

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#)
Cc: [BOS-Operations](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [De Asis, Edward \(BOS\)](#); [Entezari, Mehran \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Request to Continue File# 251211 Pending Inquiry
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:59:28 AM
Attachments: [Request for Inquiry - Assemblymember Matt Haney \(Dec 16, 2025\).pdf](#)
[Letter of Inquiry - Supervisor Matt Dorsey \(Jan 27, 2026\).pdf](#)

Hello,

Please see attached and below communication regarding **File No. 251211**:

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

Regards,

John Bullock
Office of the Clerk of the Board
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-5184
BOS@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

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

From: Shaun Aukland <shaun.aukland@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 9:20 AM

To: Melgar, Myrna (BOS) <Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org>; CPC-Commissions Secretary <commissions.secretary@sfgov.org>; Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org>; Dennis Phillips, Sarah (CPC) <sarah.dennis-phillips@sfgov.org>

Cc: Ionin, Jonas (CPC) <jonas.ionin@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Mahmood, Bilal (BOS) <bilal.mahmood@sfgov.org>; Chen, Chyanne (BOS) <chyanne.chen@sfgov.org>; Wong, Alan (BOS) <alan.wong@sfgov.org>; Gluckstein, Lisa (CPC) <lisa.gluckstein@sfgov.org>

Subject: Request to Continue File# 251211 Pending Inquiry

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

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

I am writing on behalf of FairTrees.org to formally request that [File No. 251211](#) (Public Works, Administrative, Planning Codes - Street Trees) be Continued pending two ongoing inquiries into the Department.

It would be legislatively irresponsible for this Committee to vote on expanding the Department of Public Works' authority (by eliminating public appeals) while the Department is currently the subject of two separate, high-level inquiries regarding mismanagement and potential statutory violations.

They are:

1. A city charter inquiry from Supervisor Dorsey. Yesterday, Supervisor Dorsey submitted a formal Letter of Inquiry (LOI). As detailed in the attached document, the Board is now actively investigating:

- Inequitable spending - The potential diversion of grant funds away from priority Environmental Justice communities. This is relevant because the proposed in-leiu fees are to be directed toward undefined "low canopy neighborhoods".
- Potential falsification of data - The administrative closure of over 900 constituent service requests without action.
- Operational failure: The lack of required impact analysis for existing policies that harm Environmental Justice communities (like [Public Works Order 187246](#), issued by Mohammed Nuru).

2. A state law inquiry from California DOJ, recommended by Assemblymember

Haney. Simultaneously, Assemblymember Matt Haney has formally requested an investigation by the California Attorney General regarding the City's potential violation of State Law (SB 1000).

As detailed in the attached letter to the AG, the State is reviewing whether the Department's current policies create "containment zones" that withhold environmental improvements for protected neighborhoods, in violation of state civil rights and environmental justice statutes.

Put together, the conclusion is clear -- the Department of Public Works is currently under scrutiny for potentially failing to execute its *existing* urban forestry duties fairly and legally. This is precisely the wrong moment to remove the public's only remaining check on that power: the right to appeal before an independent Board.

We respectfully urge the Committee to hold this item until the Department has provided the written responses required by the City Charter and resolved the outstanding questions regarding its compliance with State Law.

Thank you,

Shaun Aukland

FairTrees.org

Attachments (please add both to the legislative record for 251211):

- Letter of Inquiry - Supervisor Matt Dorsey (Jan 27, 2026)
- Request for Inquiry - Assemblymember Matt Haney (Dec 16, 2025)

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0017
(916) 319-2017
FAX (916) 319-2117

E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Haney@assembly.ca.gov



DISTRICT OFFICE
455 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, ROOM 14300
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102
(415) 557-3013
FAX (415) 557-3015

December 16, 2025

Rob Bonta, Attorney General of California
1300 "I" Street Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn: Bureau of Environmental Justice

Re: Request for Inquiry into San Francisco's Compliance with SB 1000 and Environmental Justice Protections

Dear Attorney General Bonta, I am writing to bring to your attention serious concerns raised by my constituents in Assembly District 17 regarding the City and County of San Francisco's adherence to state environmental justice laws, specifically Senate Bill 1000. My constituents have provided data-driven analysis suggesting that San Francisco's implementation of its Environmental Justice Framework may be insufficient to meet the state's requirements to reduce health risks in disadvantaged communities. Specifically, they point to a pattern where essential green infrastructure, specifically street trees, is being withheld from Environmental Justice Communities based on subjective criteria such as "survivability" or concerns about vandalism. This practice raises a critical question of whether these neighborhoods are effectively being treated as "containment zones" for environmental and social burdens. By citing existing challenges as a reason to deny new investment, the city risks perpetuating the very inequities that SB 1000 was designed to redress. The consequences of this neglect are stark. Hundreds of tree wells in District 17 sit empty, while federal and local funding explicitly designed for equity is systematically directed to other parts of the city. As a result, residents in these designated disadvantaged census tracts are forced to pay for street trees out-of-pocket, effectively subsidizing the city's failure to provide basic environmental health protections. Furthermore, constituents have documented that the city's Environmental Justice Framework explicitly disclaims being a binding policy document. If accurate, this would undermine the intent of SB 1000 to create enforceable, action-oriented policies. Given these concerns, I respectfully request that the Bureau of Environmental Justice review these claims to ensure that San Francisco is fully compliant with both the letter and the spirit of state environmental justice laws, and that all communities in my district receive the equitable protections they are owed.

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0017
(916) 319-2017
FAX (916) 319-2117

E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Haney@assembly.ca.gov



DISTRICT OFFICE
455 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, ROOM 14300
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(415) 557-3013
FAX (415) 557-3015

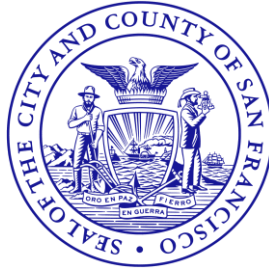
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matt Haney', is written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

Assemblymember Matt Haney
Assemblymember, 17th District

City and County
of San Francisco



Board of Supervisors
Member, District 6

MATT DORSEY

麥德誠

January 27, 2026

Ms. Angela Cavillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, Calif. 94102-4689

Emailed to: Angela.Cavillo@sfgov.org

Letter of Inquiry: Tree Canopy Equity and Resource Allocation in District 6

Dear Madam Clerk,

I submit this Letter of Inquiry (LOI) in accordance with the provisions of San Francisco City Charter § 16.114 governing the Board of Supervisors' power of inquiry and review, to request a response from the Department of Public Works.

I seek clarity regarding the City's implementation of its tree planting, replacement, and maintenance policies, particularly as they relate to South of Market and other neighborhoods in District 6 that have repeatedly been identified as priority geographies for urban forestry investment but continue to experience the lowest levels of tree canopy coverage in San Francisco.

Background

South of Market (SoMa) has long been recognized as an Environmental Justice Community and as one of San Francisco's most heat burdened, park poor, and environmentally overburdened neighborhoods. Multiple City adopted plans and voter approved funding measures identify SoMa as a priority area for tree planting to advance climate resilience, public health, and neighborhood livability.

Despite these stated priorities, a significant body of recent, constituent led research has documented persistent and widening disparities in tree canopy distribution and planting outcomes in SoMa and across District 6. This work is rigorous, data driven, and rooted in a clear commitment to partnership with the City. Importantly, it provides an opportunity for the City to review how its policies, funding frameworks, and operational practices support its stated equity goals, General Plan commitments, and legal obligations under state and local law.

Their research highlights that SoMa continues to have the lowest tree canopy coverage in the City, even as new funding sources intended to advance environmental justice and climate adaptation have been deployed elsewhere. It also documents the cumulative effects of administrative policies that result in empty tree wells, deferred replacements, and the loss of existing canopy in precisely the neighborhoods most in need of investment.

My intent in submitting this Letter of Inquiry is to better understand how decisions are being made, how equity frameworks are operationalized in practice, and how the City can course correct where outcomes do not match intent. I believe Public Works shares the goal of delivering environmental benefits fairly and transparently, and that clarity on these questions will help support that shared objective.

Requests for Information

To that end, I respectfully request written responses to the following questions.

1. Environmental Justice Framework and General Plan Policies: California Senate Bill (SB) 1000 requires that cities and counties adopt policies in their General Plan to address environmental justice¹. In response, the Planning Commission adopted the Environmental Justice Framework in 2023 to establish a clear set of visions and priorities to advance health in communities of color and low-income communities. This was later codified by the Board of Supervisors via Ordinance No. 084-23².

- a. How does the Department operationalize the San Francisco Environmental Justice Framework in tree planting and maintenance decisions, and does it use the City's Environmental Justice Burden Scores to guide or weight resource allocation?
- b. Priority 1.3 of the Environmental Justice Framework calls for developing neighborhood specific targets for tree canopy cover. This echoes a recommendation the Budget and Legislative Analyst made in their 2021 Street Resurfacing Program and StreetTreeSF Program Performance Audit³. Do such targets exist for neighborhoods in District 6, including South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, and Treasure Island? If so, what are those targets? If not, what is the timeline for their creation?

2. Funding Equity and Allocation

- a. In November 2022, San Francisco voters approved Proposition L, which replaced the prior half-cent transportation sales tax under Proposition K. Proposition L funds include support for the planting and establishment of street trees in the public right of way⁴. In November 2023, the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) announced a \$1 million allocation to plant and establish 408 street trees, with weekly watering for three years during the establishment period and lifetime maintenance through Public Works' StreetTreeSF program. Program materials indicate that this investment was intended to prioritize Districts 5, 6, and 10 based on tree census data

¹ https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB1000

² <https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12001161&GUID=CAFD5813-D06C-44FA-9947-D21B10104D18>

³

https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/061421_PA_of_DPW_Street_Resurfacing_Prog_%26_StreetTreeSF%20Prog.pdf

⁴ https://www.sfcta.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/2022_Expenditure_Plan_Clean.pdf

identifying areas with the lowest canopy coverage.⁵ Planning documents subsequently show that, “SFPW [San Francisco Public Works] preliminarily expect[ed] to focus on planting in District 10 based on tree census data, low canopy coverage, and geographic equity”. Can the Department confirm the final locations where these 408 trees were planted and describe the specific criteria and decision-making process that resulted in the final planting strategy?

- b.** In December of last year, the San Francisco County Transportation Authority announced a \$1.1 million allocation of transportation sales tax funds to support the San Francisco Public Works Tree Planting and Establishment Project, which will plant approximately 407 additional street trees. Planting locations were identified and prioritized based on tree census data showing low canopy coverage and heightened exposure to extreme heat and air pollution, as well as equity indicators including Equity Priority Communities and Environmental Justice Communities.⁶ What specific framework, criteria, or scoring methodology did the Department use to translate these data inputs into district level planting decisions, and how did that analysis result in the selection of the final planting locations? Please confirm the final planting locations.
- c.** In September of 2023, San Francisco was awarded \$12 million in federal grant funding to plant and maintain trees⁷. At the time of the announcement, then Mayor London Breed shared that this funding would "strengthen our urban canopy", particularly in neighborhoods like the South of Market, among others. To date, how has the South of Market neighborhood benefited from this funding, including the number and location of trees planted or maintained? Looking ahead, what portion of this funding is planned for investment in SoMa, and what is the anticipated timeline and scope of those future benefits?
- d.** Last year, San Francisco Clean City Coalition was awarded a sole source grant contract in an amount not to exceed \$4,931,307.00 to, in part, plant up to 600

⁵ <https://www.sfcta.org/blogs/prop-l-transportation-sales-tax-investments-bart-fare-gates-tree-planting-vision-zero-and>

⁶ <https://www.sfcta.org/blogs/transportation-sales-tax-funds-cable-cars-trees>

⁷ <https://www.sf.gov/news--san-francisco-awarded-12-million-federal-grant-plant-thousands-new-street-trees-fight-climate>

replacement trees and water 2,400 street trees⁸. How were neighborhoods prioritized for replacement planting and watering under this contract?

3. Discretionary Guidelines

- a.** In a document obtained by my constituents via Public Records Request #25-8453, a document titled "Deferral Criteria from FUF October 2023" appears to describe "criteria for evaluating a resident's tree planting concern and escalating it above the public good, resulting in Friends of the Urban Forest choosing to not plant a basin."⁹ Mentioned in the document is an allowance for deferrals when "a shockout or empty basin is in close proximity to a temporary shelter for unhoused people." Is this deferral criterion an active policy or practice for the Department and/or Friends of the Urban Forest today? What is the origin and rationale for this policy? Do our nonprofit partners or grantees rely on or apply it when making tree planting decisions? Please also clarify whether this criterion has been formally adopted, how it is communicated to residents, and how its use is tracked and reviewed to ensure consistency with the City's equity and environmental justice goals.
- b.** Director's Order 187246, adopted in 2018, outlines how the planting, maintenance, or removal of trees and landscape material on public sidewalk areas are regulated. Section V outlines the requirements for new tree basin construction and dimension and specifies that "No street tree planting will be allowed in sidewalks with a width less than 7'-6". Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis, as approved by Public Works"¹⁰. What are the specific criteria for granting an exception under Section V(B)(ii) and, what is the process for residents to apply for an exception? How many exceptions have been granted since the Order was signed in 2018?
- c.** My constituents have identified more than 130 empty tree wells on streets with a width less than 7'-6". For locations where an exception is not requested or approved per Director's Order 187246, what is Public Works' standard

⁸ https://sfpublicworks.org/sites/default/files/Commissions/May%208%202025/Item_4d%20PWC%20-%20Tree%20Watering%20-%20StaffReport%20Resolution%20Attachments%205-8-25%20v55.pdf

⁹ <https://sanfrancisco.nextrequest.com/documents/55541864>

¹⁰

https://sfpublicworks.org/sites/default/files/187246_Public%20Works%20Director%27s%20Order%20on%20Tree%20Planting_0.pdf

approach to these empty planting sites? Is the default outcome to fill the basin with concrete, or are there alternative treatments or interim solutions available to preserve future planting opportunities?

- d. Was an impact analysis conducted prior to the adoption of Director's Order 187246 to assess how many existing street trees or planting sites would become ineligible for replacement? If so, what were the findings of that analysis? If known, how many planting sites in District 6 were identified as ineligible for replanting following enactment of the Order?

4. Empty Tree Well Backlog

- a. A document obtained by my constituents through Public Records Request No. 25-8280 indicates that Public Works was aware of more than 500 existing empty tree wells in the South of Market neighborhood¹¹. Is this figure still accurate? If not, please provide the current number. What specific plan and timeline does the Department have to address and fill these empty tree wells?
- b. My constituents have informed me that more than 900 empty tree well requests were closed by the Department on December 4 and 5, 2025, with the closure reason cited as "Planned Maintenance." Please elaborate on what this means and provide the specific capital project codes and funding sources assigned to these locations. If no funded project exists for these sites, please explain the rationale for removing these public reports from the active request queue.
- c. Please provide the number of 311 requests for tree planting by district over the last 12 months. How many of these requests were approved, and what were the primary barriers to approval?

5. Deferred Tree Replacements and Legal Compliance

- a. In January 2022, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance 001 22, amending Public Works Code Article 16 Section 806(a)(6)(c) to require tree replacements within 120 days or inclusion on a Delayed Tree Replacement Report. Please provide the most recent Delayed Tree Replacement Report. If such a report does not exist, please explain.
- b. How does the Department track the replacement of dead or removed trees?

¹¹ <https://sanfrancisco.nextrequest.com/documents/55322029>

6. Public Works Code Article 16: Enforcement and Compliance

- a. Public Works Code Article 16 establishes permitting, replacement, and enforcement requirements for the planting and removal of street trees by parties other than the Department, including obligations tied to development projects. With that framework in mind, after completion of a qualifying development project, what processes does Public Works use to verify compliance with required street tree planting permits, including confirmation that permitted trees have been planted within the required timeframe and in accordance with approved species and locations?
- b. If required trees cannot be planted as permitted due to infrastructure conflicts, site constraints, or other conditions, what is the Department's protocol for modifying permit requirements, approving alternative planting locations, or assessing in lieu fees, and what written findings are required to support such determinations?
- c. Once trees are planted pursuant to a development related permit, how does Public Works ensure that those trees are maintained through establishment, including monitoring survival, enforcing replacement obligations if trees are stolen or fatally damaged, and determining when maintenance responsibility transfers to the Department?
- d. Public Works Code Article 16 Section 808 prohibits the injury or destruction of street trees and requires approved tree protection measures during construction activities. With respect to these requirements, how does the Department monitor and enforce compliance with tree protection requirements throughout the lifecycle of a construction project, including during permitting, active construction, and project close-out?
- e. When a violation of Section 808 occurs, how does the Department determine whether the injury or damage resulted from intentional, malicious, or grossly negligent conduct, and what penalties, replacement obligations, or corrective actions are assessed as a result?
- f. How does the Department track violations, assess replacement costs, fines, and penalties associated with tree damage during construction, and does the Department maintain an accounting of these amounts by project or district? How are those funds used?

I appreciate the Department's continued engagement on these issues and look forward to your responses. My goal is to ensure that the City's policies, funding decisions, and operational practices are delivering on our shared commitments to environmental justice, climate resilience, and equitable public investment for the residents of South of Market and all of District 6.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions as you prepare your response.

Should you have questions or require more clarity, you may contact me or my Chief of Staff, Dominica Donovan, Dominica.Donovan@sfgov.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Dorsey", with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

MATT DORSEY

Cc: Carla Short, Director
San Francisco Public Works
Carla.Short@sfdpw.org

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [De Asis, Edward \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [BOS-Operations](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: 6 Letters regarding File No. 251211
Date: Friday, January 23, 2026 9:30:07 AM
Attachments: [6 Letters regarding File No. 251211.pdf](#)

Hello,

Please see attached for 6 letters regarding File No. 251211.

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

Sincerely,

Joe Adkins
Office of the Clerk of the Board
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 554-5184 | Fax: (415) 554-5163
board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

From: [Michael Nulty](#)
To: [Board of Appeals \(PAB\)](#)
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Legislation (File No. 251211)
Date: Sunday, January 11, 2026 8:02:35 PM
Attachments: [File 251211 - Public Comment Ltrs.pdf](#)

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January 11, 2026

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

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

Dear San Francisco Board of Appeals Members,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appeals have:

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

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

Better alternatives exist now:

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

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

I am available to talk about this more.

Sincerely,

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

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

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

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

Member at [Lower Polk Neighbors](#)

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

Planning Committee Member at District 6 Parks Planning Committee

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

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

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

Former Community Leader at San Francisco Neighborhood Parks Council

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

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

Former Co-Producer at Mi Casa No Es Su Casa

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

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

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

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

Dear Supervisors,

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

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

Regards,

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

Pronouns: he, him, his

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Shaun Aukland
FairTrees.org

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely, Ruby Rieke Mission District

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Shamika Klassen, Alamo Square Neighborhood

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Christine Segalas
District 6 (SOMA)

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely, Anna Papitto, Noe Valley

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Alice Rogers

.....

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

arcomnsf@pacbell.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Abigail Kroch, SoMa resident

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Shalmali Bane, SOMA west neighborhood

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Collin Tharp

Potrero Hill

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

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

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

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

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

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

B. Policy Basis for Appeal Changes:

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

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

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

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

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

D. Impact & Historical Records:

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

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

E. Public Notice & Meeting Compliance:

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

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

Format, Fees, Timelines:

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

Departments/Offices to Search:

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

Barklee Sanders

Technology Consultant

More about me: barkleesanders.com

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

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



Hi everyone,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Two Fast Ways To Help:

We need to register opposition to these clauses.

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

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

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

Sincerely, [Your Name] [Your Neighborhood]

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

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

Best,

Shaun Aukland
FairTrees.org

--

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

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

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

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Josh Jagerman

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

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hardy, Potrero Hill

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

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Amanda Rodriguez

Glen Park resident

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Laurel Myers, SoMA resident

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Andrea Biltagi

Tenderloin, 94102

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Frank Lorch
Sunset

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Nikhil Gowda

West SoMa resident and home owner.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Barbara Bagot-López

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

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

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Craig Harrington
Twin Peaks SF

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you, David Singer, SOMA

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

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Teresa Dulalas

Resident - SoMa Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District 6

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Claudia Stern
714 44th Avenue
415 318 6461

Disclaimer

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

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more [Click Here](#).

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

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

Sincerely, [Your Name] [Your Neighborhood]

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Land Use Committee Members,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

--

Theatre District Neighbors

P.O. Box 420846

San Francisco, CA 94142-0846

theatredistrictneighbors@gmail.com

(415) 339-8779

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

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

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

94105 Resident (Rincon Hill / South Beach / SoMa)

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

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

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

Key Reasons for Opposition:

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

like mine where every tree is essential.

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

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

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

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

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

Regards,

The Fong Family

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

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

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

94105 Resident (Rincon Hill / South Beach / SoMa)

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(Urban Forestry PROPOSED Ordinance Changes)
January 8, 2026

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Regards,

The Fong Family

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

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Susan Weisberg

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Land Use Committee Members,

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

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

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Sincerely,

--

Theatre District Neighbors

P.O. Box 420846

San Francisco, CA 94142-0846

theatredistrictneighbors@gmail.com

(415) 339-8779

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

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

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

Sincerely, [Your Name] [Your Neighborhood]

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

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Sincerely,

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From: [Steve Ensminger](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
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Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely, [Your Name] [Your Neighborhood]

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

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

San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

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

Here is the petition they signed:

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

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

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

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

Thank you,

Joshua Klipp

Action Network



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

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

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

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

Thank you,

Joshua Klipp

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. Shawna McGrew (ZIP code: 94122)

8. Robert Hall (ZIP code: 94117)

9. David Romano (ZIP code: 94121)

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

10. Natalia Peschiera (ZIP code: 94110)

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

11. John Mendoza (ZIP code: 94110)

12. Judy Irving (ZIP code: 94133)

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

13. Roz Arbel (ZIP code: 94118)

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

14. Jacqueline Nauman (ZIP code: 94018)

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

15. Nancy Shanahan (ZIP code: 94133)

16. Renee Lazear (ZIP code: 94116)

17. Bridget Maley (ZIP code: 94123)

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

19. Melinda MacNaughton (ZIP code: 94018)

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

20. Courtney Damkroger (ZIP code: 94109)

21. Lisa Arjes (ZIP code: 94122)

22. Laurew Frishman (ZIP code: 94018)

23. Judith Berkowitz (ZIP code: 94110)

24. Dorothy Pasquinelli (ZIP code: 94018)

25. DANIEL MATAROZZI (ZIP code: 94110)

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

26. Angelina Matarozzi (ZIP code: 94110)

27. Charlotte Mooney (ZIP code: 94118)

28. Claire Mills (ZIP code: 94123)

29. Barbara Heffernan (ZIP code: 94123)

Save our trees and stop this nonsense

30. Marie Sorenson (ZIP code: 94110)

31. Karen Breslin (ZIP code: 94127)

32. Janet Monfredini (ZIP code: 94127)

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

33. SHARON HAWLEY (ZIP code: 94110)

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

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

35. John Nulty (ZIP code: 94142)

36. Nancy Federico (ZIP code: 94122)

This is my right! SFRPD is breaking the law!

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

38. Sarah Bellrichard (ZIP code: 94110)

39. Ruth Malone (ZIP code: 94121)

40. Katherine Petrin (ZIP code: 94133)

41. Greg Giachino (ZIP code: 94133)

This move has to be a joke, right?

42. Tomasita Medál (ZIP code: 94122)

43. Lynne Burwell (ZIP code: 94118)

44. Jamie Wong (ZIP code: 94116)

45. Marcus Wong (ZIP code: 94116)

46. Erica Zweig (ZIP code: 94122)

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

47. KEN RACKOW (ZIP code: 94109)

48. Esfir Shrayber (ZIP code: 94122)

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

49. Linda Lawrence (ZIP code: 94804)

Protect our urban canopy!

