek to build staff capacity around these topics across its divisions, in part by supporting relevant staff to attend the City's biodiversity training overview.
- Contribute to the City's efforts to record, monitor, and track the amount and function of its biodiversity supportive greening throughout San Francisco over time.
- Work with fellow City agencies, including SF Environment, Public Works, the Port, Real Estate, Recreation and Parks, and more to develop Biodiversity Design Guidelines applicable to multiple types, scales, and ownership of landscape-supportive surfaces; e.g., open spaces, plazas, sidewalks, roofs, yards, building facades.
- Collaborate with agency partners, such as SFMTA, Public Works, SFPUC, the Port, and others to leverage public and private investment in public spaces to maximize urban biodiversity and the public's experience of nature daily.

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Since 2014, the Planning Department has directly partnered with SF Environment (and helped convene partner agencies) to assess and develop thoughtful strategies and tools to enhance biodiversity throughout San Francisco. In May 2017, the Commission on the Environment adopted a Biodiversity Resolution to help elevate this global issue within our local public and City communities. A year later, building on the recommendations of the Inter-Agency Biodiversity Working Group, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a Citywide Biodiversity Policy (No. 107-18, co-sponsored by Supervisors Sandra Fewer and Jane Kim). It requests 15 named agencies to

identify and pursue ways to advance biodiversity through their work. In the past weeks, the Airport, Public Library, Port, SFPUC, and TIDA have delivered public commitments and/or adopted resolutions to support biodiversity, and the balance are on track to meet the Board's 12-month resolution deadline. Through its plans, policies, design/project review, tools, and community engagement, the Planning Department has and should continue to help increase City greening (with the right types of plants) to enhance biodiversity, connect the public with nature, and make the city more climate resilient.

REQUIRED COMMISSION ACTION

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission adopt a resolution to support the Citywide biodiversity vision through our work across San Francisco's built environment.

RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT RESOLUTION
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Attachments:

- Exhibit A: DRAFT CPC Resolution
- Exhibit B: Planning Department Biodiversity Survey
- Exhibit C: BOS Citywide Biodiversity Resolution No. 107-18



PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO.

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WHEREAS, biodiversity, defined as the variability among living organisms and the ecological complexes of which they are a part, is essential for thriving and resilient ecosystems, upon which we all depend for food, health and well-being, clean air, and clean water; and,

WHEREAS, biodiversity is in a state of crisis due to habitat loss and climate change, and California is the only global biological diversity hotspot (high concentration of endemic species under threat from humans) in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, 95% of San Francisco's land area is developed, its remaining natural heritage is in a precarious state, our local ecosystem includes a dozen distinct ecological communities and endangered species, and our Climate Action Goals identify city greening as integral to local climate mitigation and adaptation; and,

WHEREAS, in partnership with SF Environment, the San Francisco Planning Department co-leads the citywide biodiversity initiative and inter-agency working group, which helped identify the need to strengthen and co-ordinate citywide policy and planning on behalf of local nature conservation; and,

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2018, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the San Francisco Biodiversity Policy (Resolution No. 107-18) and associated vision: San Francisco is a place where our local biodiversity thrives in climate-resilient ecosystems that integrate healthy native wildlife and plant habitats throughout our city's physical environment, connecting ALL San Franciscans to nature daily and inspiring stewardship of our unique natural heritage in every neighborhood; and,

WHEREAS, along with 14 fellow City Departments, Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 107-18 directs the Planning Department to collaborate, integrate, and implement policies, plans, and tools that amplify biodiversity throughout the built environment and the equitable experience, awareness, and access of nature for all; and,

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 107-18 directs the Planning Department to complete and submit a Biodiversity Survey by October 2018 that summarizes both the Department's current efforts that support biodiversity and future opportunities to better integrate and enhance local biodiversity through its role and work; and,

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 107-18 also directs each of the 15 named agencies to articulate a public commitment to the City's biodiversity vision, such as presenting a resolution to its respective Commission for action; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Department, under the direction of the Planning Commission, is charged with maintaining an extraordinary vision for the physical and social city; fostering exemplary land use, planning, and design controls; improving our surrounding environment; and preserving our unique heritage pursuant to the San Francisco General Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Department, as a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency, reviews projects to evaluate whether they would have a significant effect on biological resources, including, but not limited to, substantial adverse effects to any candidate, sensitive or special status species; and, if such significant effects are found, is obligated to identify appropriate mitigation measures to reduce impacts on biological resources; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Department works with other City agencies, such as San Francisco's Municipal Transportation Agency, Public Works, Public Utilities Commission, and Recreation and Parks Department to ensure that the planning, review, and approvals of private and capital projects align with the intentions of the General Plan, Planning Code, Building Code, Better Streets Plan, Urban Forest Plan, and more; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Planning Department will work internally and with project applicants to support biodiversity throughout the built environment, including:

- Existing Planning Code Section 139 (Standards for Bird Safe Buildings), to best protect local and migratory birds while providing co-benefits to urban design and energy efficiency aims;
- Current Planning Code requirements for greening, such as landscaping and permeability in setbacks (Section 132) and Better Roofs (Section 149), to prioritize native and non-native/non-invasive plants that support habitat as well as water conservation;
- Planning Code sections for rear yards (Section 134), usable open spaces (Section 135), streetscape and pedestrian improvements (Section 138.1), privately owned public open spaces (Section 138), and mid-block alleys (Section 270), to increase biodiversity supportive greening throughout the city; and,

RESOLVED, that the Planning Department will continue to enhance nature in public and private property by applying a biodiversity lens to area plans, major development agreements, public realm plans, the Better Streets Plan, Urban Forest Plan, Residential Design Guidelines, Urban Design Guidelines, and general policies; and,

RESOLVED, that the Planning Department will continue to host the City's SFPlantFinder online tool and provide regular updates as needed to enhance plant palette content and ease of use by staff and the public; and,

RESOLVED, that the Planning Department will continue to support the mapping of critical habitat features in unprotected lands in order to inform the potential for ecological restoration, wildlife corridors, creek daylighting, community gardens, tree planting, and other habitat elements within suitable sites; and,

RESOLVED, that the Planning Department will seek to build staff capacity around these topics across its divisions, in part by supporting relevant staff to attend the City's biodiversity training overview; and,

RESOLVED, that the Planning Department will contribute to the City's efforts to record, monitor, and track the amount and function of its biodiversity supportive greening throughout San Francisco over time; and,

RESOLVED, that the Planning Department will work with fellow agencies, including SF Environment, Public Works, Port, Real Estate, Recreation and Parks, and more to develop Biodiversity Design Guidelines applicable to multiple types, scales, and ownership of landscape-supportive surfaces, such as open spaces, plazas, sidewalks, roofs, yards, and building facades; and,

RESOLVED, that the Planning Department will work with agency partners, such as SFMTA, Public Works, SFPUC, the Port, and others to leverage public and private investment in public spaces to maximize urban biodiversity and the public's experience of nature daily.



