

Performance Audit of Street Resurfacing and Street Tree Maintenance

October 14, 2021

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Budget & Legislative Analyst's Office



Background

- ❑ BOS Motion M19-108
- ❑ Audit was completed in June 2021
- ❑ 9 Finding Areas covering various aspects of DPW's street resurfacing and StreetTreeSF programs



Street Resurfacing Findings

- ❑ Pavement Condition Across the City
- ❑ Pothole and Patch Paving Service Distribution and Performance Goals
- ❑ Street Resurfacing Change Order Review Process
- ❑ Funding Sustainability for Street Resurfacing



StreetTreeSF Findings

- ❑ StreetTreeSF Baseline Pruning Progress
- ❑ StreetTreeSF Staff Vacancies
- ❑ Geographic Distribution of StreetTreeSF Services
- ❑ Street Tree Canopy Growth and Geographic Distribution
- ❑ StreetTreeSF Data Asset Management Limitations

Baseline Pruning Progress

- StreetTreeSF is not on track to meet its initial program goal
- StreetTreeSF has been unable to being its planned maintenance cycle of proactively maintaining all City street trees every three to five years.
- StreetTreeSF has not publicly established annual goals for tree pruning or sidewalk repair that are reported to the public or the Board of Supervisors
 - No definition of how it measures its success at completing the “worst first” priority keymaps



StreetTreeSF Staff Vacancies

- Key positions have been vacant for extended periods of time
- DPW has held onto the position authority, but reprogrammed the salary savings to contracts for tree pruning and removal work
- Arborist Apprenticeship program has not filled any of its eight positions.



Distribution of Street Tree Services

- Street trees are not evenly distributed across the City
- StreetTreeSF has so far focused on areas with high concentrations of trees to maximize tree activity efficiency



Street Tree Canopy Growth & Distribution

- ❑ San Francisco does not have a dedicated funding source for growing the street tree population

- ❑ The number of new street trees planted each year is not enough to maintain a baseline population of 125,000

- ❑ Street tree population is not evenly distributed
 - No long-term street tree management plan developed



StreetTreeSF Data Asset Management Limitations

- Data asset management systems were not designed for tree maintenance and urban canopy management
- Current systems produce unreliable reports for basic measures of tree and sidewalk work

Questions?