50. Aaron Goodman (ZIP code: 94127)

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

51. Mark Peters (ZIP code: 94114)

52. Doug Comstock (ZIP code: 94117)

53. Mark Beyer (ZIP code: 94110)

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

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

55. Rita Da Luz (ZIP code: 94114)

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

56. Leslie Smith (ZIP code: 94611)

57. Patricia Taber (ZIP code: 94114)

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

58. Elizabeth Kiefling (ZIP code: 94110)

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

59. Mary Anne Giglio (ZIP code: 94018)

60. Rell Sanderson (ZIP code: 94114)

61. Stephanie Peek (ZIP code: 94116)

62. Dinorah Salazar (ZIP code: 94112)

63. peggy huff (ZIP code: 94133)

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

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

64. Steve Wilkerson (ZIP code: 94127)

65. Scott Feeney (ZIP code: 94110)

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

66. kim snead (ZIP code: 94117)

67. Dave Osgood (ZIP code: 94105)

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

We need our right to appeal these misguided decisions.

68. Mahdi Rahimi (ZIP code: 94110)

69. bea manuel (ZIP code: 94112)

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

71. Floriana Spezza (ZIP code: 94122)

72. Maggie Grabmeier (ZIP code: 94110)

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

73. STEVE WARD (ZIP code: 94122)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saratoga: 15-day appeal window for nearby homeowners.

San Luis Obispo: Appeals to Tree Committee.

Santa Monica: Reviews by Urban Forest Task Force.

Pasadena: Standard zoning code appeals for tree protections.

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

75. RADOGO ULUINADAVE (ZIP code: 94102)

76. Tricia Downey (ZIP code: 94122)

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

77. Paula L (ZIP code: 94121)

78. Harold Miller (ZIP code: 94188)

Help us save the trees

79. SUSAN BRYAN (ZIP code: 94102)

80. Gwendalina Carrera (ZIP code: 94044)

We need MORE trees in SF, not fewer.

81. paul wermer (ZIP code: 94115)

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

82. Carol Brownson (ZIP code: 94115)

83. Deborah Gallegos (ZIP code: 94112)

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

84. Belinda Irons (ZIP code: 94105)

Please do not remove trees on Howard St.

85. tom fenwick (ZIP code: 94122)

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

86. Katharine Demgen (ZIP code: 94105)

87. Avrum Shepard (ZIP code: 93291)

88. Matt Laroche (ZIP code: 94122)

89. Carla Schlemminger (ZIP code: 94123)

90. Ann Rubin (ZIP code: 94133)

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

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

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

93. Tony Tantillo (ZIP code: 94105)

94. John Anderson (ZIP code: 94115)

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

95. Cathwrine Dodd (ZIP code: 94131)

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

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

96. Maximilienne Ewalt (ZIP code: 94112)

To: San Francisco Board of Supervisors

From: Maximilienne Ewalt

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

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

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

97. Linda Weiner (ZIP code: 94110)

98. Peter Fortune (ZIP code: 94133)

99. Mearu Takatsu (ZIP code: 94123)

REJECT Mayor Lurie's and

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

100. Elias Berbari (ZIP code: 94116)

101. Catherine Chase (ZIP code: 94111)

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

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

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

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

104. Anna Esquivel (ZIP code: 94116)

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

105. Judi Gorski (ZIP code: 94116)

106. Chandra Frieze (ZIP code: 95476)

107. Barbara Delaney (ZIP code: 94122)

108. Holly Watts (ZIP code: 94116)

109. DOUGLAS ENGMANN (ZIP code: 94109)

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

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

111. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94103)

112. Kerrie Walsh (ZIP code: 94116)

113. Maureen McVerry (ZIP code: 94107)

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

114. Lauren Meredith (ZIP code: 94121)

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

115. Heather Davies (ZIP code: 94116)

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

116. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94122)

117. Laurette Tanner (ZIP code: 94122)

Trees help create the air we breathe

118. Rebecca Robertson (ZIP code: 94105)

119. Jonathan Maguire (ZIP code: 94116)

120. Merrill Randol (ZIP code: 94118)

121. Al hawley (ZIP code: 94118)

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

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

122. Jascenta Napier (ZIP code: 94105)

123. Linda Bartlett (ZIP code: 04115)

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

124. aaron brick (ZIP code: 94134)

125. Margot Garey (ZIP code: 94115)

More, NOT less trees in San Francisco.

126. george williams (ZIP code: 94122)

127. Alan Shaw (ZIP code: 94103)

128. Rosa Maline (ZIP code: 94122)

Trees help to make streets and cities beautiful.

129. Sharon Harrison (ZIP code: 94118)

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

plant more trees

131. Norma Gengler (ZIP code: 94115)

Save our trees!

132. Eric Shackelford (ZIP code: 94116)

133. Karen Auby (ZIP code: 94116)

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

134. Jim Hannah (ZIP code: 94114)

Thanks for bringing this to our attention. More trees

135. Joel Sayre (ZIP code: 94122)

More Trees!

136. Diana Hazas (ZIP code: 94112)

Prioritize trees!!

137. Flannery Alber (ZIP code: 94116)

138. Mary Klipp (ZIP code: 94131)

139. Lance Carnes (ZIP code: 94133)

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

Comments

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

Protect San Francisco Trees!
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

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

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

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

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

To: San Francisco Board of Supervisors
From: Lance Carnes

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please keep current appeal processes in place.

Thank you,
Lance Carnes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

151. Patricia Sur (ZIP code: 94121)

152. Molly Hayden (ZIP code: 94117)

153. Cathy Morgan (ZIP code: 9413)

154. Judy Minton (ZIP code: 94107)

155. Christine Innes (ZIP code: 94107)

156. Alice Cassman (ZIP code: 94117)

Please protect the trees!

157. karen LARSEN (ZIP code: 94107)

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

158. Kelly Vance (ZIP code: 94117)

159. Helen Vander Wende (ZIP code: 94122)

160. Jaimie VanPernis (ZIP code: 94118)

Save the trees!

161. Marguerite Felts (ZIP code: 94112)

162. Nikita Van beek (ZIP code: 94121)

163. James Estey (ZIP code: 94131)

Keep the trees and add a few more.

164. Cade Peterson (ZIP code: 94121)

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

166. Susan Cronin Parano (ZIP code: 94121)

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

167. JOAN M BRONER (ZIP code: 94122)

We need all trees & those trees need to stay!

168. Mara Sohm (ZIP code: 94115)

169. Paul Dohrmann (ZIP code: 94122)

Save trees and make the city more green.

170. Bradley Golden (ZIP code: 94117)

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

171. Kyung Choi (ZIP code: 94116)

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

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

172. Blair Czarecki (ZIP code: 94109)

173. Brian Reyes (ZIP code: 94122)

174. Alan Carpenter (ZIP code: 94114)

175. Carolyn Kincaid (ZIP code: 94112)

176. Sharon Wilensky (ZIP code: 94122)

177. Don Ino (ZIP code: 94121)

Corporate developers cannot have carte blanche in disregarding neighborhood charm.

178. Rasa Moss (ZIP code: 94114)

179. David Kerby (ZIP code: 94114)

180. Michael Rothmann (ZIP code: 94133)

181. Susan Cieutat (ZIP code: 94102)

182. Jen dougherty (ZIP code: 94122)

Please stop destroying our beautiful city

183. Robert Sutton (ZIP code: 94127)

184. Sheila Fischer Kiernan (ZIP code: 94131)

185. Diem Tran (ZIP code: 94105)

186. Rebecca Misner (ZIP code: 94131)

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

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

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

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

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

"_Our planet is trying to tell us something. But we don't seem to be listening. My dear friends, the American Museum of Natural History is the ideal place to make the point: This great museum tells the amazing story of our natural world--the vast forces that have shaped forces on life over billions of years. And Humanity is just one, small blip on the radar. But like the meteors which wiped out the dinosaurs, we are having an outsized impact. In the case of climate, we are not the dinosaurs. We are the meteor. We are not only in danger. We are the danger. But we are also the solution. This world over billions of years humanity is just a small blip. In the case of climate change, we are not the dinosaurs; we are the meteor. We are not in danger: We are the danger... But we are also the solution.

Antonio Guterres
UN Secretary General
June 2024

"When you destroy Mother Nature, you destroy yourself."
Maitreya

189. Scott Simons (*ZIP code: 94107*)

Really, no oversight, we might as well annex San Mateo to get more trees

Whenever I go to another city, the first thing I see is trees, and what a delight that is

Why the uphill struggle for the simplest of beauty and health

Can't we even agree on this?

190. Madhavan Rangaswami (*ZIP code: 94118*)

191. Xenia Rangaswami (*ZIP code: 94115*)

192. Anjali Rangaswami (*ZIP code: 94118*)

193. Paula Katz (*ZIP code: 94116*)

194. Bev Lips (ZIP code: 94121)

195. Irma Lewis (ZIP code: 94107)

To: SF Board of Supervisors

From: Irma Lewis

The current proposals for San Francisco's street trees are disastrous. SF has the smallest urban canopy of any major city in the U.S., and our failure to invest in our City trees has allowed even this small tree canopy to decline. This has direct, measurable health impacts, particularly our most vulnerable. We ask you to not allow Developers to have the choice of planting trees or paying a fee. This will lead to even fewer trees on City streets.

We ask you not to eliminate the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. These appeals, for City projects, don't impede development. They've actually led to innovative results, such as Mission Verde - one of the most innovative City/Community partnerships that resulted in 3x more trees being planted along the Mission District's cultural corridor. Eliminating this right to appeal will result in City projects removing trees en masse without oversight, and will incentivize private developers to persuade the City to remove trees on the taxpayer dime.

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

196. Thomas Herz (ZIP code: 94131)

197. Laura Griffiths (ZIP code: 94131)

198. Eva Daniel (ZIP code: 94115)

199. Lauren Jarrell (ZIP code: 94122)

Please do not allow this legislation to happen. We have already lost so many trees and have a very small urban canopy for a city of our size.

200. Anastasia Glikshtern (ZIP code: 94122)

We need the trees.

And the city is engaged in deforestation - in parks and open spaces. the street trees are under assault too...

201. Jessica Kalafati (ZIP code: 94114)

202. Anton Kalafati (ZIP code: 94114)

203. Raisa Chudnovskaya (ZIP code: 94118)

204. Eugene Bachmanov (ZIP code: 94118)

205. Susanna Klebaner (ZIP code: 94121)

206. Svetlana Savchuk (ZIP code: 94122)

207. Peter Glikshtern (*ZIP code: 94110*)

208. Elizabeth Gould (*ZIP code: 94114*)

209. Benjie Lasseau (*ZIP code: 94109*)

Save the trees please!

210. Michael Goodsmith (*ZIP code: 94109*)

211. Lorraine Petty (*ZIP code: 94115*)

The Lurie/Wong legislation is destructive to our trees, our neighborhoods, and the health of our people, as well as the power of citizens to oversee and overrule developer and government abuse.

212. Galina Gorodetsky (*ZIP code: 94552*)

213. Susan Vaughan (*ZIP code: 94121*)

214. Chrisanne Bradley (*ZIP code: 94131*)

Protect the trees!

215. Tod Elkins (*ZIP code: 94131*)

We must protect our trees in SF!

216. Patrick Villano (*ZIP code: 94117*)

217. Sem Lederman (*ZIP code: 94116*)

218. Janet Kessler (*ZIP code: 94114*)

219. Diana Scott (*ZIP code: 94116*)

Developers, like the MTA, like to cut trees to enable there projects. Planners need to consider the air we breathe as a planning priority. WE NEED OUR RIGHT TO APPEAL bad planning proposals, to insure this!

220. Daniel Detorie (*ZIP code: 94109*)

221. Diane Rivera (*ZIP code: 92011*)

Protect San Francisco Trees

222. Wendy Lowinger (*ZIP code: 94122*)

223. Jason jungreis (*ZIP code: 94121*)

224. Tim Bailey (*ZIP code: 94115*)

225. Sandy Weil (ZIP code: 94116-1160)

226. Dennis Rubenstein (ZIP code: 94110)

We need to protect what few trees we have in our city

227. Michele Liapes (ZIP code: 94109)

228. Christine Patch-Lindsay (ZIP code: 94122)

229. Noel Kelton (ZIP code: 94107)

Ty! And good luck; we need our trees!

230. Linda Zimmerman (ZIP code: 94116)

very unhappy with tree management on all levels in SF. I pay big taxes and feel my opinions should be heard. SF is looking less and less green.

231. judith zimrin (ZIP code: 94133)

we need more trees

232. Robert Heisler (ZIP code: 94116)

Lurie is gradually morphing into his real self: a fellow billionaire developer-enabling Maga republican. He has no regard for the wishes of the majority of the people of San Francisco and now that he is ensconced is steamrolling forward the maga machine in San Francisco.

233. Theresa potente (ZIP code: 94117-1703)

234. Betsy Eddy (ZIP code: 94131)

I feel that removing the public's write to appeal tree removal is a gift to developers and will encourage more developers to put buildings close to sidewalks. Please vote to preserve our green canopy.

235. Bree Brown (ZIP code: 94118-1435)

236. E B (ZIP code: 94110)

237. Carl Wendorf (ZIP code: 94127)

238. Howard Wong (ZIP code: 94133)

239. Claudette Brooks (ZIP code: 94124)

240. Rebecca Diaz (ZIP code: 94116)

241. Laurie Wen (ZIP code: 94110)

242. Carolyn Doran (ZIP code: 94116)

More trees, but maintain the sidewalks. Less parking. People have to wake up to climate change and tree desert pockets of dangerous heat

243. Claudia Kindler (ZIP code: 94112)

244. Erik Greenfrost (ZIP code: 94124)

245. Elaine Chan-Scherer (ZIP code: 94122)

Trees add so much character to the City. They increase property value. They clean the air. Old trees are valuable in ways that touch the soul. Protect the trees!

246. Maureen Gonzalez (ZIP code: 941105913)

247. Andrea Galvin (ZIP code: 94121)

Please protect and expand San Francisco's tree canopy! Trees beautify the city, provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, provide increasingly needed shade in the warmer months (and rain protection in winter, are shown to improve people's mental health and sense of well being, and do more to calm traffic on streets than all the BS Muni is wasting our money on. We should be investing in more trees, not making it easier to chop them down.

248. Kayla Dzurek (ZIP code: 94112)

249. Lucy Hilmer (ZIP code: 94121)

250. Bruce Allen (ZIP code: 94132)

251. Elsa Townsend (ZIP code: 94109)

Remember how bad the air quality gets when forests are burning? Tree canopies provide a vital way of purifying smoky air!

252. Arthur Adams (ZIP code: 94121)

253. Laurie Chaprack (ZIP code: 94116)

254. Carolyn White (ZIP code: 94131)

Trees and green space are critical elements of our city., for the health and well being of all people.

255. Leslie Koelsch (ZIP code: 94114)

256. Roger Underhill (ZIP code: 94132)

257. Kathleen Hallinan (ZIP code: 94147-0124)

258. sara coe (*ZIP code: 94110*)

259. Nadine May (*ZIP code: 94118*)

260. An anonymous signer (*ZIP code: 94133*)

261. Cathryn Lewis (*ZIP code: 94122*)

WE need our trees as they are the key to our health and welfare.....practically and aesthetically.....please protect our city!! WE voted for you Mayor Lurie and now we need to count on you to do the right thing!!

262. Patricia Acosta (*ZIP code: 94114*)

cities need trees! They make a city more beautiful and more livable! And they make our air cleaner. Let's have more oak trees, and thus help the pollinators thrive! this is so important.

263. Michael McCauslin (*ZIP code: 94112*)

San Francisco trees are precious!

264. Nancy Spangler (*ZIP code: 94127*)

Maintain the Green Canopy.

265. Judith Dancer (*ZIP code: 94132*)

Trees are an important part of our ecosystem for breathing and wellbeing. Our ancestors had it right! Keep the trees and stand for beauty!

266. Victoria Duffett (*ZIP code: 94116*)

There has been a shocking - and frankly ugly - amount of tree clearing around the city. I urge restraint from such great swaths of tree removals!

267. Kim Smith (*ZIP code: 94117*)

We need trees.

268. Richard & Gail Manso (*ZIP code: 94109*)

269. Diane Navarro (*ZIP code: 94134*)

Save our trees

270. Gandhia Andrews (*ZIP code: 94132*)

271. Dennis Ainslie (*ZIP code: 94121*)

272. Lois Brady (*ZIP code: 94123*)

273. Denise Selleck (*ZIP code: 94122*)

274. Laure Cleveland (ZIP code: 49770)

Except for the non-native, invasive, fire-hazard, eucalyptus! Please replace them with native trees. Thanks.

275. Helen Strain (ZIP code: 94132)

276. Susan richmond (ZIP code: 94118)

Trees in San Francisco are essential to its beauty and good for wind mitigation, shade, etc. It has taken decades to get them planted (thank you, Friends of the Urban Forest) and must not be destroyed.

277. Ana Malinow (ZIP code: 94117)

278. David Richardson (ZIP code: 94131)

279. Olga Ryerson (ZIP code: 94110)

Don't remove our right to appeal to the Board of Appeals.

280. Bud Ryerson (ZIP code: 94110)

I hope I'm not too late. Please let me know what else I can do.

281. Barbara Kivowitz (ZIP code: 94131)

282. Monika Pietraszek (ZIP code: 94122)

Please protect our tree and tree canopy.

283. Micah Barth-Rogers (ZIP code: 94121)

284. Karla McElroy (ZIP code: 94122)

Pls. Mayor Lurie & Borad of Supervisors don't permit this legislative change. People 1st! Let our voices be heard, it's the democratic thing to do... Karla - SF Resident

285. Stephen McGurin (ZIP code: 94118)

286. Kathleen McCowin (ZIP code: 94116)

Stop cutting down our trees!

287. Herb Leong (ZIP code: 94134)

288. Amy Meyer (ZIP code: 94121)

289. Christine Hall (ZIP code: 94117)

290. Ramona Draeger (ZIP code: 94117)

291. C K (ZIP code: 94044)

292. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94121)

293. Frances Rapoport (ZIP code: 94904)

Our urban environments will slowly become sterile and perhaps toxic without the plants and trees our ancestors flourished with

294. Suzanne Dumont (ZIP code: 94127)

Trees are a critical part of the respiratory health of San Franciscans. Do not allow profit driven developers decide the fate of our precious trees.

295. Tracy Castle (ZIP code: 94131)

296. Wesley Saunders (ZIP code: 94112)

297. Shannon King (ZIP code: 94115)

Trees are absolutely key to the beauty of a city. All you have to do is look at Paris. Their trees are well organized in species and trimmed regularly. We need more trees not less.

298. Gretchen Turner (ZIP code: 94112-1307)

No right to appeal a removal. They could take out beautiful, established trees that are decades old to make for better residential "views", while the rest of us suffer with no shade!

299. Marilyn Tredinnick (ZIP code: 94127)

Trees are so important to our city. Please build our city for the future, not just the present.

300. Barry Hermanson (ZIP code: 94116)

Josh,

Thanks very much for your work on growing and protecting the urban canopy.

Barry

301. James Parke (ZIP code: 94122)

It has been a long hard slog to increase the livability of San Francisco. Key to that is increasing the arboreal canopy for its aesthetics and for the healthy rain capture for our aquifer. More green space equals more healthy clean water to drink. This is not a Trump state, people matter and we want a green haven from real estate seas of concrete.

302. Charles Bush (ZIP code: 94115)

We are rapidly losing our already too small tree canopy.

303. Janie Lucas (ZIP code: 94110)

304. Yolanda Catzalco (ZIP code: 94110)

305. Leslie de Taillandier (ZIP code: 94109)

306. Daniel Strickland (ZIP code: 94114)

Our trees help make San Francisco beautiful and a more desirable place to live and work. We need to protect them.

307. Stephen Gorski (ZIP code: 94116)

308. Jane Bliss (ZIP code: 94117)

309. Kim Russo (ZIP code: 94122-2923)

Please keep our city green. We need trees! They are good for us and the wildlife in our city.

310. Calvin Lau (ZIP code: 94115)

311. Bette Stockton (ZIP code: 94133)

312. David Fairley (ZIP code: 94110)

313. Lisa Signoff (ZIP code: 94122)

Please save our trees!

314. ALEX KRINEY (ZIP code: 94117)

315. Norma Yazbek (ZIP code: 94137)

316. Georges Yazbek (ZIP code: 94127)

317. Dori Yazbek (ZIP code: 94127)

318. Helen Ferentinos (ZIP code: 94114)

Keep trees where they are. And, when possible, add MORE TREES!

319. Dorothy Niccolls (ZIP code: 94121)

320. Connie Begg (ZIP code: 94122)

321. Olena Beyer (ZIP code: 94127-1037)

322. Irene Nishimura (ZIP code: 94102)

Trees help clean the environment of greenhouse gases. We should encourage the planting of trees.

323. Kelly Torres (ZIP code: 94134)

Stop runaway developers!! Our trees matter and so does permitting to build. That's why the system is in place and it should NOT be altered for greedy developers and their supporters

324. Ray Rauen (*ZIP code: 94134*)

325. Erica Chiarucci (*ZIP code: 94122*)

326. James Collector (*ZIP code: 94118*)

Trees are priceless and no policy should result in SF having fewer trees over time.

327. Noa Beharav (*ZIP code: 94127*)

328. Jeanne Choy Tate (*ZIP code: 94110*)

329. Joel VanderWerf (*ZIP code: 94103*)

I have lived for almost 30 years in SoMa, which had nearly zero trees in 1996. Over the years dedicated volunteers have organized plantings and gotten property developers to contribute. We now have much prettier streets, which visitors frequently compliment. This is not about "streamlining". It's about quality of life, city pride, and welcoming visitors.

330. Melinda Dart (*ZIP code: 94112*)

It is wrong to allow developers to deplete our tree canopy. Doing so will degrade our environment all over the city. Please stand up for our right to be connected to nature, birds, life. Don't turn our whole city into a high rise.

331. Marigrace Cohen (*ZIP code: 94116*)

332. elaine benoit (*ZIP code: 94112*)

No, No, No. We need more trees. We need the right to appeal tree removal.. No to developers having trees removed at taxpayers expense.

333. Lisa Platt (*ZIP code: 94123*)

334. Gae Conte (*ZIP code: 94123*)

335. Deborah J. Nosowsky (*ZIP code: 94131*)

336. gene hwang (*ZIP code: 94103*)

337. Ellen Stephens (*ZIP code: 94127*)

338. Denise Chu (*ZIP code: 94134*)

They wiped out all the trees at the dead end of Raymond Ave. Truly disgusted and no notice. It was like a massacre.

339. JoAnn Yates (ZIP code: 94116)

I am particularly annoyed with Supervisor Wong supporting this initiative. D4 may easily have the least number of trees in the city, trees that are extremely important for our health as has been demonstrated by science over and over again. Do not make it easier to remove trees.

340. Kindra Scharich (ZIP code: 94109)

341. Mary Cervantes (ZIP code: 94121)

Please protect the trees!!! For the future wellbeing of humankind.

342. Maria Sousa (ZIP code: 94131)

343. John Ripley (ZIP code: 94110)

344. Doreen Gotelli (ZIP code: 94080)

345. Mary McAllister (ZIP code: 94116)

San Francisco is a cold, windy place, which was treeless prior to settlement. It has been systematically destroying its urban forest for decades. Stop San Francisco's war on trees.

346. Betty Jo Swanson (ZIP code: 94133-2021)

347. Jennifer Cook (ZIP code: 94123)

Mayor Lurie, you must do better for the future of our beautiful city. The city's trees are our reminders of nature's beauty - they aid in our happiness & the planet's well-being.

348. Don Bliss (ZIP code: 94110)

349. Laura Maguire (ZIP code: 94124)

SF already has one of the smallest tree canopies of a major metropolitan area in the US and needs to focus on adding a lot more trees and quickly. With increasingly extreme weather caused by global warming, any measure to streamline the removal of trees, when there is an urgent need to plant trees, would be shortsighted to say the very least. Making it easy to remove trees should not be a priority for this mayor. Please focus on what we urgently need—a much greater tree canopy.