SF Environment

Our home. Our city. Our planet.

A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

Mark Farrell
Mayor

Deborah O. Raphael
Director

BASELINE BIODIVERSITY SURVEY: San Francisco Planning Department [October 19, 2018]

Please use this template as a guide for completing your survey.

City Biodiversity Vision

San Francisco is a place where our local biodiversity thrives in climate-resilient ecosystems that integrate healthy native wildlife and plant habitats throughout our city's physical environment, connecting ALL San Franciscans to nature daily and inspiring stewardship of our unique natural heritage in every neighborhood.

WORK PROGRAM (1–5): *Please answer in the Biodiversity Work Program Matrix to follow.*

1. Acknowledge and **celebrate** past and current efforts (programs, initiatives, policies, plans) that support biodiversity.
 - List all relevant programs and initiatives, including some example projects — you can use the five citywide biodiversity goals as a framework. *[see table on page 2]*
 - Highlight those for which your department is particularly proud and/or that tell a good story.
 - Better Roofs Ordinance
 - SF Plantfinder online tool
 - Better Streets Plan
2. Describe how your department will help realize the City's Biodiversity **Vision** through departmental planning and operations. *The Planning Department has the opportunity to both regulate the built environment and connect with projects during the design phase. Through a combination of carefully crafted tools, policies, and potential Planning Code requirements, we can work to make the built environment greener.*
3. Outline ongoing and future departmental and interdepartmental **strategies** and **actions** to best integrate and enhance biodiversity through everyday work. *[see table on page 2]*
 - Identify short-term actions within existing programs that are already planned and funded.
 - Identify new short-term actions within existing programs that would add value to your existing work.
 - Outline long-term strategies (e.g., new initiatives or programs) that you would like to undertake.
 - Enumerate any department-specific biodiversity objectives.

BIODIVERSITY WORK PROGRAM MATRIX

PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES, POLICIES, PLANS, STRATEGIES, ACTIONS		COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES	SAN FRANCISCO BIODIVERSITY GOALS MAPPING				
			Robust Ecosystems	Equitable Experience, Connection	Community Stewardship	Ecological Planning / Biophilic Design	Resilience in a Living City
PAST AND CURRENT EFFORTS	Bird Safe Standards: http://sf-planning.org/standards-bird-safe-buildings	DBI	X			X	
	Better Roofs Ordinance: http://sf-planning.org/san-francisco-better-roofs	SFE, DBI, SFPUC	X	X	X	X	X
	Green Landscaping Ordinance (front set-back landscaping & permeability requirements, street trees, climate appropriate plants): http://default.sfplanning.org/publications_reports/Guide to SF Green Landscaping Ordinance.pdf	PW (today) & SFE, DBI (future)		X	X	X	X
	Better Streets Plan with SDAT oversight (understory/sidewalk landscaping + trees): https://www.sfbetterstreets.org/find-project-types/greening-and-stormwater-management/greening-overview/sidewalk-landscaping/	SFMTA, PW, SFPUC, FUF	X	X	X	X	X
	Green Connections (currently CalAcademy Citizen Science has teamed up with SF Public Library to do bio-blitzes with I-Naturalist app, working to align routes with Green Connections): http://sf-planning.org/green-connections	SFMTA, PW, SFPUC, FUF, SF Public Library, Cal Academy	X	X		X	X
	Rear-Yard requirements and mid-block open spaces (today = % or feet from property line to ensure minimum amount of space, no greening requirements): http://default.sfplanning.org/publications_reports/ZAB_05_Buildable_Area.pdf and http://sf-planning.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=5356		X			X	X
	Usable Open Space requirements (today = development metric, but greening not required), Planning Code 135: http://sf-planning.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=5358			X	X	X	
	Urban Forest Plan, Part 1 (street trees): http://sf-planning.org/urban-forest-plan	PW, FUF	X	X	X	X	X
	SF PlanFinder.org: http://sfplantfinder.org/	SFE, PW, SFPUC, RecPark, FUF	X			X	X
	GIS data base: unprotected lands (not yet public)	(future) RecPark, SFE	X				X
	Urban Design Guidelines: https://sf-planning.org/urban-design-guidelines	DBI, PW		X		X	
	Streetscape + public realm design & planning (parklets, plazas, living alleys): http://sf-planning.org/living-alleys-toolkit and https://groundplaysf.org/	SFMTA, PW, SFPUC, FUF		X	X	X	X

PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES, POLICIES, PLANS, STRATEGIES, ACTIONS		COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES	SAN FRANCISCO BIODIVERSITY GOALS MAPPING				
			Robust Ecosystems	Equitable Experience, Connection	Community Stewardship	Ecological Planning / Biophilic Design	Resilience in a Living City
ONGOING (W/ FLEX OPPORTUNITIES) AND FUTURE EFFORTS	Biodiversity Design Guidelines adoption and implementation through capital projects and major development projects (e.g., waterfront DAs) – expanded to include biophilic design guidelines for vertical development	SFMTA, PW, Port, SFPUC, private-sector designers, ULI	X			X	X
	Better Front Yards (Green Landscape Ordinance implementation: property owner tools/support and enforcement)	SFE, PW, CBOs		X	X	X	X
	Get major developments to invest in public realm landscaping improvements for their full-block, especially to plant existing vacant street tree basins (TDM? Green connections? Better Streets Plan?)	PW, SFMTA, FUF		X	X	X	X
	Streetscape greening along with mobility/transit/Vision Zero investments, including greened protected bikeway buffers (SODA, PC)	SFMTA, PW		X	X	X	X
	Ecological restoration projects wish list as a CEQA mitigation bank? Part of CEQA evaluation of bio-resource thresholds?	SFE, PW, SFMTA, RecPark, SFPUC	X	X	X	X	X
	Creek daylighting projects as part of GHG-reduction efforts (roots) and climate adaptation?	SFPUC, PW, SFMTA, Port	X	X	X	X	X
	Green Connections 2.0 (assess, leverage, position value – continued Citizen Science partnership, ecology guide)	SFMTA, PW, SFPUC, RecPark	X	X	X	X	X
	Living walls (analysis & tools, Better Roofs 2.0? POPOS guidelines? GroundPlay opportunity?)	DBI, PW		X		X	X
	“Green factor”-like program (similar to TDM? Seattle example)	Citywide				X	
	Rear Yard requirement with permeability and greening minimums? (Urban Forest Phase 3? Certified Backyard Habitat program like Portland?)	DBI, SFE	X		X	X	
	Usable Open Space requirement with minimum greening component?	DBI	X	X	X	X	X
	Habitat exchange program (footprint) for new development?	SFE	X	X			X
	General Plan: Urban Design, Transportation, and Safety element updates, and Recreation and Open Space Element Action Plan development	RecPark, SFE, SFMTA	X	X	X	X	X

4. Identify opportunities for **collaboration** with fellow agencies, community partners, and stakeholders that help implement your efforts.
[see table]

- List existing collaborations with other City departments, local NGOs, or other entities.
- List other opportunities that you perceive would add value to your work that supports biodiversity.

5. Explain conflicts, limitations or **resource gaps** that may impede the implementation of your department's biodiversity strategies actions above. *In general, items in the Planning Code are reviewed by a Current Planner as standard procedure. Ongoing enforcement is challenging, especially for existing buildings not seeking new permits. Areas not visible to the public (rear yards) are also a challenge in terms of review and enforcement. Currently plant selection review and enforcement is not conducted by the Planning Department, only SFPUC in terms of stormwater management on roofs and sidewalks, and Public Works for anything public right-of-way.*
6. **STAFF AMBASSADORS:** Identify the **key staff** who will participate in our regular inter-agency biodiversity working group, and who can serve as ambassadors to institutionalize a biodiversity lens in your department culture and work. *The staff below have been participating in a newly convened Intra-Agency Biodiversity Working Group. In addition to seeking ways to better integrate biodiversity into our current work programs, we will be working together to assess the future opportunities the group identified for the previous table (work scope and resource needs) and draft the Planning Commission resolution mentioned below.*

NAME	DIVISION, TEAM	EMAIL	AREAS OF ENGAGEMENT	TIME COMMITMENT	RESOURCE COST
Lisa Fisher	Citywide	Lisa.fisher@sfgov.org	SF Planning Biodiversity PM/lead (including work program with SFE), Sustainable City lead, inter-agency Climate & Resilience team	.15 FTE	
Josh Pollak	EP	Josh.Pollak@sfgov.org	Environmental review (CEQA)		
Sherie George	EP	Sherie.George@sfgov.org	Environmental review (CEQA)		
Paul Chasan	Citywide, CDG	Paul.Chasan@sfgov.org	Streetscape, SDAT		
Patrick Race	Citywide, CDG	Patrick.Race@sfgov.org	Public realm, GroundPlay, POPOS, landscape		
Corey Teague	Compliance	Corey.Teague@sfgov.org	Zoning, compliance		
Trent Greenan	Current/Arch	Trent.Greenan@sfgov.org	Urban design, design review		
Andrew Perry	Current Planning	Andrew.Perry@sfgov.org	Bird safe		
Mike Webster	Citywide, IDG	Michael.Webster@sfgov.org	GIS, data, PlantFinder tool		

7. **COMMUNICATION STRATEGY:** Describe how your department will articulate a **commitment** to the City's Biodiversity Vision, whether via Commission resolution, Commission presentation, official memo or other means, including:
- Next steps for how best to prepare and realize a resolution at your Commission? *Internal work with staff and leadership on fleshing out and prioritizing action items to include in our Planning Commission resolution March 2019 – and any associated funding mentions.*

1 [San Francisco Biodiversity Policy]

2
3 **Resolution establishing local biodiversity as a citywide priority, with a framework for**
4 **interagency collaboration for nature-based initiatives.**

5
6 WHEREAS, Biodiversity is defined as the variability among living organisms and the
7 ecological complexes of which they are a part, including ecosystem diversity and within and
8 between species; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity,
10 biodiversity is essential for thriving and resilient ecosystems, upon which we all depend for
11 food, health and well-being, clean air, and clean water; and

12 WHEREAS, According to Conservation International, our planet's biodiversity is in a
13 state of crisis as species are going extinct at the fastest rate since the dinosaurs; habitat loss
14 is the top driver of extinction, and California is the only one of the world's 35 biological
15 diversity hotspots (high concentrations of endemic species under threat from humans) located
16 in the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, 95% of San Francisco's land area has been developed and its remaining
18 natural heritage is in a precarious state due to the ongoing challenges of invasive species,
19 urban growth, pollutants, the effects of climate change, and other human impacts; and

20 WHEREAS, Our local ecosystems include a dozen distinct ecological communities,
21 hundreds of species of native plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects, and
22 ten federally listed endangered species; and

23 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a rich history of wildland and natural resources
24 management and stewardship in our park, watershed and public trust lands, including our
25 local National and State parks, the City's own Recreation and Parks Department, as well as

1 the many other City Departments that collaborate with communities and non-profit
2 organizations to conserve local biodiversity, connect San Franciscans to nature in the city,
3 and actively create a socially and ecologically resilient city; and

4 WHEREAS, San Francisco's Climate Action Goals of 0-50-100-ROOTS identify city
5 and community greening as integral to local climate mitigation and adaptation, and San
6 Francisco has proven that strong action on climate change is good for the planet and the
7 economy; and

8 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a founding and committed member of the international
9 Wild Cities and Biophilic Cities networks, and the national Cities Connecting Children to
10 Nature project, which all encourage conservation of and connection to nature in cities; and