350. Christopher Plaskett (ZIP code: 94110)

351. Diana Gilbert (ZIP code: 94134)

352. Anastasia Yovanopoulos (ZIP code: 94114)

353. Ryan Boswell (ZIP code: 94110)

We need to maintain and grow the green spaces in this city to be able to have healthy, livable streets and communities. Walking down a street lined with trees versus walking down a glass and concrete corridor are wildly different experiences, and a lifeless streetscape makes a neighborhood feel less

welcoming and comfortable. City departments and developers should not have unquestioned power to harm our communities like this.

354. sofia vilsker (ZIP code: 94122)

355. Dan Hasegawa (ZIP code: 94015)

356. Karen Schulkin (ZIP code: 94127)

357. Rupinder Baidwan (ZIP code: 94122-2557)

358. MARLAYNE Morgan (ZIP code: 94109)

359. Nathalie Paven (ZIP code: 94117)

360. Stan Hayes (ZIP code: 94133)

361. Susan Karpenko (ZIP code: 94122)

Trees are essential to keeping our air clean and provide protection and food for wildlife. Progreen!

362. Raphael Stricker (ZIP code: 94127)

363. Margaret Stroad (ZIP code: 94127)

364. Jacqueline Westby (ZIP code: 94112)

365. Mahin Charles (ZIP code: 94110)

366. Patricia Carazo (ZIP code: 94112)

367. Peter Walbridge (ZIP code: 94107)

368. Anna Abeyta (ZIP code: 94112)

Trees are important for the air quality of our city. Please continue to allow citizens to appeal the removal of trees by developers and others that might want to remove trees. Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

369. Barbara Handler (ZIP code: 94110-5112)

PLEASE stop turning SF into Manhattan. YES, we need housing, but throwing up all these ugly, identical looking high rises in pretty & old neighborhoods and then also cutting down the trees ruins the entire character of SF AND is terrible for the climate and our air here.

370. Marilyn Ho (ZIP code: 94134)

Your organization is supposed to save trees one at a time. Right now we are close to the loss of 400

trees in the Park within about 2 years. I don't know how clear cuttings of a glove are possible. I hope your organization can come up with a guideline to relate it to the new Mayor's office. This tree-cutting activity is not limited to McLaren Park. There are alarming numbers of trees being taken down for weak reasons, i.e. fire, safety, and sunlight for future native plants. I have a friend who is a McLaren Collective volunteer who planted a native garden in the park and watched it being neglected and died. Is there a timeline for replanting any of the trees? So far I haven't seen anything.

Climate Change is a real threat and cutting down a large number of trees that's been here for 75 yrs is not a solution. We can stop this madness.
Thank you for your attention.

371. An anonymous signer (*ZIP code: 94107*)

372. Nancy Keane (*ZIP code: 94118-3523*)

We need more trees, not fewer trees! I'd support a new law requiring developers to double the number of existing trees.

373. James Edwards (*ZIP code: 94131*)

374. Amanda Rodriguez (*ZIP code: 94110*)

Trees are vital for all of our health. Please prioritize them!

375. Ronnie Zuckerberg (*ZIP code: 94131*)

376. Carol Faulkner (*ZIP code: 94116*)

377. Megann Sept (*ZIP code: 94110*)

378. Christel Henderson (*ZIP code: 94124*)

379. Rosana Castrillo Diaz (*ZIP code: 94110*)

380. Francisco Beltran (*ZIP code: 94121*)

381. Bill Snyder (*ZIP code: 94121*)

382. Rachel Aloy (*ZIP code: 94118*)

383. Barbara Butler (*ZIP code: 94116*)

Protect San Francisco trees and continue to create a future with more trees!

384. Marc Duffett (*ZIP code: 94116*)

If property owners are required to pay for the upkeep and replacement of sidewalks, then they should at least have the right to appeal the fate of the trees that are so important to the shared character of our neighborhoods and the city at large.

385. Carolyn Shuman (ZIP code: 94127-1128)

386. Lisa Bayan (ZIP code: 94118)

We need trees not concrete.

The public should have a voice

387. Jua Burciaga (ZIP code: 94112)

388. Linda Twigfire (ZIP code: 94107)

389. Gretchen Addi (ZIP code: 94127)

390. Susan Bostrom-Wong (ZIP code: 94121)

I hav planted 6 street trees in San Francisco through Urban Forest. We need more trees in our city. Protect what everyone have now and in the future.

391. Laurie Dunlap (ZIP code: 94115)

We need MORE trees, no fewer. Protect our trees and plant more.

392. Elizabeth Doyle (ZIP code: 94112-1335)

We need more trees in San Francisco, and they should be part of any new planning project. The public should be allowed to appeal when tree removals affect them.

393. laureen bergeron (ZIP code: 94110)

394. shoshanah dobry (ZIP code: 94124)

We need tree canopy for the overall health of the City. If a developer decides to remove a tree then they should pay a \$10K fine/tree & plant the same # of trees in a comparable space before they can move forward on that particular project.

395. Douglas Flinn (ZIP code: 94116)

396. Elizabeth DiMicco (ZIP code: 94127)

397. Steve Lumley (ZIP code: 94127)

398. Thomas Yaussy (ZIP code: 94114)

399. sue denlinger (ZIP code: 94131)

400. Dorothy Ruggles (ZIP code: 94127)

Please do not allow this unchecked and unwarranted tree cutting around the city.

401. Laura Kemp (ZIP code: 94134)

As a neighbor who has been actively involved in helping plant trees in my neighborhood and my street, I am for planting more street trees in our urban areas. Trees are necessary for a healthier environment, our personal and collective wellbeing, and help bring beauty and grace to our concrete spaces. Any proposal to remove the city's urban tree canopy without community input is preposterous and undemocratic. I am strongly opposed. Thank you.

402. stacy thompson (ZIP code: 94117)

403. martin zanfardino (ZIP code: 94133-2957)

404. Dianne Prichard (ZIP code: 94117)

What is their reasoning for God's sake? Partnered with developers? Very suspicious. Especially, if they don't care about input from voters. Cutting down healthy trees in SF is a diminution of lifestyle.

405. Susan Mullaney (ZIP code: 94122)

This is a really horrible loophole for developers that harms the rest of us. Once the sidewalk can't accommodate a tree well the opportunity will never come back. And removing the right to appeal is too totalitarian for our city.

406. Momoko Otani (ZIP code: 94123)

407. Callie Floor (ZIP code: 94117)

408. Michael Rich (ZIP code: 94112)

We need nature.

409. Revel P (ZIP code: 94116)

410. Dory Culver (ZIP code: 94109-2304)

411. Elaine Bonn (ZIP code: 94116)

412. Phillip Battaglia (ZIP code: 94114)

413. Victor Stern (ZIP code: 94127)

414. Margaret Sletteland (ZIP code: 94133)

415. Caroline Strongman (ZIP code: 94122)

416. Debolina Dutta (ZIP code: 94112)

This makes no sense. Why would the city make it less livable by removing and then allowing developers the opportunity to bypass planting trees. There are numerous social, environmental and quality of life benefits that's trees bring.

This is yet another way Mayor Lurie is NOT the people's mayor and rather developers' mayor.

417. Sandy S.Alvarez (ZIP code: 94122)

Please keep our city with lungs and green areas for our overall health.

418. Mitch Dalition (ZIP code: 94117)

419. Darlene Horton (ZIP code: 94107)

Please develop a sustainable plan to maintain and increase trees, even with new developments.

420. Deetje Boler (ZIP code: 94115-4261)

The change to this process that is needed, if any, would be 1) to increase the penalty for any tree removals to the point that there would be fewer proposed and 2) to encourage (maybe even fund) neighborhood residents (perhaps focused on teens?) to foster new plantings on their streets.

421. Debra Levin (ZIP code: 94114)

We need more trees not less- it's crucial to the beauty & health of San Francisco

422. Nathan Lang (ZIP code: 94121)

423. Karen Metro (ZIP code: 94116)

424. Kasia Shopov (ZIP code: 94122)

425. Richard Darrough (ZIP code: 94117)

It's obvious that SF has too few trees.

Good planning will provide them along with the badly needed affordable housing.

426. Kayleigh Henson (ZIP code: 94121)

I find it astounding how little is required of real estate developers for the privilege of doing business in SF and the millions upon millions they reap in profits. Yet for some reason the city seems entirely willing to let them off the hook for even the smallest of benefits. The idea that they can pay a negligible fee so they don't have to plant some trees says something deeply sad about the mayor's priorities. And the developers. And the soul of this city. Who, other than a movie villain, wants fewer trees in urban settings. Please don't move forward with this.

427. Joan Varrone (ZIP code: 94114)

Trees have so many benefits to a tree canopy and we must protect the trees.

428. Laura Burciaga (ZIP code: 94112)

429. Shoshana Lavinghouse (ZIP code: 94118)

430. Dolores Perez Heilbron (ZIP code: 94109)

Please stop these developers from causing further destruction to the natural growth of trees! Thank you.

431. Cindy Navarro (ZIP code: 94112)

432. Regina Sneed (ZIP code: 94109)

There used to be a street tree advisory committee that took the role of protecting our canopy of trees in the city. With climate change we need more trees and green spaces for air quality, reduction of heat etc.

433. Jamie Delman (ZIP code: 94103)

434. Rosemary Booth (ZIP code: 94118)

Never remove the public's right to appeal.

435. Yasuyo Satoh (ZIP code: 94109)

Tokyo is one of the highly populated cities. They still keep trees. They make the city look beautiful and refreshing.

436. Kristap Baltin (ZIP code: 94114)

437. Terry Baum (ZIP code: 94114)

438. Yuko Franklin (ZIP code: 94131)

439. Alessandra Kameron (ZIP code: 94109)

I affirm the importance of retaining the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removal in San Francisco. We have every reason to expect that the number of removed trees would easily eclipse the number that would be planted to replace them. Similarly, we are already losing, due to age and disease, trees that are not being replaced. Giving potentially unrestricted preference to developer dollars will only compound this condition.

440. Janet Freeman (ZIP code: 94121)

441. Cynthia Joe (ZIP code: 94109)

442. Victoria Kirby (ZIP code: 94109)

Trees are so important, especially in a city. We need more trees, not less!

443. Bianca Molgora (ZIP code: 94110)

444. Chris Bunga (ZIP code: 94117)

445. Denise O'Sullivan (ZIP code: 94118)

Trees are beautiful and healing.

446. joyce fishman (ZIP code: 94109)

447. Robin Phillips (ZIP code: 94131)

448. Vera Genkin (ZIP code: 94116)

449. Gail Colombo (ZIP code: 94127)

We need trees, leave them alone. And do not dare to remove the citizen's right to appeal! Fascism has no place in America.

450. Sophia Andary (ZIP code: 94121)

451. David Eldred (ZIP code: 94122)

We need trees and the PUBLIC right to make policy and decisions.

452. Suzanne Smith (ZIP code: 94109)

453. Cathy Cohn (ZIP code: 94122)

454. Karen Tarantola (ZIP code: 94127)

455. Lynn Morgenstern (ZIP code: 94901)

456. iona Ali (ZIP code: 94112)

457. Nancy Edmonson (ZIP code: 94132)

PLANT More Trees! Do Not Cut Them Down. We need green, not dirt.

458. Marlene Tran (ZIP code: 94134)

Given the urgency of global warming and for the beautification of our cities, we must preserve all our precious trees. Never allow the cutting of any grandfather trees!

459. Winnie Tsang (ZIP code: 94134)

Please DON'T cut down any of our beautiful trees in our City. Let them thrive.

460. Hatun Noguera (ZIP code: 94127)

461. Margaret Goeden (ZIP code: 94116)

I oppose this misguided effort to reduce accountability and silence the public, regarding the public's ability to request review of tree removal by the city. Thank you

462. Bronwyn Gundogdu (ZIP code: 94122)

I am very upset with the ongoing removal of trees throughout the city, and very upset with this plan to stop the appeals process re: tree removal. San Francisco is a high density city - and in many areas an ugly tree desert. The Mayor and the Board of Supervisors should be protecting our already scant tree coverage and promoting increased greening of our city.

463. Tony Villa (ZIP code: 94122-2807)

Park and Rec is out of control! They are bleeding the city of money and are poorly run.

464. Mary OConnell (ZIP code: 94123)

465. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94122)

Urban forests keep cities alive in multiple ways.

466. Kyle DeWolfe (ZIP code: 94109)

The State wants more housing, the residents of San Francisco want more trees!

467. Nancy Donnelly (ZIP code: 94121)

Please don't cut the trees down during demolition at the old hospital on Sacramento street! Work around them!! We need them!

468. Heather Estes (ZIP code: 94116)

Of course we need the right to appeal removing trees!

469. Joshua Prieto (ZIP code: 94122)

470. Shamika Klassen (ZIP code: 94115)

471. Savannah Schoelen (ZIP code: 94122)

472. Qian Wan (ZIP code: 94103)

Trees are needed

473. Christine Segalas (ZIP code: 94107)

474. Kristina Cooper (ZIP code: 94107)

What a terrible plan!! We need to PLANT trees not remove them

475. Sebastian Forst (ZIP code: 94114)

476. Samara Laxineta (ZIP code: 94121)

477. Anna Papitto (ZIP code: 94131)

478. Alice Rogers (ZIP code: 94107)

479. Debbie Bowman (ZIP code: 94107)

480. Abigail Kroch (ZIP code: 94107)

481. Rose Arrieta (ZIP code: 94110)

Please don't silence us. Support our planet and our future.

482. Shalmali Bane (ZIP code: 94103)

483. Joseph Barrett (ZIP code: 94127)

484. Collin Tharp (ZIP code: 94107)

485. Adam Lippe (ZIP code: 94122)

486. Elena Giacomani (ZIP code: 94110)

487. Teja Pattabhiraman (ZIP code: 94117)

488. Marisa Johnson (ZIP code: 94115)

Please do not cut down any planted mature trees that can be saved. Takes years with newly planted.

489. Jen Fowler (ZIP code: 94131)

490. Harold Klingsporn (ZIP code: 94109)

Residents need a voice in such changes to liveability

491. W Chan (ZIP code: 94102)

Trees in cities are a great benefit for those who walk or roll. They also beautify our communities and increase real estate values. Keep the trees promised by the developers!

492. Josh Jagerman (ZIP code: 94103)

493. KATINA ANTOINE (ZIP code: 94107)

Respect nature. Leave the trees alone, the community has a right to object this action.

494. Josh Bruck (ZIP code: 94131)

Don't take away the right to appeal the cutting of trees!

495. Rebecca Hardy (ZIP code: 94107)

496. Patrick Monette-Shaw (ZIP code: 94109)

In addition to removing the public's right to appeal tree removals, Mayor Lurie's "Commission Streamlining Task Force" has recommended eliminating the "Urban Forestry Council" completely, and assigning the Forestry Council's oversight duties to the Commission on the Environment — if (a big if) the Environment Commission deigns to take on the oversight functions of the Forestry Council. The Streamlining Task Force also simultaneously recommended taking the Environment Commission out of the City Charter, moving it to the Administrative Code, and converting it from a "regulatory body" to an "advisory body," slapping a three-year sunset date on the Environment Commission, and taking

budget approval authority over the Environment Department away from the Environment Commission. Applying a sunset date opens the door to the Environment Commission being shut down by the Board of Supervisors anytime in the future.

The Urban Forestry Council was created by the Board of Supervisors 22 years ago in July 2003 under the "Precautionary Principle" to manage trees in San Francisco by emphasizing public participation in the preservation and expansion of the urban forest before causing actual environmental harm — including through illegal tree removal and greedy developers avoiding responsibility to protect and expand our urban canopy.

In addition to writing the Board of Supervisors about stopping the Mayor's removal of citizen appeals of tree removals, also consider writing separately to the Board of Supervisors asking them to overturn the Streamlining Task Force's decision to eliminate the Urban Forestry Council and decision to take the Environment Commission out of the City Charter and apply a sunset date to the Environment Commission!

Through public pressure and advocacy, the Streamlining Task Force just overturned its initial decision to eliminate the "Reentry Council," showing public pressure works. Contact the Streamlining Task Force at CommissionStreamlining@sfgov.org to overturn eliminating the Urban Forestry Council too!

After all, any District Supervisor who approves any of the Mayor's tree removal or commission reform "streamlining" goals should face recall from office, just as Joel Engardio was recalled!

— Patrick Monette-Shaw

497. Richie Vasquez (*ZIP code: 94103*)

498. Teresa Palmer (*ZIP code: 94117-1219*)

499. Arthur Paul Cartier (*ZIP code: 94117-1219*)

500. Laurel Myers (*ZIP code: 94107*)

501. Diana Anderson (*ZIP code: 94117*)

Trees give us livability in an increasingly concrete city. They reduce heat in summer, block some wind tunnels and exchange carbon dioxide for oxygen. They take a LONG TIME to GROW- but only an hour to destroy

502. Andrea Biltagi (*ZIP code: 94102*)

503. Frank Lorch (*ZIP code: 94122*)

504. Nicky Trasvina (*ZIP code: 94132*)

Please stop this attack on SF residents, SF trees, and SF birds. San Francisco, as beautiful as it is, still needs our trees for a healthier environment! We also need to follow the law when it comes to protecting our trees from any City department or developer whose intention is to destroy this vital environmental factor that contributes to the health and beauty of San Francisco. What would Saint Francis say ? !

505. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94103)

506. Jayme Kogel (ZIP code: 94103)

507. Paul Giese (ZIP code: 94103)

508. Wendy Oakes (ZIP code: 94117)

He just lost my vote. This is disgusting

509. Norm Ishimoto (ZIP code: 94116-1246)

We have had a Mayten in front of our house since, hmmm, 30 years? From a FUF campaign. SFPW has been erratic at irregular intervals, thankfully infrequent, in its attentions. Wife and I would be highly upset if we came home from shopping and found our Mayten was a stump or badly trimmed.

510. Linda R Miller (ZIP code: 94121)

PLEASE DO NOT CUT DOWN ANY TREES - THE BIRDS NEED THEM FOR MANY REASONS AND PEOPLE NEED BEAUTY AND SHADE.

511. Catherine Valentine (ZIP code: 94127-2143)

512. Nikhil Gowda (ZIP code: 94103)

File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban

513. Daniel Dokovna (ZIP code: 94103)

Protect our trees.

514. Kelly Fitzgerald (ZIP code: 94116)

Plant trees!

515. Zachariah Spellman (ZIP code: 94116)

We need our trees to breathe the breeze.

516. Jake Hanft (ZIP code: 94114)

517. Barbara Save PRATO (ZIP code: 94131-1161)

Save our beautiful native __. I was shocked to see Washington Park without that tree. WHY? Please now replace with a __.

518. Julia Ready (ZIP code: 94114)

Cutting trees to

Improve sidewalks passage - can be replaced with trees that have a better root system.

519. Sybil Meyer (ZIP code: 94131)

SF doesn't need less foliage!

520. Leah Edwards (ZIP code: 94103)

521. Nancy Burrill (ZIP code: 94109-6553)

522. Eric Oesterling (ZIP code: 94115)

523. Carole Issel (ZIP code: 94127-2212)

I was born in San Francisco 82 years ago. The public must have the right to appeal when the City initiates a tree removal. Greenery purifies our air and gives space to our wildlife. Too many trees have been destroyed by the City already. We have to protect them.

524. Loren Jones (ZIP code: 94127)

525. Kasey Rios (ZIP code: 94102)

To be the vibrant world-class city San Francisco aims for we must increase investment in forest canopy.

This means: protecting the trees we have, planting trees proportionate to development and respecting public process.

526. Terence Craig (ZIP code: 94109)

Removing the right to appeal would, of course, streamline new development, but at a considerable cost to beauty of the city. I say keep the right of appeal.

527. David Singer (ZIP code: 94103)

528. Keith Robert Saggars (ZIP code: 94133)

529. Elissa Matross (ZIP code: 94114)

I love trees

530. Shawn Agarwal (ZIP code: 94103)

Trees are a part of our community and neighbors shouldn't be stripped of our rights to advocate for them if necessary to protect them.

531. Annie Pearson (ZIP code: 94121)

Daniel Lurie is just here for the billionaires. Gross.

532. Victoria Isyanova (ZIP code: 94132)

533. Linda Hayashi (ZIP code: 94118)

534. Tom Duffy (ZIP code: 94127)

We need more trees not less. It's terrible what Parks and Rec is doing at Golden Gate Parkl. They took down a healthy 150 year old tree in the middle of Hellman meadow that was joy to behold. They also cut down many of the trees around the meadow. They are denuding Lake Merritt on the side

opposite to Fort Funston.

535. Brian Glennon (*ZIP code: 94132*)

Trees over developers!

536. Philip Schwartz (*ZIP code: 94107*)

537. Maryann Hrichak (*ZIP code: 94117*)

538. Jeanine Hawk (*ZIP code: 94116*)

Trees are an important part of our neighborhoods. Don't let developers buy out.

539. Juliette Hayes (*ZIP code: 94118*)

540. Mahon McGrath (*ZIP code: 94110*)

541. Angela DePaul (*ZIP code: 94133*)

542. Ton-Yun Fang (*ZIP code: 94114*)

543. Ann MacAndrew (*ZIP code: 94112*)

544. Alexander Koodrin (*ZIP code: 94131*)

545. Sebra Leaves (*ZIP code: 94110*)

Why do you want to cut the trees that are sequestering the carbon that would otherwise go into the air and are a major source for cooling our city?

546. Allyson Browne (*ZIP code: 94131*)

547. Marc Brenman (*ZIP code: 94110*)

548. Shelby Morales (*ZIP code: 94015*)

Our trees and green spaces provide immeasurable benefit to the air we breathe and the wild birds and other critters which enrich our lives. They must be responsibly stewarded, not sold out to developers who's primary concern is their bottom line.

549. Poppy Gilman (*ZIP code: 94122*)

From: [Claudia Stern](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Shaun Aukland](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 5:55:14 AM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Claudia Stern
714 44th Avenue
415 318 6461

Disclaimer

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This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by **Mimecast Ltd**, an innovator in Software as a Service (SaaS) for business. Providing a **safer** and **more useful** place for your human generated data. Specializing in; Security, archiving and compliance. To find out

more [Click Here](#).

From: [Tisay Baclay](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Subject: Public Comment – File No. 251211 – Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 4:44:10 PM

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Teresa Dulalas

Resident - SoMa Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District 6

From: [Loren Craig Harrington](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 1:18:47 PM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Craig Harrington
Twin Peaks SF

From: [Barbara Bagot-López](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [FelderStaff](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 10:29:24 AM

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Barbara Bagot-López

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

From: [Nikhil Gowda](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 8:48:53 AM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Nikhil Gowda

West SoMa resident and home owner.

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

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

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

From: [Frank Lorch](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 8:35:02 PM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Frank Lorch
Sunset

From: [Andrea Biltagi](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 7:59:59 PM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Andrea Biltagi

Tenderloin, 94102

From: [Laurel Myers](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 7:46:40 PM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Laurel Myers, SoMA resident

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Amanda Rodriguez

Glen Park resident

From: [Rebecca Hardy](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 6:54:21 PM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hardy, Potrero Hill

From: [Josh Jagerman](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 6:21:25 PM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Josh Jagerman

From: [Collin Tharp](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 5:20:43 PM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Collin Tharp

Potrero Hill

From: [Shalmali Bane](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 4:51:11 PM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Shalmali Bane, SOMA west neighborhood

From: [Abigail Kroch](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 4:35:52 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Abigail Kroch, SoMa resident

From: [Alice Rogers](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 4:21:11 PM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Alice Rogers

.....