11 WHEREAS, Over time, the City has built a policy foundation to support local
12 biodiversity, including the General Plan, the Biodiversity Chapter of the Sustainability Plan,
13 and the San Francisco Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights; and

14 WHEREAS, Several San Francisco City Departments have created internal policies
15 that pertain to the conservation of natural resources and support biodiversity, including but not
16 limited, to the Recreation and Park Department's Natural Resources Management Plan, the
17 Public Utilities Water Enterprise Environmental Stewardship Policy, and the Port of San
18 Francisco's Waterfront Land Use Plan; and

19 WHEREAS, An inter-agency biodiversity working group helped identify the need to
20 strengthen and coordinate citywide policy and planning on behalf of local nature conservation,
21 and co-created a citywide biodiversity vision with five supportive goals; and

22 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Commission on the Environment passed Resolution
23 No. 003-17-COE in May 2017, which committed the Department of the Environment to initiate
24 a broad discussion with fellow departments and the public around the following five citywide
25 goals: (1) Biologically Rich Ecosystems: Restore, maintain, and monitor robust and

1 interconnected indigenous habitats, natural areas, open spaces, watersheds, marine
2 ecosystems, and urban forests so that they support a diverse web of life, and mitigate climate
3 change impacts to rare species and communities; (2) Equitable Access, Awareness, and
4 Experience of Nature: Connect all residents, workers, and visitors with nature every day in
5 neighborhood green spaces, parks, and natural habitats; (3) Community and Ecological
6 Stewardship: Empower people and partnerships to promote, cultivate, enjoy, and restore
7 nature in every neighborhood; (4) Ecological Planning and Design: Incorporate biodiverse,
8 purposeful greening into all building and open space development, with a priority on creating
9 diverse habitats for many species of wildlife; (5) Resilience in a Living City: Leverage local
10 natural ecosystems to sequester carbon, conserve water, manage flooding, control pests, and
11 improve air quality to support San Francisco's adaptation into a climate-protected and
12 ecological city; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That in order to further elevate conservation and stewardship of local
14 native species and habitats, the City and County of San Francisco hereby adopts the following
15 citywide biodiversity vision to guide its current and future initiatives, programs, and projects:
16 San Francisco is a place where our local biodiversity thrives in climate-resilient ecosystems
17 that integrate healthy native wildlife and plant habitats throughout our city's physical
18 environment, connecting ALL San Franciscans to nature daily and inspiring stewardship of our
19 unique natural heritage in every neighborhood; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That relevant City Departments (including San Francisco
21 Airport, Animal Care and Control, Children Youth and Families, Municipal Transportation
22 Agency, Planning Department, Port, Public Health Department, Public Library, Public Utilities
23 Commission, Public Works Department, Real Estate Department, and Recreation and Park
24 Department; Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure; and Treasure Island
25 Development Authority) should attend and participate in a regular inter-agency biodiversity

1 working group to collaborate on important ongoing and future initiatives to support biodiversity
2 in San Francisco, including:

3 - Vetting of final citywide biodiversity goals that each department supports through its
4 own operations;

5 - Integration and implementation of City policies, plans, and tools that promote
6 habitat-supportive greening in the built environment, such as Green Connections and the San
7 Francisco Plant Finder and many more;

8 - Pursuit of opportunities to enhance native biodiversity on City-owned lands unless
9 those lands are dedicated to another mandated City use;

10 - Promotion of equitable experience and awareness, and responsible access and
11 stewardship of nature; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That within six months of adoption of Resolution No. 107-18,
13 the departments listed above should each complete a biodiversity survey, per templates
14 provided by the Department of the Environment, which:

15 - Acknowledges and celebrates programs and initiatives that support biodiversity;

16 - Describes how the department will help realize San Francisco's Biodiversity Vision
17 through departmental planning and operations, and potential conflicts or limitations;

18 - Outlines collaborative strategies and actions to best integrate and enhance local
19 biodiversity through everyday work; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That within twelve months of adoption of Resolution
21 No. 107-18, the agencies listed above should each articulate a commitment to San
22 Francisco's Biodiversity Vision, via one of the following methods:

23 - A biodiversity resolution to its respective commission for adoption;

24 - A presentation to its respective commission on the survey results, including key
25 biodiversity strategies and initiatives identified therein;

- 1 - A memo or other official communication to the Department of the Environment (and
2 the Mayor's Office/BOS), reflecting the department's survey results, and biodiversity
3 strategies and initiatives identified therein; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That to support its fellow City Departments, the San Francisco
5 Department of the Environment should:

- 6 - Within 30 days of adoption of Resolution No. 107-18, supply the departments with
7 information on each agency's existing biodiversity programs already catalogued and
8 customizable templates for the biodiversity survey, commission resolution, etc.; and,
9 - Within 30 days of adoption of Resolution No. 107-18, convene the departments to
10 discuss practices and programs that support local biodiversity and review and assist
11 with the process for completing the biodiversity survey; and,
12 - Regularly convene the departments to review progress, share best management
13 practices, provide training, and help identify additional policies and actions as
14 needed; and,
15 - Document, consolidate, and provide a process for regular reporting on inter--
16 departmental progress, opportunities, and resources implications associated with
17 supporting the City's biodiversity vision; and,
18 - Report back to the Board of Supervisors on implementation progress one year after
19 date of adoption of Resolution No. 107-18; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this Resolution should be transmitted to the
21 Directors of all named City Departments, all members of the Board of the Supervisors and the
22 Mayor.



City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 180161

Date Passed: April 17, 2018

Resolution establishing local biodiversity as a citywide priority, with a framework for interagency collaboration for nature-based initiatives.

April 09, 2018 Land Use and Transportation Committee - AMENDED

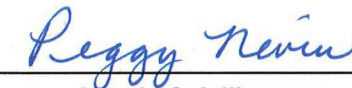
April 09, 2018 Land Use and Transportation Committee - RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED

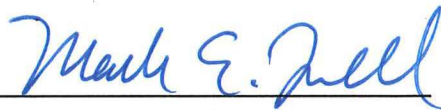
April 17, 2018 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Breed, Cohen, Fewer, Kim, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Sheehy, Stefani,
Tang and Yee

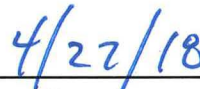
File No. 180161

I hereby certify that the foregoing
Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/17/2018 by
the Board of Supervisors of the City and
County of San Francisco.


for Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board



Mark E. Farrell
Mayor



Date Approved

BIODIVERSITY and the Planning Department

April 11, 2019



AGENDA

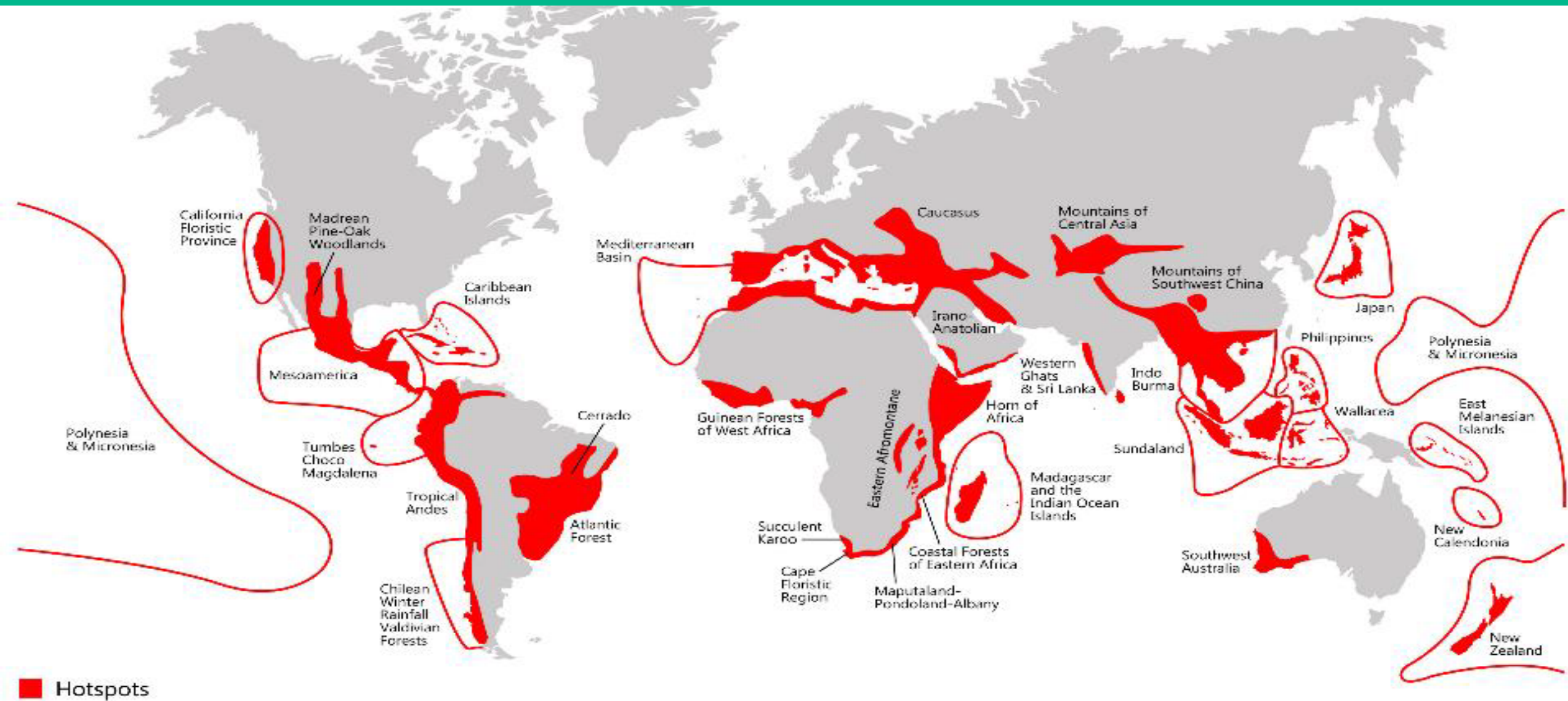
1. Biodiversity, Why Do We Care?
2. San Francisco Biodiversity Policy
3. Planning Department Biodiversity Highlights & Successes
4. Planning Department Opportunities
5. Planning Department Biodiversity Resolution Overview





1. BIODIVERSITY, WHY DO WE CARE?

Global “Hot Spots” -- Significant & Threatened Biodiversity



The Bay Area's Unique Diversity



Today's Biodiversity Remnants



San Francisco's Complex Ecosystem of Species

• Birds	350
• Land Mammals	22
• Reptiles & Amphibians	12
• Butterflies	35
• Bees	150
• Plants	468
○ CA Rare Plants	22
○ Federally Endangered	10



Our Built and Natural Environments



Turning Grey to Green -- and Green to Biodiverse



A photograph of a lush forest scene. In the foreground, several large, gnarled tree trunks are covered in thick, green moss and lichen. The trunks are dark brown and have a rough, textured appearance. The background is filled with a dense canopy of green leaves, creating a vibrant and verdant atmosphere. The lighting is soft and diffused, suggesting a shaded forest environment.

2. SAN FRANCISCO BIODIVERSITY POLICY

City Department Collaboration and Commitment



SF Environment
Our home. Our city. Our planet.



San Francisco
**Water
Power
Sewer**

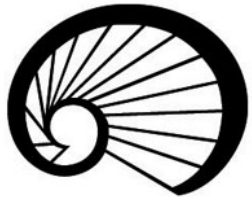
Services of the San Francisco
Public Utilities Commission



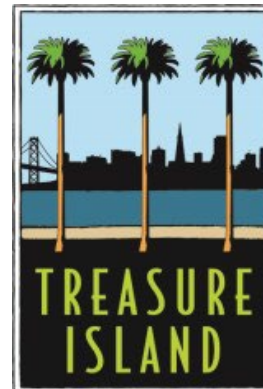
San Francisco
International
Airport



office of
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT
and INFRASTRUCTURE