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

arcomnsf@pacbell.net

From: [Anna Papitto](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 4:06:40 PM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely, Anna Papitto, Noe Valley

From: [Christine S.](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [DorseyStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 3:56:18 PM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Christine Segalas
District 6 (SOMA)

From: [Shamika Klassen](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 3:31:15 PM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Shamika Klassen, Alamo Square Neighborhood

From: [Ruby Rieke](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 3:30:19 PM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely, Ruby Rieke Mission District

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Shaun Aukland
FairTrees.org

From: [Michael Nulty](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211
Date: Friday, January 2, 2026 11:12:47 AM

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

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

The Alliance for a Better District 6 and many of its affiliate partners are writing in strong opposition to the proposed amendments in File No. 251211, which seek to weaken San Francisco's urban forestry protections by expanding in-lieu fees for street tree planting, exempting accessory dwelling units (ADUs) from planting requirements, eliminating appeals for tree removals by City departments and commissions, and shifting notices to online postings only. These changes prioritize development efficiency over environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the long-term health of our city. San Francisco's tree canopy is already critically low at 13.7%, and these amendments risk further erosion at a time when California grapples with climate change, persistent droughts, and catastrophic wildfires—while the City faces severe budget deficits projected to reach nearly \$1 billion in coming years. Below, we outline key points of opposition, drawing from the ordinance details, comparisons to other California cities, and broader environmental and fiscal concerns.

Key Points of Opposition:

1. Erosion of Mandatory Tree Planting and Immediate Greenery Benefits—Especially Critical Amid Budget Shortfalls:

- The proposal allows any development project to pay an in-lieu fee (currently around \$2,590 per tree) instead of planting required street trees, even when planting is feasible. This shifts from the current system, where waivers are granted only for impossibility, impracticality, or safety issues, and alternatives like sidewalk landscaping are limited.
- Exempting ADUs and Junior ADUs from tree requirements ignores their cumulative impact on urban density. New developments without on-site trees exacerbate urban heat islands, increase storm water runoff, and diminish local biodiversity—issues amplified by California's ongoing drought, which has led to water restrictions and heightened fire risks.
- In recent years, **new development has become one of San Francisco's primary alternative ways new trees get planted**, due to chronic underfunding of city agencies like Public Works' Urban Forestry Bureau. With historic budget deficits—including an \$800 million shortfall addressed in the FY 2025-2026 budget and projections of up to \$1 billion in future cycles—core urban forestry programs face constraints, reductions in

positions, and reliance on grants or voter-set-asides. In-lieu fees, deposited into the Adopt-A-Tree Fund, may fund future plantings but often result in delayed or off-site actions that fail to benefit the immediate community. Expanding these fees risks reducing even this key source of new trees, when we desperately need more planted now, not deferred payments that could be further strained by ongoing fiscal pressures.

2. Elimination of Public Appeals and Reduced Transparency:

- Under existing law, decisions on street tree removals (including hazard trees) by the Department of Public Works (DPW) or other City agencies are appealable first to the DPW Director and then to the Board of Appeals, with robust noticing via postings, newspapers, and notifications to abutters and organizations.
- The amendments make these decisions final and nonappealable, limiting public input and oversight. This is particularly concerning for non-hazard trees, where 15-day objection periods currently allow hearings.
- Replacing newspaper notices with website postings reduces accessibility for non-digital-savvy residents, potentially excluding vulnerable communities.
- In contrast, many other California cities maintain strong appeal processes to ensure accountability:
 - Beverly Hills: Appeals to the Planning Commission (Municipal Code Title 10, Chapter 3).
 - Pacifica: 10-day appeal period to Planning Commission, with further escalation to City Council (Title 4, Chapter 12).
 - Los Altos: 10-day public notification for appeals to City Clerk.
 - Mountain View: Appeals to Urban Forestry Board or City Council within 10 days.
 - Santa Cruz: Appeals to Parks and Recreation Commission for heritage trees.
 - Saratoga: 15-day appeal window for nearby homeowners.
 - San Luis Obispo: Appeals to Tree Committee.
 - Santa Monica: Reviews by Urban Forest Task Force.
 - Pasadena: Standard zoning code appeals for tree protections.
- These models demonstrate that appeals foster community trust and prevent arbitrary removals, unlike the proposed streamlining, which could lead to unchecked tree loss.

3. Exacerbation of Environmental and Climate Challenges:

- San Francisco's urban forest enhances walkability, livability, and sustainability by filtering air pollutants, sequestering carbon, and providing shade—essential amid California's wildfires, which have scorched millions of acres and degraded air quality statewide (e.g., the 2020 fires blanketed the Bay Area in smoke).

- Without mandatory planting, new developments contribute to climate change by increasing heat retention and energy use for cooling, while reducing natural defenses against drought-induced water scarcity.
- Trees clean the air of wildfire particulates and support resilience against extreme weather; removing appeal processes risks hasty removals that diminish this buffer. California needs more trees, not fewer, to combat these interconnected crises—yet this ordinance balances toward developer certainty over ecological necessity.

4. Inconsistency with Broader Policies and Public Welfare:

- The ordinance affirms compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), General Plan, and Planning Code Section 101.1, but these amendments undermine the spirit of sustainability and public welfare findings under Section 302.
- By prioritizing efficiency in development, it overlooks the long-term costs: poorer air quality, higher health risks from heat and pollution, and reduced property values in less green neighborhoods—compounded by budget constraints that already limit proactive planting.
- Alternative landscaping options (e.g., 75 sq ft per waived tree) are insufficient substitutes, as they lack the full ecological benefits of mature trees.

In summary, these amendments threaten to stall progress on expanding San Francisco's meager tree canopy, diminish public participation, reduce a vital source of new plantings amid fiscal challenges, and heighten vulnerability to climate threats. The Alliance for a Better District 6 and many of its affiliate partners urge you to reject File No. 251211 and instead reinforce protections that mandate on-site planting, preserve appeals, and prioritize urban greening. Our city's future depends on robust environmental policies, not shortcuts that favor short-term gains.

Sincerely,

Michael Nulty
Alliance for a Better District 6
Executive Director

Michael Nulty

P.O. Box 420782
San Francisco, CA 94142-0782
(415) 339-8327 - Direct
(415) 339-8779 - Alliance for a Better District 6
<http://abd6.cfsites.org/>

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#)
Cc: [BOS-Operations](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [De Asis, Edward \(BOS\)](#); [Entezari, Mehran \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: 2 Letters Regarding File No. 251211
Date: Tuesday, December 30, 2025 9:37:15 AM
Attachments: [2 Letters Regarding File No. 251211.pdf](#)

Hello,

Please see attached 2 letters regarding **File No. 251211:**

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

Regards,

John Bullock
Office of the Clerk of the Board
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-5184
BOS@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

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

From: [San Francisco Tree Campaign](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments
Date: Friday, December 19, 2025 1:43:02 PM

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Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed amendments in **File No. 251211**, which would weaken San Francisco's urban forestry protections by:

- Allowing developers to satisfy street tree requirements through in-lieu fees or undefined "alternative landscaping,"
- Exempting ADUs and JADUs from tree planting requirements,
- Eliminating the public's right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments and commissions, and
- Replacing existing public notice requirements with online postings only.

Taken together, these changes prioritize administrative convenience over environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the long-term health and resilience of San Francisco.

1. In-Lieu Fees Will Reduce Tree Planting at a Time We Can Least Afford It

San Francisco's tree canopy is critically low—approximately **13–14%**, among the smallest of any major U.S. city. New development has become one of the *primary remaining mechanisms* through which new street trees are planted, largely because City planting capacity is chronically underfunded.

Allowing developers to opt out of planting trees by paying an in-lieu fee (currently ~\$2,600 per tree) will result in **fewer trees planted, full stop**. The fee does not cover the true cost of planting, watering, and replacing trees over their three-year establishment period, nor does it compensate for lost planting opportunities when new frontages are designed to permanently preclude trees.

This shift is especially troubling given the City's ongoing fiscal crisis. With projected deficits approaching **\$1 billion**, Public Works and its Urban Forestry Bureau already lack the operational capacity to convert in-lieu fees into timely, neighborhood-level plantings. Deferred payments do not cool streets, clean air, or support public health.

Exempting ADUs and JADUs further compounds this problem. While small individually, their cumulative impact on density, heat islands, and storm water runoff is significant—particularly in neighborhoods already lacking canopy.

2. Eliminating Appeals for City-Initiated Tree Removals Removes Oversight—Not Red Tape

The proposal to eliminate appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments does **not** meaningfully expedite housing or private development. City-initiated removals are overwhelmingly associated with public works and infrastructure projects, not private construction.

Appeals serve a critical function: they require departments to justify removals publicly and have repeatedly led to **better outcomes**, including:

- Preservation of healthy trees,
- Revised designs that accommodate both infrastructure and canopy,
- Increased replacement ratios, and
- Innovative community partnerships such as **Mission Verde**, which now serves as a model for volunteer-supported tree watering and green jobs.

Removing appeals eliminates one of the City's only effective oversight mechanisms for urban forestry decisions and creates a real risk of abuse—encouraging developers to pressure City agencies to initiate removals on their behalf, at taxpayer expense, with no public recourse.

3. Reduced Public Notice Undermines Transparency and Equity

Replacing established notice requirements with website-only postings will disproportionately exclude residents who lack reliable internet access, have language barriers, or are otherwise disconnected from digital-only processes. Tree removals affect public space, neighborhood health, and climate resilience; they warrant robust, accessible notice and public participation.

Notably, many California cities—including Beverly Hills, Mountain View, Santa Cruz, Pasadena, and others—maintain clear appeal processes for tree removals. San Francisco would be moving *backward* by eliminating them.

4. These Amendments Conflict with Climate, Equity, and Public Health Goals

Urban trees are essential infrastructure. They reduce extreme heat, filter air pollution (including wildfire smoke), manage storm water, support biodiversity, and improve mental and physical health. Weakening planting requirements and oversight contradicts the City's Climate Action Plan, General Plan sustainability goals, and stated equity commitments—particularly as climate impacts intensify statewide.

Conclusion

File No. 251211 risks accelerating canopy loss, reducing public trust, and undermining San Francisco's climate resilience at precisely the wrong moment. I urge you to reject these amendments and instead pursue policies that:

- Preserve mandatory, on-site tree planting whenever feasible,
- Maintain the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals,
- Strengthen—not weaken—public notice requirements, and
- Invest in scalable City–community partnerships that expand planting and watering capacity.

San Francisco needs **more trees, more accountability, and more public engagement**, not fewer of each.

Respectfully submitted,

John Nulty co-chair San Francisco Tree Campaign

<https://sanfranciscotreecampaign.blogspot.com>

From: [Tenderloin Tree Campaign 2004](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211
Date: Friday, December 19, 2025 2:00:37 PM

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Executive Summary and Analysis of Proposed Amendments Affecting San Francisco's Tree Canopy

Overview of Proposed Amendments

The proposed amendments under review in San Francisco include two primary changes:

1. **Street Tree Planting Requirements:** Developers may satisfy street tree planting obligations by either:

- Planting trees,

- Paying an in lieu fee (currently about \$2,590 per tree),

- Or providing alternative landscaping (a vaguely defined option that excludes street trees).

2. **Elimination of Public Appeals:** The public's right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments and commissions to the Board of Appeals would be removed, making such removals final and non appealable.

Key Concerns and Critique

1. Impact on San Francisco's Tree Canopy

Reduction in Actual Tree Planting: Allowing developers to pay fees or provide alternative landscaping instead of planting trees will likely reduce the number of new trees planted. The current in lieu fee barely covers the full cost of planting and maintaining trees, including replacement of dead or damaged trees.

Undefined "Alternative Landscaping": The term is vague and explicitly excludes street trees, which means no guaranteed net gain or even maintenance of the current canopy.

Operational Capacity Limits: The City's Public Works department and its nonprofit partner, Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF), lack sufficient resources and coordination capacity to meet tree planting and maintenance goals effectively.

Watering and Maintenance Challenges: Ongoing watering for about three years after planting is critical but underfunded. The \$19 million annual StreetTreeSF budget is legally restricted to maintenance of existing trees, not planting or watering new ones, limiting successful establishment of new trees.

2. Elimination of Public Appeals for City-Initiated Tree Removals

Loss of Oversight and Accountability: Removing the public’s right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments eliminates an important check on City actions, reducing transparency and public input.

No Real Efficiency Gain: Appeals currently take 6-8 weeks and are not a significant bottleneck to development. Eliminating appeals does not meaningfully expedite projects but removes public scrutiny.

Risk of Corruption and Reduced Public Input: Without appeals, developers might pressure the City to remove trees on public land to avoid scrutiny, shifting costs to taxpayers and reducing transparency.

Context: Importance of Urban Trees in San Francisco

Critical Role of Urban Forests: Urban trees contribute significantly to climate resilience, public health, and social equity by reducing urban heat, improving air quality, and enhancing community well-being.

San Francisco’s Tree Canopy Status: The city’s tree canopy covers about 13.7% of the urban area, one of the smallest among major U.S. cities. Protections mainly cover street trees and significant trees near sidewalks; trees in parks and private yards are largely unregulated.

Historical Policy Changes: Before 2017, property owners maintained street trees, limiting growth due to cost concerns. Proposition E (2017) shifted maintenance responsibility to Public Works with a dedicated budget, but this funding cannot be used for planting or watering new trees, only for maintenance and sidewalk repairs.

Financial and Operational Realities

Aspect	Current Situation	Impact of Proposed Amendments
In Lieu Fee Amount	Approximately \$2,590 per tree, barely covers planting and watering costs	Encourages fee payment over actual planting, reducing canopy growth
Tree Planting Funding	Patchwork, unreliable, mostly volunteer-driven	No new dedicated funding; watering remains a bottleneck
	Limited Public	Increased demand without

Operational Capacity	Works and FUF resources	capacity increase will hinder planting efforts
Public Oversight	Board of Appeals hears appeals on tree removals	Eliminating appeals removes public checks and balances

Answers to Your Specific Questions

What are the proposed alternatives?

Developers can satisfy street tree planting requirements by:

- Planting trees,
- Paying an in lieu fee,
- Or providing “alternative landscaping,” a vaguely defined option that excludes street trees and does not guarantee canopy growth.

How much is the in lieu fee?

The in lieu fee is currently approximately \$2,590 per tree.

What is the current tree canopy percentage?

San Francisco’s urban tree canopy is approximately 13.7%, one of the lowest among major U.S. cities.

Who is FUF?

Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) is a nonprofit partner organization that collaborates with the City’s Public Works department to plant and maintain urban trees in San Francisco. FUF plays a critical role in volunteer-driven tree planting and maintenance efforts but faces resource constraints.

Opposition Points and Broader Concerns

The amendments prioritize development efficiency over environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the long-term health of San Francisco’s urban forest.

Exempting accessory dwelling units (ADUs) from tree planting requirements ignores their cumulative impact on urban density and environmental quality. The elimination of public appeals and reduction of public notices to online postings only reduces transparency and public participation, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and digitally disconnected communities.

Other California cities maintain robust appeal processes for tree removals,

fostering community trust and preventing arbitrary removals. Given San Francisco's budget deficits and climate challenges, weakening tree protections risks exacerbating urban heat islands, storm water runoff, biodiversity loss, and public health issues.

Potential Alternatives and Solutions (Brief Mention)

The document suggests exploring balanced policy solutions that support both expedited development and urban canopy growth.

Possible approaches include:

- Increasing the in lieu fee to reflect true planting and maintenance costs,
- Defining and incentivizing meaningful alternative landscaping that includes canopy benefits,
- Securing dedicated funding for planting and watering new trees,
- Maintaining public appeal rights to ensure transparency and accountability,
- Enhancing operational capacity of Public Works and FUF through increased funding and coordination.

Conclusion

The proposed amendments, as currently drafted, pose significant risks to San Francisco's urban tree canopy by reducing actual tree planting, weakening public oversight, and failing to address critical operational and financial challenges. The elimination of public appeals undermines transparency and accountability without delivering meaningful efficiency gains. A more nuanced and balanced approach is essential to protect and grow San Francisco's urban forest while supporting sustainable development.

The in lieu fee in San Francisco is currently set at approximately **\$2,590 per tree**. This fee is designed to cover the city's estimated cost to plant and water a tree for three years. The rationale behind the fee is to allow developers to pay this amount instead of planting trees directly, with the city then responsible for planting and maintaining trees elsewhere.

However, this fee has been criticized as barely sufficient to cover the full costs involved, including planting, watering, and maintaining the trees over time. Because of this, there is concern that allowing developers to pay the fee instead of planting trees on-site may reduce the overall number of new trees planted and hinder the growth of San Francisco's urban canopy.

The fee is part of a broader discussion about balancing development needs with environmental sustainability and urban forestry goals in the city.

Improving operational capacity for urban tree planting and maintenance in San Francisco involves addressing several key challenges related to resources, coordination, funding, and community engagement. Here are detailed strategies that could enhance the city's ability to effectively plant and maintain its urban forest:

1. Increase Dedicated Funding and Resources

Secure New Funding Streams: Establish dedicated budgets specifically for tree planting and post-planting care (watering, pruning, replacement). Current funds like the \$19 million Street Tree SF budget are restricted to maintenance of existing trees, limiting new planting efforts.

Leverage Grants and Partnerships: Pursue grants from state and federal environmental programs, climate resilience funds, and private foundations to supplement city budgets.

Expand Staffing: Increase the number of trained arborists, horticulturists, and maintenance crews within Public Works and partner organizations like Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF).

2. Enhance Coordination and Project Management

Centralized Urban Forestry Unit: Create or strengthen a dedicated urban forestry division within Public Works with clear responsibility for planting, maintenance, and community outreach.

Cross-Department Collaboration: Improve coordination between Public Works, Recreation and Parks, Planning, and other relevant departments to streamline tree-related projects and avoid duplication or gaps.

Use of Technology: Implement GIS mapping, tree inventory databases, and project management software to track tree locations, health, watering schedules, and maintenance needs efficiently.

3. Improve Watering and Maintenance Capacity

Innovative Watering Solutions: Invest in irrigation infrastructure such as drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and smart watering systems to reduce labor and water use.

Volunteer and Community Programs: Expand volunteer watering programs and community stewardship initiatives, providing training and resources to residents and neighborhood groups.

Contractor Partnerships: Develop long-term contracts with specialized tree care companies to ensure consistent and professional maintenance services.

4. Policy and Regulatory Support

Adjust In Lieu Fees: Increase fees to reflect true costs of planting and maintenance, ensuring funds are sufficient to support operational needs.

Mandate Developer Contributions: Require developers to contribute not only planting fees but also ongoing maintenance funding or services.

Enforce Planting Requirements: Limit or carefully regulate alternatives to tree planting to ensure canopy growth goals are met.

5. Public Engagement and Education

Awareness Campaigns: Educate the public on the importance of urban trees and

how they can participate in planting and maintenance.

Community Partnerships: Collaborate with nonprofits, schools, and neighborhood groups to foster local stewardship and expand capacity.

Summary

Improving operational capacity requires a multifaceted approach combining increased funding, enhanced coordination, technological support, innovative maintenance practices, stronger policies, and active community involvement. These measures will help San Francisco meet its urban forestry goals, ensuring sustainable growth and health of its tree canopy amid development pressures and environmental challenges.

Improving operational capacity for urban tree planting and maintenance in San Francisco involves addressing several key challenges related to resources, coordination, funding, and community engagement. Here are detailed strategies that could enhance the city's ability to effectively plant and maintain its urban forest:

How much funding is needed?

To effectively support San Francisco's urban forestry goals, including planting, watering, maintenance, and staffing, recent estimates indicate that a fully funded citywide urban forestry program would require about \$20 million annually. This level of funding is necessary to overcome current resource constraints and ensure sustainable growth and health of the city's tree canopy.

From: [Wang, Jocelyn \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments
Date: Monday, December 29, 2025 8:40:15 AM

Not sure if you received this.

Best regards,
Jocelyn Wang
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
T: 415.554.7702 | F: 415.554.5163
jocelyn.wang@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

(VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS) To schedule a “virtual” meeting with me (on Microsoft Teams), please ask and I can answer your questions in real time.

Due to the current COVID-19 health emergency and the Shelter in Place Order, the Office of the Clerk of the Board is working remotely while providing complete access to the legislative process and our services

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-----Original Message-----
From: San Francisco Tree Campaign <sfreetreecampaign@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 1:43 PM
To: Board of Supervisors (BOS) <boardofsupervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org>; Iomin, Jonas (CPC) <jonas.iomin@sfgov.org>
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments

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

Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments

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- * Allowing developers to satisfy street tree requirements through in-lieu fees or undefined “alternative landscaping.”
- * Exempting ADUs and JADUs from tree planting requirements,
- * Eliminating the public's right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments and commissions, and
- * Replacing existing public notice requirements with online postings only.

Taken together, these changes prioritize administrative convenience over environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the long-term health and resilience of San Francisco.

1. In-Lieu Fees Will Reduce Tree Planting at a Time We Can Least Afford It

San Francisco's tree canopy is critically low—approximately 13–14%, among the smallest of any major U.S. city. New development has become one of the primary remaining mechanisms through which new street trees are planted, largely because City planting capacity is chronically underfunded.

Allowing developers to opt out of planting trees by paying an in-lieu fee (currently ~\$2,600 per tree) will result in fewer trees planted, full stop. The fee does not cover the true cost of planting, watering, and replacing trees over their three-year establishment period, nor does it compensate for lost planting opportunities when new frontages are designed to permanently preclude trees.

This shift is especially troubling given the City's ongoing fiscal crisis. With projected deficits approaching \$1 billion, Public Works and its Urban Forestry Bureau already lack the operational capacity to convert in-lieu fees into timely, neighborhood-level plantings. Deferred payments do not cool streets, clean air, or support public health. Exempting ADUs and JADUs further compounds this problem. While small individually, their cumulative impact on density, heat islands, and storm water runoff is significant—particularly in neighborhoods already lacking canopy.

2. Eliminating Appeals for City-Initiated Tree Removals Removes Oversight—Not Red Tape

The proposal to eliminate appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments does not meaningfully expedite housing or private development. City-initiated removals are overwhelmingly associated with public works and infrastructure projects, not private construction.

Appeals serve a critical function: they require departments to justify removals publicly and have repeatedly led to better outcomes, including:

- * Preservation of healthy trees,
- * Revised designs that accommodate both infrastructure and canopy,
- * Increased replacement ratios, and
- * Innovative community partnerships such as Mission Verde, which now serves as a model for volunteer-supported tree watering and green jobs.

Removing appeals eliminates one of the City's only effective oversight mechanisms for urban forestry decisions and creates a real risk of abuse—encouraging developers to pressure City agencies to initiate removals on their behalf, at taxpayer expense, with no public recourse.

3. Reduced Public Notice Undermines Transparency and Equity

Replacing established notice requirements with website-only postings will disproportionately exclude residents who lack reliable internet access, have language barriers, or are otherwise disconnected from digital-only processes. Tree removals affect public space, neighborhood health, and climate resilience; they warrant robust, accessible notice and public participation.

Notably, many California cities—including Beverly Hills, Mountain View, Santa Cruz, Pasadena, and others—maintain clear appeal processes for tree removals. San Francisco would be moving backward by eliminating them.

4. These Amendments Conflict with Climate, Equity, and Public Health Goals

Urban trees are essential infrastructure. They reduce extreme heat, filter air pollution (including wildfire smoke), manage storm water, support biodiversity, and improve mental and physical health. Weakening planting requirements and oversight contradicts the City's Climate Action Plan, General Plan sustainability goals, and stated equity commitments—particularly as climate impacts intensify statewide.

Conclusion

File No. 251211 risks accelerating canopy loss, reducing public trust, and undermining San Francisco's climate resilience at precisely the wrong moment. I urge you to reject these amendments and instead pursue policies that:

- * Preserve mandatory, on-site tree planting whenever feasible,
- * Maintain the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals,
- * Strengthen—not weaken—public notice requirements, and
- * Invest in scalable City-community partnerships that expand planting and watering capacity.

San Francisco needs more trees, more accountability, and more public engagement, not fewer of each.

Respectfully submitted,

John Nulty co-chair San Francisco Tree Campaign

<https://sanfranciscotreecampaign.blogspot.com>

<<https://url.avamn.click/s/2401/>> <https://sanfranciscotreecampaign.blogspot.com>____YXAQcNuSniZHO2GmE6bzpiMGMySdU80WY4NimE4ZTU4Y2E1NJMsGGbY2YsYac2Yjs3QFm3q6d0TUZm14GTHZGZAM2YIN0hKYaRmZTHbZThbNjYsYanYsNzY2YDyZmFwQTY4NmcH2WQcYzMcGGM3NWUysMzE4NTp0Q06TGp

From: [Tenderloin Tree Campaign 2004](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211
Date: Friday, December 19, 2025 2:00:36 PM

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

Executive Summary and Analysis of Proposed Amendments Affecting San Francisco's Tree Canopy

Overview of Proposed Amendments

The proposed amendments under review in San Francisco include two primary changes:

1. **Street Tree Planting Requirements:** Developers may satisfy street tree planting obligations by either:

- Planting trees,

- Paying an in lieu fee (currently about \$2,590 per tree),

- Or providing alternative landscaping (a vaguely defined option that excludes street trees).

2. **Elimination of Public Appeals:** The public's right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments and commissions to the Board of Appeals would be removed, making such removals final and non appealable.

Key Concerns and Critique

1. Impact on San Francisco's Tree Canopy

Reduction in Actual Tree Planting: Allowing developers to pay fees or provide alternative landscaping instead of planting trees will likely reduce the number of new trees planted. The current in lieu fee barely covers the full cost of planting and maintaining trees, including replacement of dead or damaged trees.

Undefined "Alternative Landscaping": The term is vague and explicitly excludes street trees, which means no guaranteed net gain or even maintenance of the current canopy.

Operational Capacity Limits: The City's Public Works department and its nonprofit partner, Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF), lack sufficient resources and coordination capacity to meet tree planting and maintenance goals effectively.

Watering and Maintenance Challenges: Ongoing watering for about three years after planting is critical but underfunded. The \$19 million annual StreetTreeSF budget is legally restricted to maintenance of existing trees, not planting or watering new ones, limiting successful establishment of new trees.

2. Elimination of Public Appeals for City-Initiated Tree Removals

Loss of Oversight and Accountability: Removing the public’s right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments eliminates an important check on City actions, reducing transparency and public input.

No Real Efficiency Gain: Appeals currently take 6-8 weeks and are not a significant bottleneck to development. Eliminating appeals does not meaningfully expedite projects but removes public scrutiny.

Risk of Corruption and Reduced Public Input: Without appeals, developers might pressure the City to remove trees on public land to avoid scrutiny, shifting costs to taxpayers and reducing transparency.

Context: Importance of Urban Trees in San Francisco

Critical Role of Urban Forests: Urban trees contribute significantly to climate resilience, public health, and social equity by reducing urban heat, improving air quality, and enhancing community well-being.

San Francisco’s Tree Canopy Status: The city’s tree canopy covers about 13.7% of the urban area, one of the smallest among major U.S. cities. Protections mainly cover street trees and significant trees near sidewalks; trees in parks and private yards are largely unregulated.

Historical Policy Changes: Before 2017, property owners maintained street trees, limiting growth due to cost concerns. Proposition E (2017) shifted maintenance responsibility to Public Works with a dedicated budget, but this funding cannot be used for planting or watering new trees, only for maintenance and sidewalk repairs.

Financial and Operational Realities

Aspect	Current Situation	Impact of Proposed Amendments
In Lieu Fee Amount	Approximately \$2,590 per tree, barely covers planting and watering costs	Encourages fee payment over actual planting, reducing canopy growth
Tree Planting Funding	Patchwork, unreliable, mostly volunteer-driven	No new dedicated funding; watering remains a bottleneck
	Limited Public	Increased demand without

Operational Capacity	Works and FUF resources	capacity increase will hinder planting efforts
Public Oversight	Board of Appeals hears appeals on tree removals	Eliminating appeals removes public checks and balances

Answers to Your Specific Questions

What are the proposed alternatives?

Developers can satisfy street tree planting requirements by:

- Planting trees,
- Paying an in lieu fee,
- Or providing “alternative landscaping,” a vaguely defined option that excludes street trees and does not guarantee canopy growth.

How much is the in lieu fee?

The in lieu fee is currently approximately \$2,590 per tree.

What is the current tree canopy percentage?

San Francisco’s urban tree canopy is approximately 13.7%, one of the lowest among major U.S. cities.

Who is FUF?

Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) is a nonprofit partner organization that collaborates with the City’s Public Works department to plant and maintain urban trees in San Francisco. FUF plays a critical role in volunteer-driven tree planting and maintenance efforts but faces resource constraints.

Opposition Points and Broader Concerns

The amendments prioritize development efficiency over environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the long-term health of San Francisco’s urban forest.

Exempting accessory dwelling units (ADUs) from tree planting requirements ignores their cumulative impact on urban density and environmental quality. The elimination of public appeals and reduction of public notices to online postings only reduces transparency and public participation, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and digitally disconnected communities.

Other California cities maintain robust appeal processes for tree removals,

fostering community trust and preventing arbitrary removals. Given San Francisco's budget deficits and climate challenges, weakening tree protections risks exacerbating urban heat islands, storm water runoff, biodiversity loss, and public health issues.

Potential Alternatives and Solutions (Brief Mention)

The document suggests exploring balanced policy solutions that support both expedited development and urban canopy growth.

Possible approaches include:

- Increasing the in lieu fee to reflect true planting and maintenance costs,
- Defining and incentivizing meaningful alternative landscaping that includes canopy benefits,
- Securing dedicated funding for planting and watering new trees,
- Maintaining public appeal rights to ensure transparency and accountability,
- Enhancing operational capacity of Public Works and FUF through increased funding and coordination.

Conclusion

The proposed amendments, as currently drafted, pose significant risks to San Francisco's urban tree canopy by reducing actual tree planting, weakening public oversight, and failing to address critical operational and financial challenges. The elimination of public appeals undermines transparency and accountability without delivering meaningful efficiency gains. A more nuanced and balanced approach is essential to protect and grow San Francisco's urban forest while supporting sustainable development.

The in lieu fee in San Francisco is currently set at approximately **\$2,590 per tree**. This fee is designed to cover the city's estimated cost to plant and water a tree for three years. The rationale behind the fee is to allow developers to pay this amount instead of planting trees directly, with the city then responsible for planting and maintaining trees elsewhere.

However, this fee has been criticized as barely sufficient to cover the full costs involved, including planting, watering, and maintaining the trees over time. Because of this, there is concern that allowing developers to pay the fee instead of planting trees on-site may reduce the overall number of new trees planted and hinder the growth of San Francisco's urban canopy.

The fee is part of a broader discussion about balancing development needs with environmental sustainability and urban forestry goals in the city.

Improving operational capacity for urban tree planting and maintenance in San Francisco involves addressing several key challenges related to resources, coordination, funding, and community engagement. Here are detailed strategies that could enhance the city's ability to effectively plant and maintain its urban forest:

1. Increase Dedicated Funding and Resources

Secure New Funding Streams: Establish dedicated budgets specifically for tree planting and post-planting care (watering, pruning, replacement). Current funds like the \$19 million Street Tree SF budget are restricted to maintenance of existing trees, limiting new planting efforts.

Leverage Grants and Partnerships: Pursue grants from state and federal environmental programs, climate resilience funds, and private foundations to supplement city budgets.

Expand Staffing: Increase the number of trained arborists, horticulturists, and maintenance crews within Public Works and partner organizations like Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF).

2. Enhance Coordination and Project Management

Centralized Urban Forestry Unit: Create or strengthen a dedicated urban forestry division within Public Works with clear responsibility for planting, maintenance, and community outreach.

Cross-Department Collaboration: Improve coordination between Public Works, Recreation and Parks, Planning, and other relevant departments to streamline tree-related projects and avoid duplication or gaps.

Use of Technology: Implement GIS mapping, tree inventory databases, and project management software to track tree locations, health, watering schedules, and maintenance needs efficiently.

3. Improve Watering and Maintenance Capacity

Innovative Watering Solutions: Invest in irrigation infrastructure such as drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and smart watering systems to reduce labor and water use.

Volunteer and Community Programs: Expand volunteer watering programs and community stewardship initiatives, providing training and resources to residents and neighborhood groups.

Contractor Partnerships: Develop long-term contracts with specialized tree care companies to ensure consistent and professional maintenance services.

4. Policy and Regulatory Support

Adjust In Lieu Fees: Increase fees to reflect true costs of planting and maintenance, ensuring funds are sufficient to support operational needs.

Mandate Developer Contributions: Require developers to contribute not only planting fees but also ongoing maintenance funding or services.

Enforce Planting Requirements: Limit or carefully regulate alternatives to tree planting to ensure canopy growth goals are met.

5. Public Engagement and Education

Awareness Campaigns: Educate the public on the importance of urban trees and

how they can participate in planting and maintenance.

Community Partnerships: Collaborate with nonprofits, schools, and neighborhood groups to foster local stewardship and expand capacity.

Summary

Improving operational capacity requires a multifaceted approach combining increased funding, enhanced coordination, technological support, innovative maintenance practices, stronger policies, and active community involvement. These measures will help San Francisco meet its urban forestry goals, ensuring sustainable growth and health of its tree canopy amid development pressures and environmental challenges.

Improving operational capacity for urban tree planting and maintenance in San Francisco involves addressing several key challenges related to resources, coordination, funding, and community engagement. Here are detailed strategies that could enhance the city's ability to effectively plant and maintain its urban forest:

How much funding is needed?

To effectively support San Francisco's urban forestry goals, including planting, watering, maintenance, and staffing, recent estimates indicate that a fully funded citywide urban forestry program would require about \$20 million annually. This level of funding is necessary to overcome current resource constraints and ensure sustainable growth and health of the city's tree canopy.

From: [San Francisco Tree Campaign](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments
Date: Friday, December 19, 2025 1:43:04 PM

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

Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed amendments in **File No. 251211**, which would weaken San Francisco's urban forestry protections by:

- Allowing developers to satisfy street tree requirements through in-lieu fees or undefined "alternative landscaping,"
- Exempting ADUs and JADUs from tree planting requirements,
- Eliminating the public's right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments and commissions, and
- Replacing existing public notice requirements with online postings only.

Taken together, these changes prioritize administrative convenience over environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the long-term health and resilience of San Francisco.

1. In-Lieu Fees Will Reduce Tree Planting at a Time We Can Least Afford It

San Francisco's tree canopy is critically low—approximately **13–14%**, among the smallest of any major U.S. city. New development has become one of the *primary remaining mechanisms* through which new street trees are planted, largely because City planting capacity is chronically underfunded.

Allowing developers to opt out of planting trees by paying an in-lieu fee (currently ~\$2,600 per tree) will result in **fewer trees planted, full stop**. The fee does not cover the true cost of planting, watering, and replacing trees over their three-year establishment period, nor does it compensate for lost planting opportunities when new frontages are designed to permanently preclude trees.

This shift is especially troubling given the City's ongoing fiscal crisis. With projected deficits approaching **\$1 billion**, Public Works and its Urban Forestry Bureau already lack the operational capacity to convert in-lieu fees into timely, neighborhood-level plantings. Deferred payments do not cool streets, clean air, or support public health.

Exempting ADUs and JADUs further compounds this problem. While small individually, their cumulative impact on density, heat islands, and storm water runoff is significant—particularly in neighborhoods already lacking canopy.

2. Eliminating Appeals for City-Initiated Tree Removals Removes Oversight—Not Red Tape

The proposal to eliminate appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments does **not** meaningfully expedite housing or private development. City-initiated removals are overwhelmingly associated with public works and infrastructure projects, not private construction.

Appeals serve a critical function: they require departments to justify removals publicly and have repeatedly led to **better outcomes**, including:

- Preservation of healthy trees,
- Revised designs that accommodate both infrastructure and canopy,
- Increased replacement ratios, and
- Innovative community partnerships such as **Mission Verde**, which now serves as a model for volunteer-supported tree watering and green jobs.

Removing appeals eliminates one of the City's only effective oversight mechanisms for urban forestry decisions and creates a real risk of abuse—encouraging developers to pressure City agencies to initiate removals on their behalf, at taxpayer expense, with no public recourse.

3. Reduced Public Notice Undermines Transparency and Equity

Replacing established notice requirements with website-only postings will disproportionately exclude residents who lack reliable internet access, have language barriers, or are otherwise disconnected from digital-only processes. Tree removals affect public space, neighborhood health, and climate resilience; they warrant robust, accessible notice and public participation.

Notably, many California cities—including Beverly Hills, Mountain View, Santa Cruz, Pasadena, and others—maintain clear appeal processes for tree removals. San Francisco would be moving *backward* by eliminating them.

4. These Amendments Conflict with Climate, Equity, and Public Health Goals

Urban trees are essential infrastructure. They reduce extreme heat, filter air pollution (including wildfire smoke), manage storm water, support biodiversity, and improve mental and physical health. Weakening planting requirements and oversight contradicts the City's Climate Action Plan, General Plan sustainability goals, and stated equity commitments—particularly as climate impacts intensify statewide.

Conclusion

File No. 251211 risks accelerating canopy loss, reducing public trust, and undermining San Francisco's climate resilience at precisely the wrong moment. I urge you to reject these amendments and instead pursue policies that:

- Preserve mandatory, on-site tree planting whenever feasible,
- Maintain the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals,
- Strengthen—not weaken—public notice requirements, and
- Invest in scalable City–community partnerships that expand planting and watering capacity.

San Francisco needs **more trees, more accountability, and more public engagement**, not fewer of each.

Respectfully submitted,

John Nulty co-chair San Francisco Tree Campaign

<https://sanfranciscotreecampaign.blogspot.com>

From: [Glenn Rogers](#)
To: [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Tree Canopy
Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 10:55:56 AM
Attachments: [Joshua Klipp Tree letter.pdf](#)

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

Hello,

Please, file my letter about the silencing of the public by City staff regarding the care of our San Francisco street trees.

Thank you,

Glenn Rogers, RLA
Landscape Architect
License 3223
email: glennmandu@mac.com
website: alderlandscapearchitecture.com
cell: 415 875 0412

January 12, 2026

From: **Alder Landscape Architecture**

Glenn Rogers, RLA
Landscape Architect
License 3223
3425 Alemany Blvd.
San Francisco, CA
94132
415 875 0412

To: **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

RE: TREE CANOPIES

Hello,

I was present when City staff was discussing the removal of trees because they said they were unhealthy in December 2025. Disingenuously, staff took pictures of deciduous trees in the winter pretending this was their true condition. The pictures did not represent the condition of the trees in the summer, when deciduous trees have a full canopy.

Next, an inexperienced City employee, following the advice of his superiors, claimed trees without bricks covering the bare earth where the trees were planted, causes them to fall down. Not only was this statement not true, it insults the intelligence of anyone that heard this ridiculous comment.

Lastly, a tree that was extremely healthy and out growing the confines of the tree grate to keep it upright, was proposed to be removed. This tree grate could easily be removed from the bark of the tree, to leave the tree intact. However, since the City has a war on trees, the exact opposite proposal was suggested.

We ask Supervisors to not allow the public to be silenced by the City, especially when City staff make such poor recommendations about the health and the care of our City's tree canopy. Unfortunately, San Francisco has the least number of trees of any major city. No doubt, it is because of misguided City staff suggestions like the ones made an example of here.

Thank you,

Glenn Rogers, RLA
Landscape Architect
License 3223
Email: glenmandu@mac.com

From: [Allegra Heath-Stout](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Sunday, January 11, 2026 1:10:00 PM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Allegra Heath-Stout

From: [Sara Goetz](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 2:37:24 PM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. While I appreciate the interest in streamlining some historically-slow processes, this legislation doesn't accomplish that. Rather, it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

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

Tree cover is a proven climate-change resilience strategy and San Francisco needs to protect everyone's right to a livable city.

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

Sincerely,

Sara Goetz, Bernal Heights

From: [SusanW](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Tree removal
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 10:55:56 AM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Susan Weisberg

From: [lgpetty](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Lurie, Daniel \(MYR\)](#); [Segal, Ned \(MYR\)](#)
Subject: Street Trees Proposal : A Constraint Removal Too Far. File 251211 Will Bring Major Harm to SF
Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 8:07:55 PM

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

Dear Supervisors,

Proposed Street Trees ordinance 251211 should be withdrawn or entirely rejected, as all of its major provisions are harmful to San Francisco and its residents.

This legislation does NOT increase street tree plantings; instead it enables the removal of our tree populations where we most need them.

To allow developers to chose not to plant required trees, to allow city workers to cut down trees without real public oversight, and to ban the public's right to an Appeal hearing at the Board of Appeals...is to inflict serious, irreparable harm on residents. This proposal will make our city worse; not better.

SF's abundance of street trees is a major reason the city is breathable - making it a healthy, desirable place to live. We need to plant MORE trees on our neighborhood streets; not give permission for less.

This proposal is part of the current mania to label everything that benefits humans to be a constraint on development.

Many in City employ believe street trees are inconvenient nuisances. Many developers think tree planting responsibilities interfere with their bottom line.

I, and hundreds of thousands of San Franciscans believe the presence of trees next to, and near us -- their function and beauty -- are critically necessary for our daily lives and our very survival. Their reduction and removal will lead to a poisonous and bleak brutalist future.

The Board of Appeals is the People's Court: the last resort and most powerful place for the voices of residents to be heard. The public, through the Appeals process, has saved thousands of trees from being destroyed by over-zealous City Departments.

Adopting this proposal allowing fee-outs, unbridled removals and banning Board of Appeals hearings, would create a San Francisco future where trees are removed from streets at will and trees are confined to parks. Our air will be toxic, temperatures will rise, and our livable neighborhoods will become unlivable.

Please withdraw or reject the Street Trees proposal entirely. Preserve democratic process in San Francisco and our priceless present and future Urban Canopy.

Thank you.

Lorraine Petty
D2/D5

From: [lgpetty](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Lurie, Daniel \(MYR\)](#); [Segal, Ned \(MYR\)](#)
Subject: Street Trees Proposal : A Constraint Removal Too Far. File 251211 Will Bring Major Harm to SF
Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 8:07:54 PM

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

Dear Supervisors,

Proposed Street Trees ordinance 251211 should be withdrawn or entirely rejected, as all of its major provisions are harmful to San Francisco and its residents.

This legislation does NOT increase street tree plantings; instead it enables the removal of our tree populations where we most need them.

To allow developers to chose not to plant required trees, to allow city workers to cut down trees without real public oversight, and to ban the public's right to an Appeal hearing at the Board of Appeals...is to inflict serious, irreparable harm on residents. This proposal will make our city worse; not better.

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Please withdraw or reject the Street Trees proposal entirely. Preserve democratic process in San Francisco and our priceless present and future Urban Canopy.

Thank you.

Lorraine Petty
D2/D5

From: [Farrah, Michael \(BOS\)](#)
To: ["Tracey McCormick"](#)
Cc: [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: RE: Save San Francisco's trees
Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 10:48:19 AM

Dear Ms. McCormick,

Thank you for taking the time to submit such a detailed public comment regarding Board of **Supervisors File 251211** and the proposed amendments related to street trees. We appreciate you sharing your perspective on the potential impacts to San Francisco's green infrastructure and the importance of maintaining public oversight.

At this time, Supervisor Melgar has not yet taken a position on this legislation. Our office is reviewing the proposal closely and following the discussion as it moves through the legislative process, including the concerns you raised regarding appeals, permit efficiency, and long-term impacts on neighborhood tree canopy.

I am meeting with Public Works today about the legislation.

We are grateful for residents like you who stay engaged and help inform these policy conversations, and we appreciate your participation in the public process.

Michael R. Farrah Jr.
Legislative Aide to Myrna Melgar
415-554-6520
Sign up for our [Newsletter](#)

From: Tracey McCormick <meeyowsa@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 10:08 AM
To: BoardofAppeals (PAB) <boardofappeals@sfgov.org>
Cc: Ben.White@sfgov.org; ChanStaff (BOS) <chanstaff@sfgov.org>; ChenStaff <ChenStaff@sfgov.org>; DorseyStaff (BOS) <DorseyStaff@sfgov.org>; Fielder, Jackie (BOS) <Jackie.Fielder@sfgov.org>; MahmoodStaff <MahmoodStaff@sfgov.org>; MandelmanStaff (BOS) <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; MelgarStaff (BOS) <melgarstaff@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; SherrillStaff <SherrillStaff@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; WongStaff (BOS) <WongStaff@sfgov.org>
Subject: Save San Francisco's trees

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

Dear Commissioners, I submit this public comment in opposition to Board of Supervisors File 251211 (the street tree amendments). It's one thing to streamline permits. It's another thing to harm the minimal green infrastructure SF has. Mayor Lurie wants to allow developers to choose between planting trees, or paying an inadequate fee to the City to do it instead. This means not only do we lose trees, but developers can permanently design over spaces that

might have accommodated trees in the future.

I additionally oppose the proposal to remove the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. Eliminating this right does nothing to expedite permitting for housing and development. The Board of Appeals' own FY2025 Report indicates that almost 90% of the permit appeals you heard last year had to do with building and planning permits, and less than 2% of the appeals you heard last year involved tree removal permits. Your data underscores that this proposed amendment has nothing to do with permit efficiency. Eliminating the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals serves only to silence the public, eliminate oversight, encourage corruption, and shut down future, innovative City-Community initiatives that have stemmed from these appeals in the past, for example, Mission Verde. Being able to appeal these permits before your Board has prevented or slowed the mass removal of trees in nearly every San Francisco neighborhood. In some instances, your scrutiny of City-initiated tree removals has caused City Departments to agree to plant more trees. Additionally, appeals of City-initiated tree removals have exposed certain abuses by City Departments, such as when San Francisco Recreation and Parks broke the law by illegally removing trees in United Nations Plaza (and admitted to you that they knowingly did so). San Francisco must do better - for its people and for its resilient green infrastructure. I thank you for your judicious work on these issues in the past, and for the opportunity to submit this public comment.

Tracey McCormick
466 Staples Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94112

From: [cala mario](#)
To: [ChenStaff](#); [DorseyStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MahmoodStaff](#); [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [SauterStaff](#); [SherrillStaff](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [WongStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Lurie, Daniel \(MYR\)](#)
Cc: [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#); [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: File 251211 (the street tree amendments)
Date: Monday, January 12, 2026 11:27:28 PM

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

To whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Marilyn Ho
resident of district 9

From: [Russel](#)
To: [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#); [CPC-Commissions Secretary](#); [BoardofAppeals \(PAB\)](#); [Ben.White@sfgov.org](#); [Russel Morine](#)
Subject: Keep the Appeal process for Tree Removals (File No. 251211)
Date: Monday, January 12, 2026 7:09:45 PM
Attachments: [Keep the Appeal Process.pdf](#)

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

To: Land Use & Transportation Committee + SF Planning Commission

Fr: Russel Morine / Resident of Visitacion Valley

Re: File No. 251211 (Street Tree Ordinance). **In opposition to removing the right to appeal**

Supervisors, Planning Commissioners
2026

Jan. 12.

The proposal to amend Article 16 of the Public Works Code combines two issues that are entirely unrelated. Establishing an in-lieu fee for new tree planting has no connection to eliminating the public's right to appeal departmental decisions on tree removals. **These matters deserve to be separated so they can be evaluated and deliberated on their own merits.**

Regarding the in-lieu fee, I have no strong position; its impact appears likely to be nominal either way.

However, **I strongly oppose eliminating the public's right to appeal a departmentally approved tree removal. Please reject this part of the amendment in its entirety.** It is unclear why this change is even being proposed or who stands to benefit from it.

The public's ability to request one final hearing is an **important safeguard that ensures accountability** in the City's management of our shared urban forest. For example, when multiple trees are slated for removal, the final decision should not rest solely with the same departments that initiated those removals. Without the possibility of an appeal, there would be no incentive to dialogue and possibly come to a compromise.