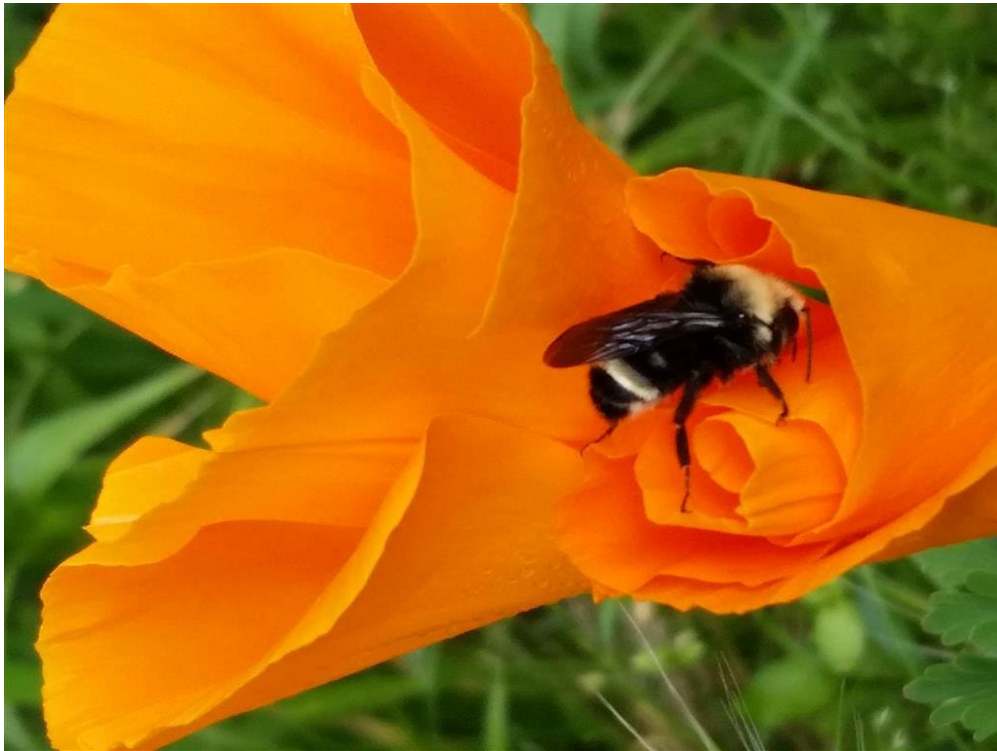


San Francisco Public Library



San Francisco Biodiversity Vision

San Francisco is a place where our local biodiversity thrives in climate-resilient ecosystems that integrate healthy native wildlife and plant habitats throughout our city's physical environment, connecting ALL San Franciscans to nature daily and inspiring stewardship of our unique natural heritage in every neighborhood.



San Francisco BOS Biodiversity Resolution Summary

- Passed unanimously by the Board of Supervisors, April 2018
- Establishes local biodiversity as a citywide priority (vision)
- Posits a framework for robust interagency collaboration for nature
- Requests department-level biodiversity surveys and public commitments for action from 15 City agencies
- Outlines key process elements and tools for moving forward



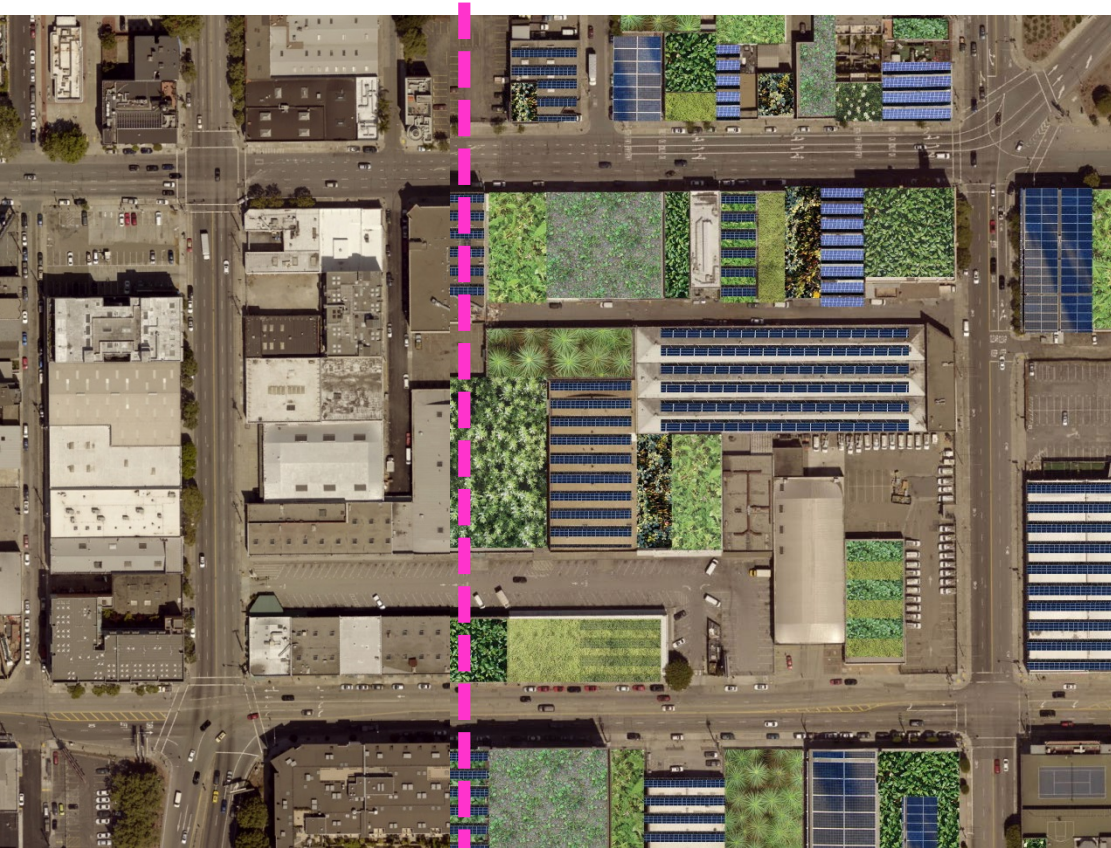


3. PLANNING'S BIODIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Planning Department Biodiversity Survey [October 2018]