The Board of Appeals provides a necessary and independent check on what can at times be heavy-handed City oversight of tree removals. **Removing this avenue of appeal offers no public benefit.**

I urge you to reject this portion of the amendment.

Thank you for your time

Russel Morine

Visitacion Valley resident

To: Land Use & Transportation Committee + SF Planning Commission

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Re: File No. 251211 (Street Tree Ordinance). **In opposition to removing the right to appeal**

Supervisors, Planning Commissioners

Jan. 12. 2026

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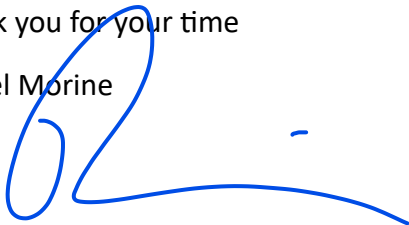
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I urge you to reject this portion of the amendment.

Thank you for your time

Russel Morine

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Russel Morine', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Visitacion Valley resident

From: [Allegra Heath-Stout](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Sunday, January 11, 2026 1:10:00 PM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Allegra Heath-Stout

From: [pmonette-shaw](#)
To: [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Wong, Alan \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Testimony on File 251211, Public Works, Administrative, Planning Codes – Street Trees
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 8:11:57 PM
Attachments: [Testimony to Land Use and Committee - Street Trees 2026-01-07.pdf](#)

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

Patrick Monette-Shaw

975 Sutter Street, Apt. 6
San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: (415) 292-6969 • e-
mail: pmonette-shaw@earhtlink.net

December 9, 2025

Land Use and Transportation Committee
Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Myrna Melgar, Chair
The Honorable Chyanne Chen, Member
The Honorable Bilal Mahmood, Member
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Reject Mayor Lurie's and Supervisor Alan Wong's proposed legislation at the Land Use and Transportation Committee eliminating street tree removal appeals to the Board of Appeals ... or face potential recall at your peril.

Re: **Testimony on File 251211, Public Works, Administrative, Planning Codes – Street Trees**

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

Regarding File #**251211**, “**Public Works, Administrative, Planning Codes – Street Trees**,” I urge the Land Use and Transportation Committee to reject Mayor Lurie and freshman District 4 Supervisor Alan Wong’s misguided proposal to eliminate the rights of San Franciscans from being able to appeal removal of street trees.

Our new Mayor proposed simply changing the law so that the public can no longer appeal City-initiated tree removals. Just one City Supervisor — newly appointed Supervisor Alan Wong — has signed on as a co-sponsor of the Mayor’s proposed Ordinance. District 4 has a fairly skimpy tree canopy; the Planning Department’s “*Street Tree Map*” map shows just 4,000 trees in Parkside and 5,616 trees in the Outer Sunset.

The proposal to strip citizens’ ability to appeal government decisions removes democratic checks and balances of San Francisco’s governance, and remakes the City to allow unchecked executive and legislative rule of the citizenry. That’s not why we

The Land Use Committee should follow Supervisor Dorsey's lead preventing elimination of the Mission Bay TIF CAC; urge the Streamlining Task Force to keep the Urban Forestry Council and its role in supporting appeals of street tree removals!

elected you to public office!

Supervisor Wong may not have learned his lesson after D-4 voters rose in revolt against former Supervisor Joel Engardio's support of closing the Great Highway and converting it to a park, creating traffic congestion throughout D-4. Voters were so angry they successfully recalled Engardio. Supervisor Wong is playing with fire supporting the Mayor's "*Chop 'em down*" Ordinance to deal with trees. Wong's support of the proposed Ordinance may become his *Waterloo*.

As lawyer Joshua Klipp — an environmental activist and Member of the Urban Forestry Council — just [wrote](#) in the *Westside Observer*, "*We live in a time when federal elected and appointed leaders routinely ignore the law, and the people's right to speak out is being systematically silenced. ... Our own City government is [effectively] doing the same thing: violating their own laws, then telling the public to sit down and shut up.*"

Importantly, Klipp noted the Mayor's effort to remove citizen's rights to appeal tree removal doesn't impact private or commercial development; it only effects City-initiated tree removals. Removing the public's right to appeal has nothing to do with streamlining City government! Mayor Lurie and Supervisor Wong's proposal for San Francisco's street trees would be disastrous, because San Francisco already has the smallest urban canopy of any major city in the U.S.

Klipp rightly worries that this would incentivize developers to lean on the City to remove those trees on their behalf, effectively underwriting the work of tree removals for private development — using taxpayer money! (I've personally never met a developer adverse to shedding their own costs onto the backs of taxpayers, or a developer who doesn't like free City money!)

Given the \$1 billion budget deficit Mayor Lurie is facing over the next two fiscal years, it is fiscally irresponsible for him to be proposing this Ordinance, which could add a significant amount of costs to the City he can't afford!

In addition to removing the public's right to appeal tree removals, Mayor Lurie's "*Commission Streamlining Task Force*" has recommended eliminating the "*Urban Forestry Council*" completely, and assigning the Forestry Council's oversight duties to the Commission on the Environment — if (a big if) the Environment Commission deigns to take on the oversight functions of the Forestry Council. The Streamlining Task Force also simultaneously recommended taking the Environment Commission out of the City Charter, moving it to the Administrative Code, and converting it from a "*regulatory body*" to an "*advisory body*," slapping a three-year sunset date on the Environment Commission, and taking budget approval authority over the Environment Department away from the Environment Commission. Applying a sunset date opens the door to the Environment Commission being shut down by the Board of Supervisors anytime in the future.

The Urban Forestry Council was created by the Board of Supervisors 22 years ago by Ordinance #171-03 in July 2003 under the "*Precautionary Principle*" to manage trees in San Francisco by emphasizing public participation in the preservation and expansion of the urban forest before causing actual environmental harm — including through illegal tree removal and greedy developers avoiding responsibility to protect and expand our urban canopy.

It was created in Chapter 12 of the **Environment Code** to manage, protect, and enhance the City's urban forest as critical and essential, high-value infrastructure. §1200(a) of the

Environment Code states that the Urban Forestry Council is “*to protect the community interest and ensure that San Francisco realizes the full range of tree benefits into the future.*”

As well, the “*Urban Forestry Ordinance*” was also added as Article 16, §800 *Urban Forestry Ordinance* of the San Francisco **Public Works Code** 30 years and 6 months ago on May 19, 1995 by Board of Supervisors Ordinance #165-95. §803, *Urban Forestry Council; Additional Powers and Duties*, added duties and functions of the Urban Forestry Council to advise the Director of the Public Works Department in an advisory capacity, including paragraph §803(a) (7) on “*Making recommendations to the Director on appeals of applications for tree removal.*”

After operating successfully for 22 to 30-plus years on a lean cost of just \$109,000 annually, the Board of Supervisors should not allow the Commission Streamlining Task Force, Mayor Lurie, and newbie Supervisor Wong to simply eliminate the Urban Forestry Council created by Board of Supervisors Ordinance #165-95 and Ordinance #171-03.

This Land Use and Transportation Committee, and the full Board of Supervisors, should not now alter the Environment Code and Public Works Code to allow the Mayor to run roughshod over 22 to 30 years of existing precedent preserving our urban canopy!

“This Land Use and Transportation Committee should not now alter the Environment Code and Public Works Code to allow the Mayor to run roughshod over 22 to 30 years of existing precedent preserving our urban canopy!”

San Franciscans expect this Board of Supervisors to protect and preserve our rights to appeal decisions regarding removal of street trees. We have ***not*** elected this Board of Supervisors to trample on the rights of San Franciscans!

Following public pressure and advocacy, the Commission Streamlining Task Force just overturned its initial decision to eliminate the “*Reentry Council*,” showing public pressure works. The Board of Supervisors should contact the Streamlining Task Force at CommissionStreamlining@sfgov.org to have it overturn its initial decision to eliminate the *Urban Forestry Council*, too!

Supervisor Matt Dorsey wrote to the Commission Streamlining Task Force January 5, 2026 requesting that the Task Force re-evaluate and overturn its initial decision to eliminate the Mission Bay Transportation Improvement Fund Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The Streamlining Task Force has placed on its January 14 meeting agenda item #5-e to reconsider its initial decision to eliminate the Mission Bay TIF CAC. The Streamlining Task Force can — and should — do the same with the Urban Forestry Council.

The Land Use Committee should follow Supervisor Dorsey’s lead preventing elimination of the Mission Bay TIF CAC; urge the Streamlining Task Force to keep the Urban Forestry Council and its role supporting appeals of tree removals!

Just as Supervisor Dorsey believes the *Mission Bay CAC* has provided valuable transparency and community-based advocacy, the same applies to the “*Urban Forestry Council*” — just as it applies to the “*Reentry Council*.” The Streamlining Task Force has listened to reason before and rescinded its previous wrongful decisions. It should do the same with the Urban Forestry Council, and the Board of Supervisors have a fiduciary duty to do so by writing to the Task Force expressing your displeasure.

As Dorsey wrote on January 5: “*The Mission Bay*

TIF CAC is working as intended.” So, too, is the Urban Forestry Council working as intended. Both bodies must be retained, just as the Reentry Council was retained.

The proposed Ordinance states that appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments and commissions will be eliminated. That’s just wrong to deprive San Franciscans of our right to appeal poor Planning Department decisions to the Board of Appeals.

¹³ The proposed Ordinance states that appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments and commissions will be eliminated. That’s just wrong to deprive San Franciscans of our right to appeal poor Planning Department decisions to the Board of Appeals!

Any District Supervisor who signs on as a co-sponsor of the Mayor’s tree removal legislation should face recall from office, just as Joel Engardio was recalled.¹⁴

When the Land Use Committee holds a hearing on this proposed legislation, I urge the Committee to reject it and forward a negative Recommendation to the full Board of Supervisors. You should recommend the Mayor’s proposed Ordinance be closed without further action, for the reasons stated.

Any District Supervisor who signs on as a co-sponsor of the Mayor’s tree removal legislation, or commission reform Charter change “*streamlining*” goals should face recall from office, just as Joel Engardio was recalled!

Mr. Klipp is right: “*We are expressing public opposition to overrunning another of our rights.*”

One Example: 900 Block of Sutter Street

There are just seven trees on my block (900 block of Sutter Street) with diameters greater than 10 inches and taller than 30 feet. The approximate 22-foot-tall Cherry Plum (*Prunus cerasifera*) tree just in front of my building has a five-inch diameter trunk, and is already over 20 years old; it’s nearing the end of its short-lived life cycle. I remember when my former landlord planted it 22 years ago, shortly after he had purchased this building and pulled an owner move-in eviction on me. (Luckily there was an empty unit he had to let me move into.)

My neighbors and I don’t want any trees removed on our block on Sutter Street because the urban canopy on our street is already very sparse, with very little shade!

That Don Lewis, a planner in the Planning Department issued a “*determination*” on December 22, 2025 that the proposed Ordinance is “*Not defined as a project under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15378 and 15060(c)(2) because it would not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment*” is just Orwellian logic at best, or at worst Kafkaesque (think Kafka’s “*The Trial*”). Obviously, removing street trees and the urban canopy do, in fact, directly change our urban environment physically! Lewis appears to be severely, and professionally, myopic.

Was Mr. Lewis just placing a *bah humbug!* lump of coal in Santa Claus’s Christmas stocking on December 22?

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Patrick Monette-Shaw

Columnist/Reporter

Westside Observer Newspaper

cc: Supervisor Raphael Mandelman, President, Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Connie Chan, Supervisor, District 1
The Honorable Stephen Sherrill, Supervisor, District 2
The Honorable Danny Sauter, Supervisor, District 3
The Honorable Alan Wong, Supervisor, District 4
The Honorable Matt Dorsey, Supervisor, District 6
The Honorable Jackie Fielder, Supervisor, District 9
The Honorable Shamann Walton, Supervisor, District 10
Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director, Clerk of the Board's Office
John Carroll, Land Use and Transportation Committee Clerk
Board of Appeals

Patrick Monette-Shaw

975 Sutter Street, Apt. 6

San Francisco, CA 94109

Phone: (415) 292-6969 • e-mail: pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net

December 9, 2025

Land Use and Transportation Committee
Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Myrna Melgar, Chair

The Honorable Chyanne Chen, Member

The Honorable Bilal Mahmood, Member

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

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Re: **Testimony on File 251211, Public Works, Administrative, Planning Codes – Street Trees**

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January 9, 2026

Testimony on File 251211, Public Works, Administrative, Planning Codes – Street Trees

Page 3

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The Honorable Connie Chan, Supervisor, District 1
The Honorable Stephen Sherrill, Supervisor, District 2
The Honorable Danny Sauter, Supervisor, District 3

January 9, 2026

Testimony on File 251211, Public Works, Administrative, Planning Codes – Street Trees

Page 4

The Honorable Alan Wong, Supervisor, District 4

The Honorable Matt Dorsey, Supervisor, District 6

The Honorable Jackie Fielder, Supervisor, District 9

The Honorable Shamann Walton, Supervisor, District 10

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director, Clerk of the Board's Office

John Carroll, Land Use and Transportation Committee Clerk

Board of Appeals

From: [SF Forest](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [DorseyStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Felder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [WongStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Lurie, Daniel \(MYR\)](#)
Subject: Please reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 4:17:43 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

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



Dear members of the Land Use and Transportation Committee,

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

a.

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

b.

If developers are allowed to pay in-lieu-of-planting-trees fee, the fee should be much higher - sufficient for the city to do necessary planting - using developers' money, and not taxpayers' money, for this purpose.

Trees are very important - absorbing carbon dioxide, giving us oxygen, cleaning the air from pollution, providing habitat for wildlife.

San Francisco has the smallest urban tree canopy among comparable U.S. cities. This disastrous amendment will reduce it even further.

Protect our trees. Reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

Sincerely,

San Francisco Forest Alliance

San Francisco Forest Alliance is a 501(c)4 not-for-profit organization with a mission of **inclusive environmentalism**. We fight to protect our environment through outreach and providing information. We oppose the unnecessary destruction of trees, oppose the use of toxic herbicides in parks and public lands, and support public access to our parks and conservation of our tree canopy. We stand for transparency in the use of public funds.

From: [Anastasia Glikshtern](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [WongStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Lurie, Daniel \(MYR\)](#); [Sauter, Danny \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [DorseyStaff \(BOS\)](#); [ChenStaff](#); [Fielder, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [SherrillStaff](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Please reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 3:41:45 PM

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

Dear members of the Land Use and Transportation Committee,

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

It will do great harm to San Francisco's already small urban tree canopy.

1.

It is wrong to eliminate the public's right to appeal when a City department initiates a tree removal. This isn't about housing or development. It's about silencing the Public and letting City Departments remove trees with no oversight.

2.

If developers are allowed to pay in-lieu-of-planting-trees fee, the fee should be much higher - sufficient for the city to do necessary planting - using developers, and not taxpayers money, for this purpose.

The city already has the smallest urban tree canopies among comparable U.S. cities, covering only about 13.7% of the ground (around 27% is the national average). This disastrous proposal will reduce it even further. During the years many trees have been saved thanks to the appeals. Trees are very important - absorbing carbon dioxide, giving us oxygen, cleaning the air from pollution, providing habitat for wildlife.

Protect our trees. Reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16!

Thank you,

Anastasia Glikshtern

From: [Sara Goetz](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Friday, January 9, 2026 2:37:25 PM

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. While I appreciate the interest in streamlining some historically-slow processes, this legislation doesn't accomplish that. Rather, it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

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

Tree cover is a proven climate-change resilience strategy and San Francisco needs to protect everyone's right to a livable city.

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

Sincerely,

Sara Goetz, Bernal Heights

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

Dear Supervisors,

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

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

Regards,

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

Pronouns: he, him, his

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Shaun Aukland
FairTrees.org

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely, Ruby Rieke Mission District

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Shamika Klassen, Alamo Square Neighborhood

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Christine Segalas
District 6 (SOMA)

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely, Anna Papitto, Noe Valley

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Alice Rogers

.....

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

arcomnsf@pacbell.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Abigail Kroch, SoMa resident

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Shalmali Bane, SOMA west neighborhood

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Collin Tharp

Potrero Hill

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

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

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

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

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

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

B. Policy Basis for Appeal Changes:

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

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

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

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

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

D. Impact & Historical Records:

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

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

E. Public Notice & Meeting Compliance:

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

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

Format, Fees, Timelines:

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

Departments/Offices to Search:

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

Barklee Sanders

Technology Consultant

More about me: barkleesanders.com

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

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



Hi everyone,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Two Fast Ways To Help:

We need to register opposition to these clauses.

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

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

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

Sincerely, [Your Name] [Your Neighborhood]

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

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

Best,

Shaun Aukland
FairTrees.org

--

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

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

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Josh Jagerman

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hardy, Potrero Hill

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Amanda Rodriguez

Glen Park resident

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Laurel Myers, SoMA resident

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

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Andrea Biltagi

Tenderloin, 94102

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Frank Lorch
Sunset

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Nikhil Gowda

West SoMa resident and home owner.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Barbara Bagot-López

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

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Craig Harrington
Twin Peaks SF

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you, David Singer, SOMA

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

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Teresa Dulalas

Resident - SoMa Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District 6

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Claudia Stern
714 44th Avenue
415 318 6461

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more [Click Here](#).

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

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely, [Your Name] [Your Neighborhood]

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Land Use Committee Members,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

--

Theatre District Neighbors

P.O. Box 420846

San Francisco, CA 94142-0846

theatredistrictneighbors@gmail.com

(415) 339-8779

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

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

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

94105 Resident (Rincon Hill / South Beach / SoMa)

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

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

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

Key Reasons for Opposition:

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

like mine where every tree is essential.

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

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

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

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

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

Regards,

The Fong Family

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

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

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

94105 Resident (Rincon Hill / South Beach / SoMa)

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

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

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

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

Regards,

The Fong Family

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

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Susan Weisberg

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

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Dear Chair Melgar and Land Use Committee Members,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

--

Theatre District Neighbors

P.O. Box 420846

San Francisco, CA 94142-0846

theatredistrictneighbors@gmail.com

(415) 339-8779

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

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely, [Your Name] [Your Neighborhood]

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

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

Dear Chair Melgar and Land Use Committee Members,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

--

Theatre District Neighbors

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From: [Steve Ensminger](#)
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Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely, [Your Name] [Your Neighborhood]

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

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

San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

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

Here is the petition they signed:

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

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

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

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

Thank you,

Joshua Klipp

Action Network



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

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

You can unsubscribe or update your email address or change your name and address by [changing your subscription preferences here](#).

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

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

Thank you,

Joshua Klipp

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. Shawna McGrew (ZIP code: 94122)

8. Robert Hall (ZIP code: 94117)

9. David Romano (ZIP code: 94121)

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

10. Natalia Peschiera (ZIP code: 94110)

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

11. John Mendoza (ZIP code: 94110)

12. Judy Irving (ZIP code: 94133)

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

13. Roz Arbel (ZIP code: 94118)

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

14. Jacqueline Nauman (ZIP code: 94018)

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

15. Nancy Shanahan (ZIP code: 94133)

16. Renee Lazear (ZIP code: 94116)

17. Bridget Maley (ZIP code: 94123)

18. SON-SF ~ Save Our Neighborhoods SF (ZIP code: 94116)

19. Melinda MacNaughton (ZIP code: 94018)

Not Ok to Silence the public about tree concerns. Trees are most important for our survival with climate change and providing what minor habitat SF has left. Not Ok to put developers first over a struggling environment.

20. Courtney Damkroger (*ZIP code: 94109*)

21. Lisa Arjes (*ZIP code: 94122*)

22. Laurew Frishman (*ZIP code: 94018*)

23. Judith Berkowitz (*ZIP code: 94110*)

24. Dorothy Pasquinelli (*ZIP code: 94018*)

25. DANIEL MATAROZZI (*ZIP code: 94110*)

Pls. stop the destruction of our urban forrest by rejecting this developer friendly regulation.

26. Angelina Matarozzi (*ZIP code: 94110*)

27. Charlotte Mooney (*ZIP code: 94118*)

28. Claire Mills (*ZIP code: 94123*)

29. Barbara Heffernan (*ZIP code: 94123*)

Save our trees and stop this nonsense

30. Marie Sorenson (*ZIP code: 94110*)

31. Karen Breslin (*ZIP code: 94127*)

32. Janet Monfredini (*ZIP code: 94127*)

This speaks for itself. Trees make all the difference.....

33. SHARON HAWLEY (*ZIP code: 94110*)

34. Sigrid Bull-McCarthy (*ZIP code: 94122*)

We need more trees not less. If there is a sick and dying tree that poses a threat, it should be replaced with 3 new trees when removed. But no willy nilly tree removal. A concrete jungle is not the city we want. Protect green spaces and protect trees. Keep our right to have a say in what we want for our city!!

35. John Nulty (*ZIP code: 94142*)

36. Nancy Federico (*ZIP code: 94122*)

This is my right! SFRPD is breaking the law!

37. Wayne Johnson (ZIP code: 94114-2417)

38. Sarah Bellrichard (ZIP code: 94110)

39. Ruth Malone (ZIP code: 94121)

40. Katherine Petrin (ZIP code: 94133)

41. Greg Giachino (ZIP code: 94133)

This move has to be a joke, right?

42. Tomasita Medál (ZIP code: 94122)

43. Lynne Burwell (ZIP code: 94118)

44. Jamie Wong (ZIP code: 94116)

45. Marcus Wong (ZIP code: 94116)

46. Erica Zweig (ZIP code: 94122)

Another giveaway to developers - there should be greater requirements for developers to increase and enhance SF Green infrastructure! Its a minor hoop to jump and pocket change cost to developers to plant around their new concrete structures. An absurd giveaway!

47. KEN RACKOW (ZIP code: 94109)

48. Esfir Shrayber (ZIP code: 94122)

Please protect our trees , our oxygen. We need them.

49. Linda Lawrence (ZIP code: 94804)

Protect our urban canopy!

50. Aaron Goodman (ZIP code: 94127)

See Glen Park Trees, see Excelsior Trees, Mc Laren Park Trees, and Parkmerced Trees along right of way.

51. Mark Peters (ZIP code: 94114)

52. Doug Comstock (ZIP code: 94117)

53. Mark Beyer (ZIP code: 94110)

We need trees! We want trees! Please allow YOUR constituents a voice.

54. Tes Welborn (ZIP code: 94117-1802)

55. Rita Da Luz (ZIP code: 94114)

People deserve to be heard. Furthering a concrete jungle isn't in the best interest of SF in the long run.

56. Leslie Smith (ZIP code: 94611)

57. Patricia Taber (ZIP code: 94114)

San Francisco has, for a major city, the fewest number of trees than most US cities. Shameful, we should embrace trees not only for their esthetics but also for their positive contribution to our environment.

58. Elizabeth Kiefling (ZIP code: 94110)

Preserving our urban forest is fundamental to the health and prosperity of San Francisco's community, culture and well being.

59. Mary Anne Giglio (ZIP code: 94018)

60. Rell Sanderson (ZIP code: 94114)

61. Stephanie Peek (ZIP code: 94116)

62. Dinorah Salazar (ZIP code: 94112)

63. peggy huff (ZIP code: 94133)

Eliminating this right to appeal will result in City projects removing trees en masse without oversight, and will incentivize private developers to persuade the City to remove trees on the taxpayer dime.

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

64. Steve Wilkerson (ZIP code: 94127)

65. Scott Feeney (ZIP code: 94110)

I've come out on volunteer shifts to water trees with Mission Verde, trees that wouldn't be there without the tree removal appeal process. We love our street trees and want more, not less. And since large scale development often tears up the sidewalk anyway, planting trees at that time just makes sense, it's more efficient! Please reject this legislation and help grow our tree canopy, not shrink it.

66. kim snead (ZIP code: 94117)

67. Dave Osgood (ZIP code: 94105)

Significant trees are currently slated for removal along Howard Street for largely cosmetic reasons.

We need our right to appeal these misguided decisions.

68. Mahdi Rahimi (ZIP code: 94110)

69. bea manuel (ZIP code: 94112)

70. Jeff Daniel (ZIP code: 94116-2613)

71. Floriana Spezza (ZIP code: 94122)

72. Maggie Grabmeier (ZIP code: 94110)

Please commit to keeping San Francisco green! As a Mission Verde volunteer, I love to see the community out enjoying our trees. It makes our neighborhoods healthier and more beautiful. It's so important for San Franciscans to feel our connection to nature! Thank you for listening!

73. STEVE WARD (ZIP code: 94122)

74. Michael Nulty (ZIP code: 94142-0846)

In contrast, many other California cities maintain strong appeal processes to ensure accountability: Beverly Hills: Appeals to the Planning Commission (Municipal Code Title 10, Chapter 3).

Pacifica: 10-day appeal period to Planning Commission, with further escalation to City Council (Title 4, Chapter 12).

Los Altos: 10-day public notification for appeals to City Clerk.

Mountain View: Appeals to Urban Forestry Board or City Council within 10 days.

Santa Cruz: Appeals to Parks and Recreation Commission for heritage trees.

Saratoga: 15-day appeal window for nearby homeowners.

San Luis Obispo: Appeals to Tree Committee.

Santa Monica: Reviews by Urban Forest Task Force.

Pasadena: Standard zoning code appeals for tree protections.

These models demonstrate that appeals foster community trust and prevent arbitrary removals, unlike the proposed streamlining, which could lead to unchecked tree loss.

75. RADOGO ULUINADAVE (ZIP code: 94102)

76. Tricia Downey (ZIP code: 94122)

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

77. Paula L (ZIP code: 94121)

78. Harold Miller (ZIP code: 94188)

Help us save the trees

79. SUSAN BRYAN (ZIP code: 94102)

80. Gwendalina Carrera (ZIP code: 94044)

We need MORE trees in SF, not fewer.

81. paul wermer (ZIP code: 94115)

Trees bring health benefits and environmental benefits AND create the more appealing streetscapes that tourists appreciate

82. Carol Brownson (ZIP code: 94115)

83. Deborah Gallegos (ZIP code: 94112)

We need more tree plantings in every neighborhood to provide all the medicinal properties that trees have to offer in the environment.

84. Belinda Irons (ZIP code: 94105)

Please do not remove trees on Howard St.

85. tom fenwick (ZIP code: 94122)

This tree reform makes no sense. Just make it easier and faster to get a permit to plant the trees

86. Katharine Demgen (ZIP code: 94105)

87. Avrum Shepard (ZIP code: 93291)

88. Matt Laroche (ZIP code: 94122)

89. Carla Schlemminger (ZIP code: 94123)

90. Ann Rubin (ZIP code: 94133)

91. Stephen Davis (ZIP code: 94044-1517)

Please maintain the public's right to appeal tree removals in San Francisco. Construction is necessary for the city, of course, but it should not destroy existing trees. Mature trees do so much good for removing CO2, providing habitat for birds, and improving the urban scenery.

92. Margaret O'Brien (ZIP code: 94121)

93. Tony Tantillo (ZIP code: 94105)

94. John Anderson (ZIP code: 94115)

Particular consideration should be given to the remaining coast live oaks, such as the ones on the south block of Laurel St. Architects have a long history of ignoring the natural world, an unfortunate legacy of colonialism. As a city, we should do better.

95. Cathwrine Dodd (ZIP code: 94131)

Trees are life. They bring shade, oxygen and charm to the city. That are home to birds. They take

generations to grow. Greed of politicians and the Developers who support them must not continue. Also oppose the ATT Tower in the canopy behind the police academy. The construction will kill off entire parts of forest.

96. Maximilienne Ewalt (ZIP code: 94112)

To: San Francisco Board of Supervisors

From: Maximilienne Ewalt

Mayor Lurie and Supervisor Wong's proposals for San Francisco's street trees are disastrous. We already have the smallest urban canopy of any major city in the U.S., and our failure to invest in our City trees has allowed even this small tree canopy to decline. We ask you to not allow Developers to have the choice of planting trees or paying an inadequate fee. This will lead to even fewer trees on City streets.

And we ask you not to eliminate the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. These appeals, for City projects, have nothing to do with expediting development. Additionally, these appeals have lead to innovative results, such as Mission Verde - one of the most innovative City/Community partnerships that resulted in 3x more trees being planted along the Mission District's cultural corridor. Eliminating this right to appeal will result in City projects removing trees en masse without oversight, and will incentivize private developers to persuade the City to remove trees on the taxpayer dime.

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

97. Linda Weiner (ZIP code: 94110)

98. Peter Fortune (ZIP code: 94133)

99. Mearu Takatsu (ZIP code: 94123)

REJECT Mayor Lurie's and

Supervisor Wong's proposed amendment to the Public Works Code -- reject File #2151211 amendment to the SF Public Works Code Article 16.

100. Elias Berbari (ZIP code: 94116)

101. Catherine Chase (ZIP code: 94111)

It is important to keep the tree canopy we have and add to it if at all possible.

102. deanne delbridge (ZIP code: 94123-1175)

Thank you for starting this, Joshua. Every effort to save our trees in San Francisco is totally worth it and you and only a small handfull of others continue this work by yourselves. Please let me know how to reach you.

103. Linda Shaffer (ZIP code: 94121-3255)

104. Anna Esquivel (ZIP code: 94116)

It's disturbing that the tree canopy in San Francisco is less than half the national average. This city needs to do better to protect and preserve the trees are in place!

105. Judi Gorski (ZIP code: 94116)

106. Chandra Frieze (ZIP code: 95476)

107. Barbara Delaney (ZIP code: 94122)

108. Holly Watts (ZIP code: 94116)

109. DOUGLAS ENGMANN (ZIP code: 94109)

Keep the appeals process for the public to object to tree removal

110. Cath Ann Giacomini-McDonald (ZIP code: 94116)

111. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94103)

112. Kerrie Walsh (ZIP code: 94116)

113. Maureen McVerry (ZIP code: 94107)

This is important rule that protects everyone in the city - do not cut down mature trees.

114. Lauren Meredith (ZIP code: 94121)

Trees are great for people who was to breathe, those who want to see something beautiful around them, those who want to heal quicker after illness... I really hate that they are killed for construction convenience.

115. Heather Davies (ZIP code: 94116)

Please do not change the review process for tree removal. It is essential for SF bird populations to retain this canopy. Trees are part of our beloved cultural landscape. Trees help lower the effects of urban heat islands. Trees take decades to mature and are not readily replaceable. Public review and input on tree removal should be retained.

116. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94122)

117. Laurette Tanner (ZIP code: 94122)

Trees help create the air we breathe

118. Rebecca Robertson (ZIP code: 94105)

119. Jonathan Maguire (ZIP code: 94116)

120. Merrill Randol (ZIP code: 94118)

121. Al hawley (ZIP code: 94118)

Alan wong this legislation is idiotic. You claim it is to provide in lieu fees for planting trees in high need

areas. YOUR DISTRICT is a HIGH NEEED AREA! Many of your streets lack adequate street trees. This and your work to allow more parking is in direct conflict with planning code seeking to improve permeability initially started because people were paving over all of the front right of way to park making your district one of the worst offenders for stormwater runoff and pollution.

122. Jascenta Napier (ZIP code: 94105)

123. Linda Bartlett (ZIP code: 04115)

Please save any trees and do not remove. We love the trees and they help our community to be beautiful and places for birds to build nests and survive.

124. aaron brick (ZIP code: 94134)

125. Margot Garey (ZIP code: 94115)

More, NOT less trees in San Francisco.

126. george williams (ZIP code: 94122)

127. Alan Shaw (ZIP code: 94103)

128. Rosa Maline (ZIP code: 94122)

Trees help to make streets and cities beautiful.

129. Sharon Harrison (ZIP code: 94118)

130. Peter Rothe (ZIP code: 94127-1848)

plant more trees

131. Norma Gengler (ZIP code: 94115)

Save our trees!

132. Eric Shackelford (ZIP code: 94116)

133. Karen Auby (ZIP code: 94116)

My supervisor, Mr Wong, is against trees and parks but very interested in adding more parking.

134. Jim Hannah (ZIP code: 94114)

Thanks for bringing this to our attention. More trees

135. Joel Sayre (ZIP code: 94122)

More Trees!

136. Diana Hazas (ZIP code: 94112)

Prioritize trees!!

137. Flannery Alber (ZIP code: 94116)

138. Mary Klipp (ZIP code: 94131)

139. Lance Carnes (ZIP code: 94133)

Last Name Carnes
Email lacarnes@gmail.com
Zip/Postal Code 94133

Comments

You may receive email updates from Joshua Klipp, the creator of this petition.

Protect San Francisco Trees!
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

It's one thing to streamline permits. It's another thing to harm the minimal green infrastructure SF has. Mayor Lurie wants to allow developers to choose between planting trees, or paying an inadequate fee to the City to do it instead. This means not only do we lose trees, but developers can permanently design over spaces that might have accommodated trees in the future.

Additionally, Mayor Lurie seeks to remove the public's right to appeal when a City department initiates a tree removal. This isn't about housing or development. This would include, for example, when SFMTA sought to remove every tree on Van Ness (~200) for the new bus lane. Or when SFDPW sought to remove every tree on 24th Street (~77) between Mission and Potrero. Or when Better Market Streets sought to remove every tree on Market Street for its new sidewalks (~700). If the public didn't have the right to appeal, these trees would be gone. Because of the appeals process, trees were saved, plans were revised, and City-community partnerships were formed.

Removing the public's right to appeal has nothing to do with streamlining, and everything to do with the fact that SFRPD broke the law, illegally removed trees, and got caught red-handed by the Board of Appeals. What's worse, if City-initiated tree removals aren't appealable, this incentivizes private developers to get the City to do its tree removals for them, on the taxpayer dime.

Tell Mayor Lurie that we can - and must - do better. For our trees, for the planet, and for our future.
Petition by
Gravatar
Joshua Klipp
San Francisco, California

To: San Francisco Board of Supervisors
From: Lance Carnes

Mayor Lurie and Supervisor Wong's proposals for San Francisco's street trees are disastrous. We already have the smallest urban canopy of any major city in the U.S., and our failure to invest in our City trees has allowed even this small tree canopy to decline. We ask you to not allow Developers to have the choice of planting trees or paying an inadequate fee. This will lead to even fewer trees on City streets.

And we ask you not to eliminate the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. These

appeals, for City projects, have nothing to do with expediting development. Additionally, these appeals have lead to innovative results, such as Mission Verde - one of the most innovative City/Community partnerships that resulted in 3x more trees being planted along the Mission District's 24th Street cultural corridor. Eliminating this right to appeal will result in City projects removing trees en masse without oversight, and will incentivize private developers to persuade the City to remove trees on the taxpayer dime.

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

City trees are SF assets (and beautiful greenery) that all citizens depend on for a living and beautiful means of keeping SF's air fresh and our environment green and thriving.

Removing taxpayers' ability to protest the removal of trees via hearings at DPW and Board of Appeals curtails our rights as citizens, to protect these important and health-giving assets.

Please keep current appeal processes in place.

Thank you,
Lance Carnes

140. Rosario Cervantes (*ZIP code: 94112*)
Greenery and growth of our city over developers any time

141. Nan Kornfeld (*ZIP code: 94122*)

142. Chloe Gonzalez Coyle (*ZIP code: 94124*)

143. Beth Patty (*ZIP code: 94122*)
Please keep our city green

144. Jeffrey Beck (*ZIP code: 94122*)

145. Deidra White (*ZIP code: 94118*)

146. Susan Spellman (*ZIP code: 94116*)

147. Lori Liederman (*ZIP code: 94122*)

148. Lael Robertson (*ZIP code: 94107*)

149. Kerri Finn (*ZIP code: 94118*)
Save our trees. We need shade, shelter, oxygen, beauty, preserving living things and homes for our neighboring critters. Leave nature only.

150. Usha Moss (*ZIP code: 94114*)

151. Patricia Sur (ZIP code: 94121)

152. Molly Hayden (ZIP code: 94117)

153. Cathy Morgan (ZIP code: 9413)

154. Judy Minton (ZIP code: 94107)

155. Christine Innes (ZIP code: 94107)

156. Alice Cassman (ZIP code: 94117)

Please protect the trees!

157. karen LARSEN (ZIP code: 94107)

We need our trees and have already lost too many. Please re-consider letting developers cut down trees without public input.

158. Kelly Vance (ZIP code: 94117)

159. Helen Vander Wende (ZIP code: 94122)

160. Jaimie VanPernis (ZIP code: 94118)

Save the trees!

161. Marguerite Felts (ZIP code: 94112)

162. Nikita Van beek (ZIP code: 94121)

163. James Estey (ZIP code: 94131)

Keep the trees and add a few more.

164. Cade Peterson (ZIP code: 94121)

165. Robin Grossinger (ZIP code: 94705-1082)

166. Susan Cronin Parano (ZIP code: 94121)

Because these trees are lovely and should not be cut down! A redwood especially ! We need more green!

167. JOAN M BRONER (ZIP code: 94122)

We need all trees & those trees need to stay!

168. Mara Sohm (ZIP code: 94115)

169. Paul Dohrmann (ZIP code: 94122)

Save trees and make the city more green.

170. Bradley Golden (ZIP code: 94117)

Something's wong, Lurie-ing the public to lose out to developers over trees is no bueno.

171. Kyung Choi (ZIP code: 94116)

SF needs more trees to keep the fresh environment as they produce oxygen far more than Carbon dioxide.

The developers are destroying SF's healthy, natural environment!

172. Blair Czarecki (ZIP code: 94109)

173. Brian Reyes (ZIP code: 94122)

174. Alan Carpenter (ZIP code: 94114)

175. Carolyn Kincaid (ZIP code: 94112)

176. Sharon Wilensky (ZIP code: 94122)

177. Don Ino (ZIP code: 94121)

Corporate developers cannot have carte blanche in disregarding neighborhood charm.

178. Rasa Moss (ZIP code: 94114)

179. David Kerby (ZIP code: 94114)

180. Michael Rothmann (ZIP code: 94133)

181. Susan Cieutat (ZIP code: 94102)

182. Jen dougherty (ZIP code: 94122)

Please stop destroying our beautiful city

183. Robert Sutton (ZIP code: 94127)

184. Sheila Fischer Kiernan (ZIP code: 94131)

185. Diem Tran (ZIP code: 94105)

186. Rebecca Misner (ZIP code: 94131)

187. Carolyn Johnston (*ZIP code: 94127*)

188. Ariane Eroy, Ph. D. (*ZIP code: 94121*)

Realtors, Developers, Investors too often care nothing about the people, or our City, or our beleaguered planet. Their buildings will not give us oxygen or sequester carbon dioxide. Yet Mayor Lurie and the Board has yet to stop them.

We demand that our politicians stop currying favor to the Wealthy, to Corporations, and to Developers. For their ethos is take-the-money-and run; their modality is selling our city to the highest bidder; and their corruption involves wheeling-and-dealing until the City collapses from their greed. Such short-sightedness proves that corporate Democrats ignore the Climate Emergency in favor of augmenting their campaign coffers -- at everyone's peril!

Wake up! Humanity is facing an existential crisis that will not be resolved by itself. Such a crisis demands that we focus on healing our environment as the number one issue of our time.

"_Our planet is trying to tell us something. But we don't seem to be listening. My dear friends, the American Museum of Natural History is the ideal place to make the point: This great museum tells the amazing story of our natural world--the vast forces that have shaped forces on life over billions of years. And Humanity is just one, small blip on the radar. But like the meteors which wiped out the dinosaurs, we are having an outsized impact. In the case of climate, we are not the dinosaurs. We are the meteor. We are not only in danger. We are the danger. But we are also the solution. This world over billions of years humanity is just a small blip. In the case of climate change, we are not the dinosaurs; we are the meteor. We are not in danger: We are the danger... But we are also the solution.

Antonio Guterres
UN Secretary General
June 2024

"When you destroy Mother Nature, you destroy yourself."
Maitreya

189. Scott Simons (*ZIP code: 94107*)

Really, no oversight, we might as well annex San Mateo to get more trees

Whenever I go to another city, the first thing I see is trees, and what a delight that is

Why the uphill struggle for the simplest of beauty and health

Can't we even agree on this?

190. Madhavan Rangaswami (*ZIP code: 94118*)

191. Xenia Rangaswami (*ZIP code: 94115*)

192. Anjali Rangaswami (*ZIP code: 94118*)

193. Paula Katz (*ZIP code: 94116*)

194. Bev Lips (ZIP code: 94121)

195. Irma Lewis (ZIP code: 94107)

To: SF Board of Supervisors

From: Irma Lewis

The current proposals for San Francisco's street trees are disastrous. SF has the smallest urban canopy of any major city in the U.S., and our failure to invest in our City trees has allowed even this small tree canopy to decline. This has direct, measurable health impacts, particularly our most vulnerable. We ask you to not allow Developers to have the choice of planting trees or paying a fee. This will lead to even fewer trees on City streets.

We ask you not to eliminate the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals. These appeals, for City projects, don't impede development. They've actually led to innovative results, such as Mission Verde - one of the most innovative City/Community partnerships that resulted in 3x more trees being planted along the Mission District's cultural corridor. Eliminating this right to appeal will result in City projects removing trees en masse without oversight, and will incentivize private developers to persuade the City to remove trees on the taxpayer dime.

Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

196. Thomas Herz (ZIP code: 94131)

197. Laura Griffiths (ZIP code: 94131)

198. Eva Daniel (ZIP code: 94115)

199. Lauren Jarrell (ZIP code: 94122)

Please do not allow this legislation to happen. We have already lost so many trees and have a very small urban canopy for a city of our size.

200. Anastasia Glikshtern (ZIP code: 94122)

We need the trees.

And the city is engaged in deforestation - in parks and open spaces. the street trees are under assault too...

201. Jessica Kalafati (ZIP code: 94114)

202. Anton Kalafati (ZIP code: 94114)

203. Raisa Chudnovskaya (ZIP code: 94118)

204. Eugene Bachmanov (ZIP code: 94118)

205. Susanna Klebaner (ZIP code: 94121)

206. Svetlana Savchuk (ZIP code: 94122)

207. Peter Glikshtern (*ZIP code: 94110*)

208. Elizabeth Gould (*ZIP code: 94114*)

209. Benjie Lasseau (*ZIP code: 94109*)

Save the trees please!

210. Michael Goodsmith (*ZIP code: 94109*)

211. Lorraine Petty (*ZIP code: 94115*)

The Lurie/Wong legislation is destructive to our trees, our neighborhoods, and the health of our people, as well as the power of citizens to oversee and overrule developer and government abuse.

212. Galina Gorodetsky (*ZIP code: 94552*)

213. Susan Vaughan (*ZIP code: 94121*)

214. Chrisanne Bradley (*ZIP code: 94131*)

Protect the trees!

215. Tod Elkins (*ZIP code: 94131*)

We must protect our trees in SF!

216. Patrick Villano (*ZIP code: 94117*)

217. Sem Lederman (*ZIP code: 94116*)

218. Janet Kessler (*ZIP code: 94114*)

219. Diana Scott (*ZIP code: 94116*)

Developers, like the MTA, like to cut trees to enable there projects. Planners need to consider the air we breathe as a planning priority. WE NEED OUR RIGHT TO APPEAL bad planning proposals, to insure this!

220. Daniel Detorie (*ZIP code: 94109*)

221. Diane Rivera (*ZIP code: 92011*)

Protect San Francisco Trees

222. Wendy Lowinger (*ZIP code: 94122*)

223. Jason jungreis (*ZIP code: 94121*)

224. Tim Bailey (*ZIP code: 94115*)

225. Sandy Weil (ZIP code: 94116-1160)

226. Dennis Rubenstein (ZIP code: 94110)

We need to protect what few trees we have in our city

227. Michele Liapes (ZIP code: 94109)

228. Christine Patch-Lindsay (ZIP code: 94122)

229. Noel Kelton (ZIP code: 94107)

Ty! And good luck; we need our trees!

230. Linda Zimmerman (ZIP code: 94116)

very unhappy with tree management on all levels in SF. I pay big taxes and feel my opinions should be heard. SF is looking less and less green.

231. judith zimrin (ZIP code: 94133)

we need more trees

232. Robert Heisler (ZIP code: 94116)

Lurie is gradually morphing into his real self: a fellow billionaire developer-enabling Maga republican. He has no regard for the wishes of the majority of the people of San Francisco and now that he is ensconced is steamrolling forward the maga machine in San Francisco.

233. Theresa potente (ZIP code: 94117-1703)

234. Betsy Eddy (ZIP code: 94131)

I feel that removing the public's write to appeal tree removal is a gift to developers and will encourage more developers to put buildings close to sidewalks. Please vote to preserve our green canopy.

235. Bree Brown (ZIP code: 94118-1435)

236. E B (ZIP code: 94110)

237. Carl Wendorf (ZIP code: 94127)

238. Howard Wong (ZIP code: 94133)

239. Claudette Brooks (ZIP code: 94124)

240. Rebecca Diaz (ZIP code: 94116)

241. Laurie Wen (ZIP code: 94110)

242. Carolyn Doran (ZIP code: 94116)

More trees, but maintain the sidewalks. Less parking. People have to wake up to climate change and tree desert pockets of dangerous heat

243. Claudia Kindler (ZIP code: 94112)

244. Erik Greenfrost (ZIP code: 94124)

245. Elaine Chan-Scherer (ZIP code: 94122)

Trees add so much character to the City. They increase property value. They clean the air. Old trees are valuable in ways that touch the soul. Protect the trees!

246. Maureen Gonzalez (ZIP code: 941105913)

247. Andrea Galvin (ZIP code: 94121)

Please protect and expand San Francisco's tree canopy! Trees beautify the city, provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, provide increasingly needed shade in the warmer months (and rain protection in winter, are shown to improve people's mental health and sense of well being, and do more to calm traffic on streets than all the BS Muni is wasting our money on. We should be investing in more trees, not making it easier to chop them down.

248. Kayla Dzurek (ZIP code: 94112)

249. Lucy Hilmer (ZIP code: 94121)

250. Bruce Allen (ZIP code: 94132)

251. Elsa Townsend (ZIP code: 94109)

Remember how bad the air quality gets when forests are burning? Tree canopies provide a vital way of purifying smoky air!

252. Arthur Adams (ZIP code: 94121)

253. Laurie Chaprack (ZIP code: 94116)

254. Carolyn White (ZIP code: 94131)

Trees and green space are critical elements of our city., for the health and well being of all people.

255. Leslie Koelsch (ZIP code: 94114)

256. Roger Underhill (ZIP code: 94132)

257. Kathleen Hallinan (ZIP code: 94147-0124)

258. sara coe (ZIP code: 94110)

259. Nadine May (ZIP code: 94118)

260. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94133)

261. Cathryn Lewis (ZIP code: 94122)

WE need our trees as they are the key to our health and welfare.....practically and aesthetically.....please protect our city!! WE voted for you Mayor Lurie and now we need to count on you to do the right thing!!

262. Patricia Acosta (ZIP code: 94114)

cities need trees! They make a city more beautiful and more livable! And they make our air cleaner. Let's have more oak trees, and thus help the pollinators thrive! this is so important.

263. Michael McCauslin (ZIP code: 94112)

San Francisco trees are precious!

264. Nancy Spangler (ZIP code: 94127)

Maintain the Green Canopy.

265. Judith Dancer (ZIP code: 94132)

Trees are an important part of our ecosystem for breathing and wellbeing. Our ancestors had it right! Keep the trees and stand for beauty!

266. Victoria Duffett (ZIP code: 94116)

There has been a shocking - and frankly ugly - amount of tree clearing around the city. I urge restraint from such great swaths of tree removals!

267. Kim Smith (ZIP code: 94117)

We need trees.