EXISTING SUPPORT

- Better Roofs Ordinance & tools
- Central SoMa Plan



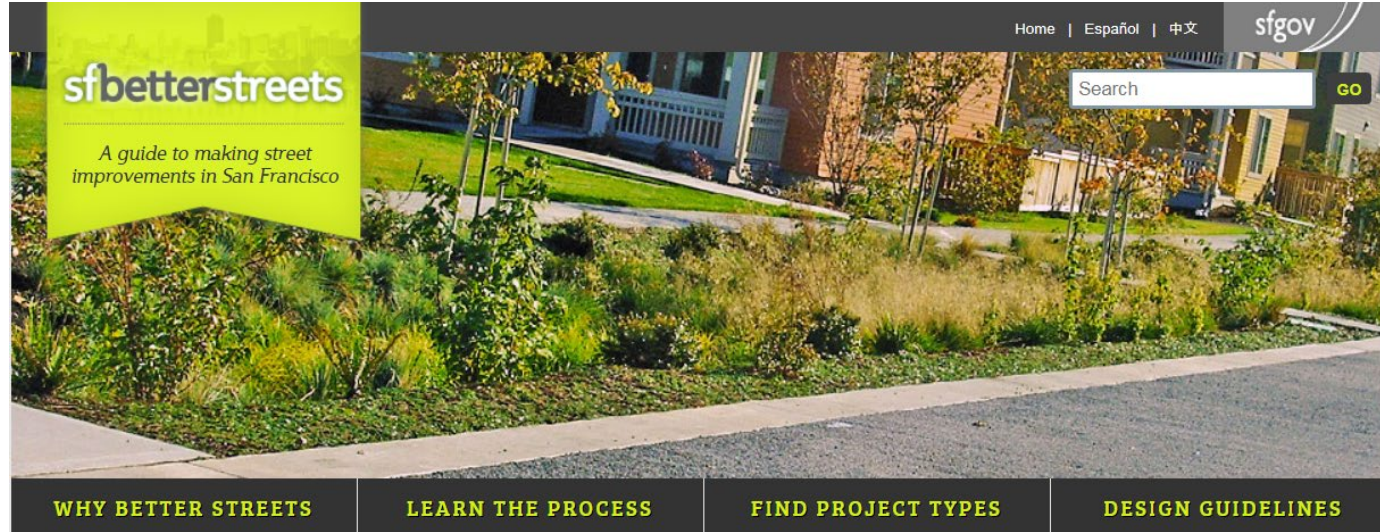
SAN FRANCISCO
**LIVING
ROOF**
MANUAL



MARCH 2016



Planning Department Biodiversity Survey [October 2018]



EXISTING SUPPORT

- Better Streets Plan
- Standards for Bird Safe Buildings
- Urban Design Guidelines & Living Alley Tool Kit



SAN FRANCISCO
PLANNING
DEPARTMENT

DESIGN GUIDE

Standards for Bird-Safe Buildings

THE FACTS

Over 100 million bird deaths annually

Reflective, transparent materials cause hazardous collisions

Birds attempt to reach shelter, food and migratory paths reflected in glass

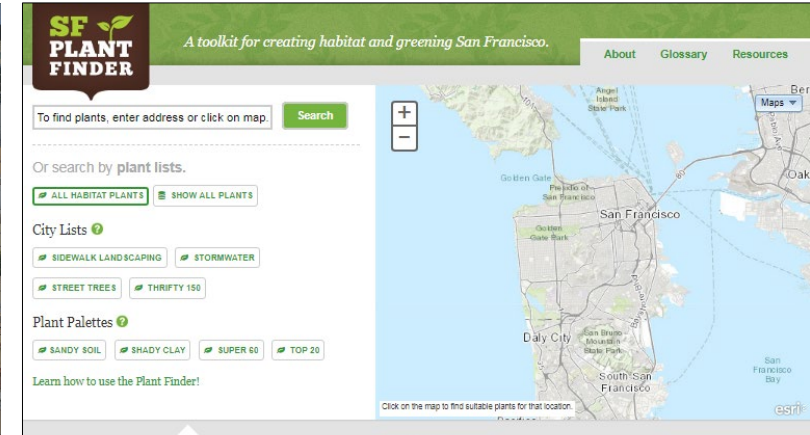


San Francisco
Planning

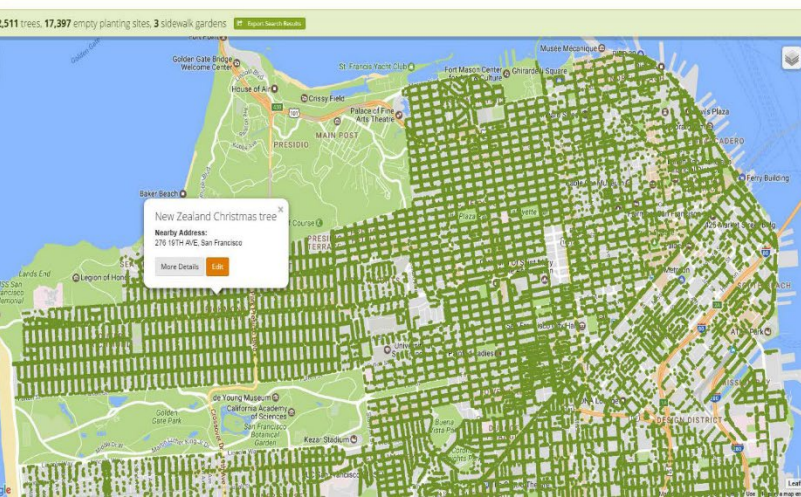
Planning Department Biodiversity Survey [October 2018]

PLANS & TOOLS COORDINATED WITH THE BIODIVERSITY WORK ORDER

- SF PlantFinder
- Urban Forest Plan
- Street Tree Census
- Green Connections



STREET TREE CENSUS - NATIVE TREES ANALYSIS



Native Species

California

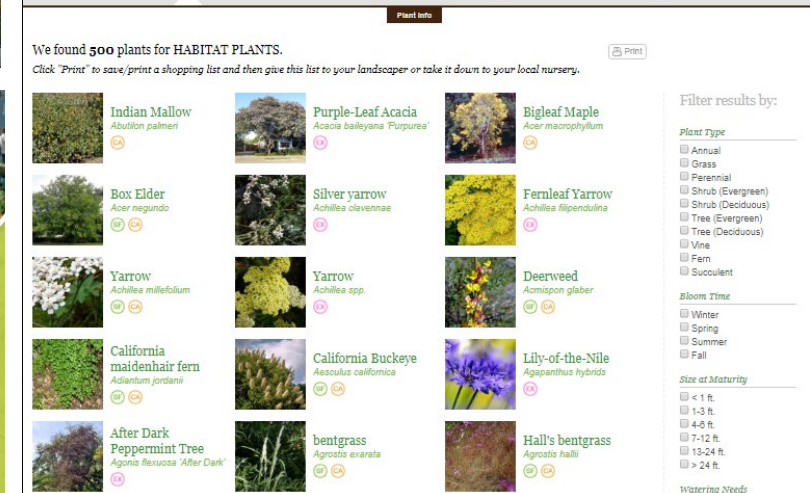
- 62 Species

Bay Area

- 13 species

San Francisco

- 12 species



Planning Department Biodiversity Survey [October 2018]

ONGOING & FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- Biodiversity Design Guidelines
- GIS Unprotected Lands Database
- Better Front Yards
- Public Realm / Streetscape Greening
- Open Space & Rear Yard Factor
- Urban Forest Plan, Part 2 & 3
- Climate Resilience (carbon sequestration & adaptation)
- Ecological corridors & restoration within neighborhood and area planning (Islais Creek, Alemany, waterfront development)





5. PLANNING DEPARTMENT RESOLUTION OVERVIEW

Planning Department & Planning Commission Purview

- Maintain an extraordinary vision for the physical and social city
- Foster exemplary land use, planning, and design controls
- Improve our surrounding environment
- Preserve our unique heritage
- Review impacts to biological resources (CEQA)
- Collaborate with land-owning and implementation agencies



Proposed Resolved Clauses

ENHANCE PLANNING CODE ELEMENTS

- Continue to improve Bird Safe Standards & co-benefits
- Prioritize native and non-native/non-invasive plants in required greening
- Increase City greening through various open space requirements

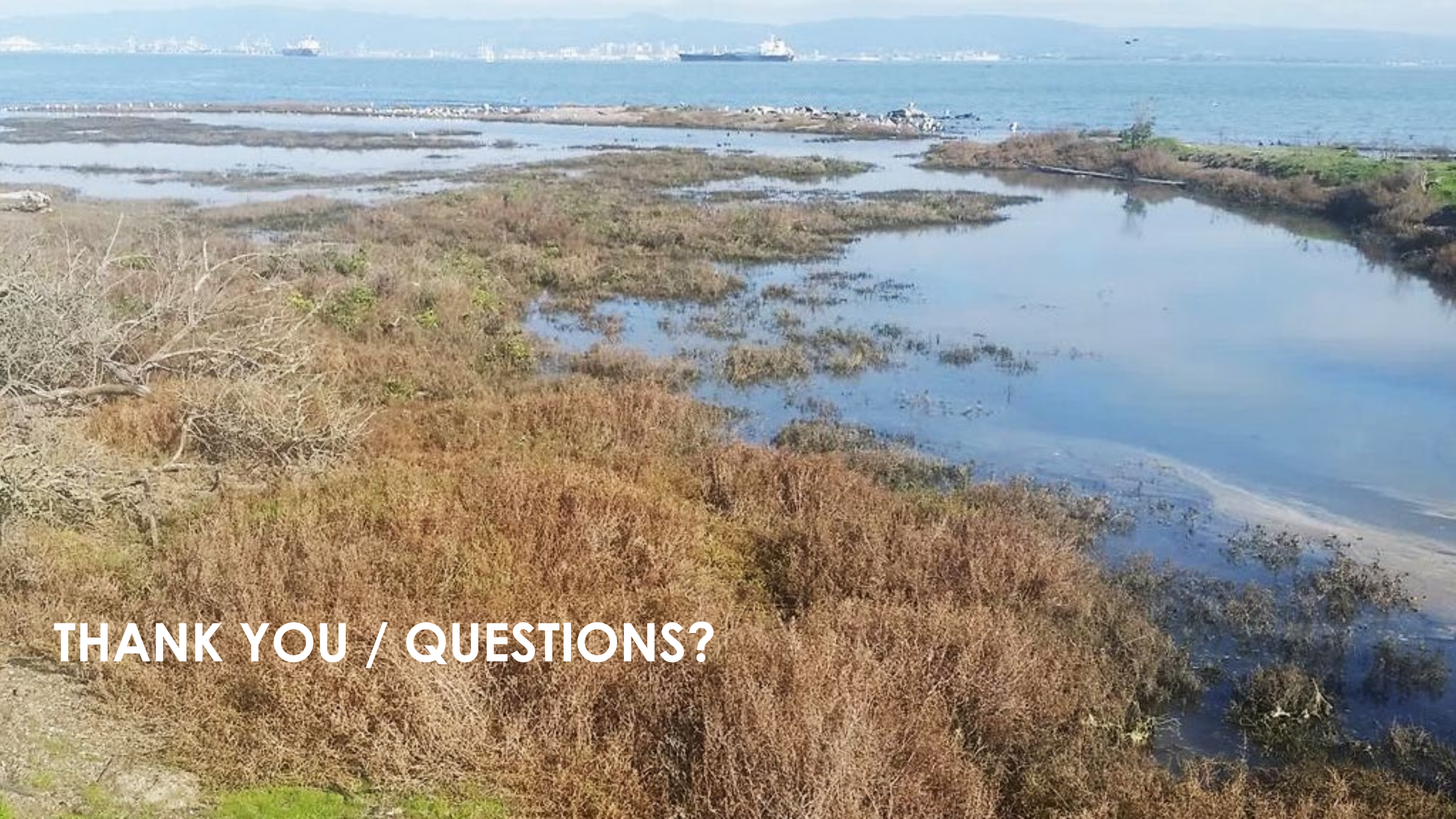
ENABLE & APPLY A BIODIVERSITY LENS

- Staff Biodiversity Training
- Project review and approvals
- Tools: SF PlantFinder, GIS, data

INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

- Biodiversity Design Guidelines
- Commitment to amplify greening





THANK YOU / QUESTIONS?