268. Richard & Gail Manso (ZIP code: 94109)

269. Diane Navarro (ZIP code: 94134)

Save our trees

270. Gandhia Andrews (ZIP code: 94132)

271. Dennis Ainslie (ZIP code: 94121)

272. Lois Brady (ZIP code: 94123)

273. Denise Selleck (ZIP code: 94122)

274. Laure Cleveland (ZIP code: 49770)

Except for the non-native, invasive, fire-hazard, eucalyptus! Please replace them with native trees. Thanks.

275. Helen Strain (ZIP code: 94132)

276. Susan richmond (ZIP code: 94118)

Trees in San Francisco are essential to its beauty and good for wind mitigation, shade, etc. It has taken decades to get them planted (thank you, Friends of the Urban Forest) and must not be destroyed.

277. Ana Malinow (ZIP code: 94117)

278. David Richardson (ZIP code: 94131)

279. Olga Ryerson (ZIP code: 94110)

Don't remove our right to appeal to the Board of Appeals.

280. Bud Ryerson (ZIP code: 94110)

I hope I'm not too late. Please let me know what else I can do.

281. Barbara Kivowitz (ZIP code: 94131)

282. Monika Pietraszek (ZIP code: 94122)

Please protect our tree and tree canopy.

283. Micah Barth-Rogers (ZIP code: 94121)

284. Karla McElroy (ZIP code: 94122)

Pls. Mayor Lurie & Borad of Supervisors don't permit this legislative change. People 1st! Let our voices be heard, it's the democratic thing to do... Karla - SF Resident

285. Stephen McGurin (ZIP code: 94118)

286. Kathleen McCowin (ZIP code: 94116)

Stop cutting down our trees!

287. Herb Leong (ZIP code: 94134)

288. Amy Meyer (ZIP code: 94121)

289. Christine Hall (ZIP code: 94117)

290. Ramona Draeger (ZIP code: 94117)

291. C K (ZIP code: 94044)

292. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94121)

293. Frances Rapoport (ZIP code: 94904)

Our urban environments will slowly become sterile and perhaps toxic without the plants and trees our ancestors flourished with

294. Suzanne Dumont (ZIP code: 94127)

Trees are a critical part of the respiratory health of San Franciscans. Do not allow profit driven developers decide the fate of our precious trees.

295. Tracy Castle (ZIP code: 94131)

296. Wesley Saunders (ZIP code: 94112)

297. Shannon King (ZIP code: 94115)

Trees are absolutely key to the beauty of a city. All you have to do is look at Paris. Their trees are well organized in species and trimmed regularly. We need more trees not less.

298. Gretchen Turner (ZIP code: 94112-1307)

No right to appeal a removal. They could take out beautiful, established trees that are decades old to make for better residential "views", while the rest of us suffer with no shade!

299. Marilyn Tredinnick (ZIP code: 94127)

Trees are so important to our city. Please build our city for the future, not just the present.

300. Barry Hermanson (ZIP code: 94116)

Josh,

Thanks very much for your work on growing and protecting the urban canopy.

Barry

301. James Parke (ZIP code: 94122)

It has been a long hard slog to increase the livability of San Francisco. Key to that is increasing the arboreal canopy for its aesthetics and for the healthy rain capture for our aquifer. More green space equals more healthy clean water to drink. This is not a Trump state, people matter and we want a green haven from real estate seas of concrete.

302. Charles Bush (ZIP code: 94115)

We are rapidly losing our already too small tree canopy.

303. Janie Lucas (ZIP code: 94110)

304. Yolanda Catzalco (ZIP code: 94110)

305. Leslie de Taillandier (ZIP code: 94109)

306. Daniel Strickland (ZIP code: 94114)

Our trees help make San Francisco beautiful and a more desirable place to live and work. We need to protect them.

307. Stephen Gorski (ZIP code: 94116)

308. Jane Bliss (ZIP code: 94117)

309. Kim Russo (ZIP code: 94122-2923)

Please keep our city green. We need trees! They are good for us and the wildlife in our city.

310. Calvin Lau (ZIP code: 94115)

311. Bette Stockton (ZIP code: 94133)

312. David Fairley (ZIP code: 94110)

313. Lisa Signoff (ZIP code: 94122)

Please save our trees!

314. ALEX KRINEY (ZIP code: 94117)

315. Norma Yazbek (ZIP code: 94137)

316. Georges Yazbek (ZIP code: 94127)

317. Dori Yazbek (ZIP code: 94127)

318. Helen Ferentinos (ZIP code: 94114)

Keep trees where they are. And, when possible, add MORE TREES!

319. Dorothy Niccolls (ZIP code: 94121)

320. Connie Begg (ZIP code: 94122)

321. Olena Beyer (ZIP code: 94127-1037)

322. Irene Nishimura (ZIP code: 94102)

Trees help clean the environment of greenhouse gases. We should encourage the planting of trees.

323. Kelly Torres (ZIP code: 94134)

Stop runaway developers!! Our trees matter and so does permitting to build. That's why the system is in place and it should NOT be altered for greedy developers and their supporters

324. Ray Rauen (ZIP code: 94134)

325. Erica Chiarucci (ZIP code: 94122)

326. James Collector (ZIP code: 94118)

Trees are priceless and no policy should result in SF having fewer trees over time.

327. Noa Beharav (ZIP code: 94127)

328. Jeanne Choy Tate (ZIP code: 94110)

329. Joel VanderWerf (ZIP code: 94103)

I have lived for almost 30 years in SoMa, which had nearly zero trees in 1996. Over the years dedicated volunteers have organized plantings and gotten property developers to contribute. We now have much prettier streets, which visitors frequently compliment. This is not about "streamlining". It's about quality of life, city pride, and welcoming visitors.

330. Melinda Dart (ZIP code: 94112)

It is wrong to allow developers to deplete our tree canopy. Doing so will degrade our environment all over the city. Please stand up for our right to be connected to nature, birds, life. Don't turn our whole city into a high rise.

331. Marigrace Cohen (ZIP code: 94116)

332. elaine benoit (ZIP code: 94112)

No, No, No. We need more trees. We need the right to appeal tree removal.. No to developers having trees removed at taxpayers expense.

333. Lisa Platt (ZIP code: 94123)

334. Gae Conte (ZIP code: 94123)

335. Deborah J. Nosowsky (ZIP code: 94131)

336. gene hwang (ZIP code: 94103)

337. Ellen Stephens (ZIP code: 94127)

338. Denise Chu (ZIP code: 94134)

They wiped out all the trees at the dead end of Raymond Ave. Truly disgusted and no notice. It was like a massacre.

339. JoAnn Yates (ZIP code: 94116)

I am particularly annoyed with Supervisor Wong supporting this initiative. D4 may easily have the least number of trees in the city, trees that are extremely important for our health as has been demonstrated by science over and over again. Do not make it easier to remove trees.

340. Kindra Scharich (ZIP code: 94109)

341. Mary Cervantes (ZIP code: 94121)

Please protect the trees!!! For the future wellbeing of humankind.

342. Maria Sousa (ZIP code: 94131)

343. John Ripley (ZIP code: 94110)

344. Doreen Gotelli (ZIP code: 94080)

345. Mary McAllister (ZIP code: 94116)

San Francisco is a cold, windy place, which was treeless prior to settlement. It has been systematically destroying its urban forest for decades. Stop San Francisco's war on trees.

346. Betty Jo Swanson (ZIP code: 94133-2021)

347. Jennifer Cook (ZIP code: 94123)

Mayor Lurie, you must do better for the future of our beautiful city. The city's trees are our reminders of nature's beauty - they aid in our happiness & the planet's well-being.

348. Don Bliss (ZIP code: 94110)

349. Laura Maguire (ZIP code: 94124)

SF already has one of the smallest tree canopies of a major metropolitan area in the US and needs to focus on adding a lot more trees and quickly. With increasingly extreme weather caused by global warming, any measure to streamline the removal of trees, when there is an urgent need to plant trees, would be shortsighted to say the very least. Making it easy to remove trees should not be a priority for this mayor. Please focus on what we urgently need—a much greater tree canopy.

350. Christopher Plaskett (ZIP code: 94110)

351. Diana Gilbert (ZIP code: 94134)

352. Anastasia Yovanopoulos (ZIP code: 94114)

353. Ryan Boswell (ZIP code: 94110)

We need to maintain and grow the green spaces in this city to be able to have healthy, livable streets and communities. Walking down a street lined with trees versus walking down a glass and concrete corridor are wildly different experiences, and a lifeless streetscape makes a neighborhood feel less

welcoming and comfortable. City departments and developers should not have unquestioned power to harm our communities like this.

354. sofia vilsker (ZIP code: 94122)

355. Dan Hasegawa (ZIP code: 94015)

356. Karen Schulkin (ZIP code: 94127)

357. Rupinder Baidwan (ZIP code: 94122-2557)

358. MARLAYNE Morgan (ZIP code: 94109)

359. Nathalie Paven (ZIP code: 94117)

360. Stan Hayes (ZIP code: 94133)

361. Susan Karpenko (ZIP code: 94122)

Trees are essential to keeping our air clean and provide protection and food for wildlife. Progreen!

362. Raphael Stricker (ZIP code: 94127)

363. Margaret Stroad (ZIP code: 94127)

364. Jacqueline Westby (ZIP code: 94112)

365. Mahin Charles (ZIP code: 94110)

366. Patricia Carazo (ZIP code: 94112)

367. Peter Walbridge (ZIP code: 94107)

368. Anna Abeyta (ZIP code: 94112)

Trees are important for the air quality of our city. Please continue to allow citizens to appeal the removal of trees by developers and others that might want to remove trees. Please, reject File #251211 amending San Francisco's Public Works Code Article 16.

369. Barbara Handler (ZIP code: 94110-5112)

PLEASE stop turning SF into Manhattan. YES, we need housing, but throwing up all these ugly, identical looking high rises in pretty & old neighborhoods and then also cutting down the trees ruins the entire character of SF AND is terrible for the climate and our air here.

370. Marilyn Ho (ZIP code: 94134)

Your organization is supposed to save trees one at a time. Right now we are close to the loss of 400

trees in the Park within about 2 years. I don't know how clear cuttings of a glove are possible. I hope your organization can come up with a guideline to relate it to the new Mayor's office. This tree-cutting activity is not limited to McLaren Park. There are alarming numbers of trees being taken down for weak reasons, i.e. fire, safety, and sunlight for future native plants. I have a friend who is a McLaren Collective volunteer who planted a native garden in the park and watched it being neglected and died. Is there a timeline for replanting any of the trees? So far I haven't seen anything.

Climate Change is a real threat and cutting down a large number of trees that's been here for 75 yrs is not a solution. We can stop this madness.
Thank you for your attention.

371. An anonymous signer (*ZIP code: 94107*)

372. Nancy Keane (*ZIP code: 94118-3523*)

We need more trees, not fewer trees! I'd support a new law requiring developers to double the number of existing trees.

373. James Edwards (*ZIP code: 94131*)

374. Amanda Rodriguez (*ZIP code: 94110*)

Trees are vital for all of our health. Please prioritize them!

375. Ronnie Zuckerberg (*ZIP code: 94131*)

376. Carol Faulkner (*ZIP code: 94116*)

377. Megann Sept (*ZIP code: 94110*)

378. Christel Henderson (*ZIP code: 94124*)

379. Rosana Castrillo Diaz (*ZIP code: 94110*)

380. Francisco Beltran (*ZIP code: 94121*)

381. Bill Snyder (*ZIP code: 94121*)

382. Rachel Aloy (*ZIP code: 94118*)

383. Barbara Butler (*ZIP code: 94116*)

Protect San Francisco trees and continue to create a future with more trees!

384. Marc Duffett (*ZIP code: 94116*)

If property owners are required to pay for the upkeep and replacement of sidewalks, then they should at least have the right to appeal the fate of the trees that are so important to the shared character of our neighborhoods and the city at large.

385. Carolyn Shuman (ZIP code: 94127-1128)

386. Lisa Bayan (ZIP code: 94118)

We need trees not concrete.

The public should have a voice

387. Jua Burciaga (ZIP code: 94112)

388. Linda Twigfire (ZIP code: 94107)

389. Gretchen Addi (ZIP code: 94127)

390. Susan Bostrom-Wong (ZIP code: 94121)

I hav planted 6 street trees in San Francisco through Urban Forest. We need more trees in our city. Protect what everyone have now and in the future.

391. Laurie Dunlap (ZIP code: 94115)

We need MORE trees, no fewer. Protect our trees and plant more.

392. Elizabeth Doyle (ZIP code: 94112-1335)

We need more trees in San Francisco, and they should be part of any new planning project. The public should be allowed to appeal when tree removals affect them.

393. laureen bergeron (ZIP code: 94110)

394. shoshanah dobry (ZIP code: 94124)

We need tree canopy for the overall health of the City. If a developer decides to remove a tree then they should pay a \$10K fine/tree & plant the same # of trees in a comparable space before they can move forward on that particular project.

395. Douglas Flinn (ZIP code: 94116)

396. Elizabeth DiMicco (ZIP code: 94127)

397. Steve Lumley (ZIP code: 94127)

398. Thomas Yaussy (ZIP code: 94114)

399. sue denlinger (ZIP code: 94131)

400. Dorothy Ruggles (ZIP code: 94127)

Please do not allow this unchecked and unwarranted tree cutting around the city.

401. Laura Kemp (ZIP code: 94134)

As a neighbor who has been actively involved in helping plant trees in my neighborhood and my street, I am for planting more street trees in our urban areas. Trees are necessary for a healthier environment, our personal and collective wellbeing, and help bring beauty and grace to our concrete spaces. Any proposal to remove the city's urban tree canopy without community input is preposterous and undemocratic. I am strongly opposed. Thank you.

402. stacy thompson (ZIP code: 94117)

403. martin zanfardino (ZIP code: 94133-2957)

404. Dianne Prichard (ZIP code: 94117)

What is their reasoning for God's sake? Partnered with developers? Very suspicious. Especially, if they don't care about input from voters. Cutting down healthy trees in SF is a diminution of lifestyle.

405. Susan Mullaney (ZIP code: 94122)

This is a really horrible loophole for developers that harms the rest of us. Once the sidewalk can't accommodate a tree well the opportunity will never come back. And removing the right to appeal is too totalitarian for our city.

406. Momoko Otani (ZIP code: 94123)

407. Callie Floor (ZIP code: 94117)

408. Michael Rich (ZIP code: 94112)

We need nature.

409. Revel P (ZIP code: 94116)

410. Dory Culver (ZIP code: 94109-2304)

411. Elaine Bonn (ZIP code: 94116)

412. Phillip Battaglia (ZIP code: 94114)

413. Victor Stern (ZIP code: 94127)

414. Margaret Sletteland (ZIP code: 94133)

415. Caroline Strongman (ZIP code: 94122)

416. Debolina Dutta (ZIP code: 94112)

This makes no sense. Why would the city make it less livable by removing and then allowing developers the opportunity to bypass planting trees. There are numerous social, environmental and quality of life benefits that's trees bring.

This is yet another way Mayor Lurie is NOT the people's mayor and rather developers' mayor.

417. Sandy S.Alvarez (ZIP code: 94122)

Please keep our city with lungs and green areas for our overall health.

418. Mitch Dalition (ZIP code: 94117)

419. Darlene Horton (ZIP code: 94107)

Please develop a sustainable plan to maintain and increase trees, even with new developments.

420. Deetje Boler (ZIP code: 94115-4261)

The change to this process that is needed, if any, would be 1) to increase the penalty for any tree removals to the point that there would be fewer proposed and 2) to encourage (maybe even fund) neighborhood residents (perhaps focused on teens?) to foster new plantings on their streets.

421. Debra Levin (ZIP code: 94114)

We need more trees not less- it's crucial to the beauty & health of San Francisco

422. Nathan Lang (ZIP code: 94121)

423. Karen Metro (ZIP code: 94116)

424. Kasia Shopov (ZIP code: 94122)

425. Richard Darrough (ZIP code: 94117)

It's obvious that SF has too few trees.

Good planning will provide them along with the badly needed affordable housing.

426. Kayleigh Henson (ZIP code: 94121)

I find it astounding how little is required of real estate developers for the privilege of doing business in SF and the millions upon millions they reap in profits. Yet for some reason the city seems entirely willing to let them off the hook for even the smallest of benefits. The idea that they can pay a negligible fee so they don't have to plant some trees says something deeply sad about the mayor's priorities. And the developers. And the soul of this city. Who, other than a movie villain, wants fewer trees in urban settings. Please don't move forward with this.

427. Joan Varrone (ZIP code: 94114)

Trees have so many benefits to a tree canopy and we must protect the trees.

428. Laura Burciaga (ZIP code: 94112)

429. Shoshana Lavinghouse (ZIP code: 94118)

430. Dolores Perez Heilbron (ZIP code: 94109)

Please stop these developers from causing further destruction to the natural growth of trees! Thank you.

431. Cindy Navarro (ZIP code: 94112)

432. Regina Sneed (ZIP code: 94109)

There used to be a street tree advisory committee that took the role of protecting our canopy of trees in the city. With climate change we need more trees and green spaces for air quality, reduction of heat etc.

433. Jamie Delman (ZIP code: 94103)

434. Rosemary Booth (ZIP code: 94118)

Never remove the public's right to appeal.

435. Yasuyo Satoh (ZIP code: 94109)

Tokyo is one of the highly populated cities. They still keep trees. They make the city look beautiful and refreshing.

436. Kristap Baltin (ZIP code: 94114)

437. Terry Baum (ZIP code: 94114)

438. Yuko Franklin (ZIP code: 94131)

439. Alessandra Kameron (ZIP code: 94109)

I affirm the importance of retaining the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removal in San Francisco. We have every reason to expect that the number of removed trees would easily eclipse the number that would be planted to replace them. Similarly, we are already losing, due to age and disease, trees that are not being replaced. Giving potentially unrestricted preference to developer dollars will only compound this condition.

440. Janet Freeman (ZIP code: 94121)

441. Cynthia Joe (ZIP code: 94109)

442. Victoria Kirby (ZIP code: 94109)

Trees are so important, especially in a city. We need more trees, not less!

443. Bianca Molgora (ZIP code: 94110)

444. Chris Bunga (ZIP code: 94117)

445. Denise O'Sullivan (ZIP code: 94118)

Trees are beautiful and healing.

446. joyce fishman (ZIP code: 94109)

447. Robin Phillips (ZIP code: 94131)

448. Vera Genkin (ZIP code: 94116)

449. Gail Colombo (ZIP code: 94127)

We need trees, leave them alone. And do not dare to remove the citizen's right to appeal! Fascism has no place in America.

450. Sophia Andary (ZIP code: 94121)

451. David Eldred (ZIP code: 94122)

We need trees and the PUBLIC right to make policy and decisions.

452. Suzanne Smith (ZIP code: 94109)

453. Cathy Cohn (ZIP code: 94122)

454. Karen Tarantola (ZIP code: 94127)

455. Lynn Morgenstern (ZIP code: 94901)

456. iona Ali (ZIP code: 94112)

457. Nancy Edmonson (ZIP code: 94132)

PLANT More Trees! Do Not Cut Them Down. We need green, not dirt.

458. Marlene Tran (ZIP code: 94134)

Given the urgency of global warming and for the beautification of our cities, we must preserve all our precious trees. Never allow the cutting of any grandfather trees!

459. Winnie Tsang (ZIP code: 94134)

Please DON'T cut down any of our beautiful trees in our City. Let them thrive.

460. Hatun Noguera (ZIP code: 94127)

461. Margaret Goeden (ZIP code: 94116)

I oppose this misguided effort to reduce accountability and silence the public, regarding the public's ability to request review of tree removal by the city. Thank you

462. Bronwyn Gundogdu (ZIP code: 94122)

I am very upset with the ongoing removal of trees throughout the city, and very upset with this plan to stop the appeals process re: tree removal. San Francisco is a high density city - and in many areas an ugly tree desert. The Mayor and the Board of Supervisors should be protecting our already scant tree coverage and promoting increased greening of our city.

463. Tony Villa (ZIP code: 94122-2807)

Park and Rec is out of control! They are bleeding the city of money and are poorly run.

464. Mary OConnell (ZIP code: 94123)

465. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94122)

Urban forests keep cities alive in multiple ways.

466. Kyle DeWolfe (ZIP code: 94109)

The State wants more housing, the residents of San Francisco want more trees!

467. Nancy Donnelly (ZIP code: 94121)

Please don't cut the trees down during demolition at the old hospital on Sacramento street! Work around them!! We need them!

468. Heather Estes (ZIP code: 94116)

Of course we need the right to appeal removing trees!

469. Joshua Prieto (ZIP code: 94122)

470. Shamika Klassen (ZIP code: 94115)

471. Savannah Schoelen (ZIP code: 94122)

472. Qian Wan (ZIP code: 94103)

Trees are needed

473. Christine Segalas (ZIP code: 94107)

474. Kristina Cooper (ZIP code: 94107)

What a terrible plan!! We need to PLANT trees not remove them

475. Sebastian Forst (ZIP code: 94114)

476. Samara Laxineta (ZIP code: 94121)

477. Anna Papitto (ZIP code: 94131)

478. Alice Rogers (ZIP code: 94107)

479. Debbie Bowman (ZIP code: 94107)

480. Abigail Kroch (ZIP code: 94107)

481. Rose Arrieta (ZIP code: 94110)

Please don't silence us. Support our planet and our future.

482. Shalmali Bane (ZIP code: 94103)

483. Joseph Barrett (ZIP code: 94127)

484. Collin Tharp (ZIP code: 94107)

485. Adam Lippe (ZIP code: 94122)

486. Elena Giacomani (ZIP code: 94110)

487. Teja Pattabhiraman (ZIP code: 94117)

488. Marisa Johnson (ZIP code: 94115)

Please do not cut down any planted mature trees that can be saved. Takes years with newly planted.

489. Jen Fowler (ZIP code: 94131)

490. Harold Klingsporn (ZIP code: 94109)

Residents need a voice in such changes to liveability

491. W Chan (ZIP code: 94102)

Trees in cities are a great benefit for those who walk or roll. They also beautify our communities and increase real estate values. Keep the trees promised by the developers!

492. Josh Jagerman (ZIP code: 94103)

493. KATINA ANTOINE (ZIP code: 94107)

Respect nature. Leave the trees alone, the community has a right to object this action.

494. Josh Bruck (ZIP code: 94131)

Don't take away the right to appeal the cutting of trees!

495. Rebecca Hardy (ZIP code: 94107)

496. Patrick Monette-Shaw (ZIP code: 94109)

In addition to removing the public's right to appeal tree removals, Mayor Lurie's "Commission Streamlining Task Force" has recommended eliminating the "Urban Forestry Council" completely, and assigning the Forestry Council's oversight duties to the Commission on the Environment — if (a big if) the Environment Commission deigns to take on the oversight functions of the Forestry Council. The Streamlining Task Force also simultaneously recommended taking the Environment Commission out of the City Charter, moving it to the Administrative Code, and converting it from a "regulatory body" to an "advisory body," slapping a three-year sunset date on the Environment Commission, and taking

budget approval authority over the Environment Department away from the Environment Commission. Applying a sunset date opens the door to the Environment Commission being shut down by the Board of Supervisors anytime in the future.

The Urban Forestry Council was created by the Board of Supervisors 22 years ago in July 2003 under the "Precautionary Principle" to manage trees in San Francisco by emphasizing public participation in the preservation and expansion of the urban forest before causing actual environmental harm — including through illegal tree removal and greedy developers avoiding responsibility to protect and expand our urban canopy.

In addition to writing the Board of Supervisors about stopping the Mayor's removal of citizen appeals of tree removals, also consider writing separately to the Board of Supervisors asking them to overturn the Streamlining Task Force's decision to eliminate the Urban Forestry Council and decision to take the Environment Commission out of the City Charter and apply a sunset date to the Environment Commission!

Through public pressure and advocacy, the Streamlining Task Force just overturned its initial decision to eliminate the "Reentry Council," showing public pressure works. Contact the Streamlining Task Force at CommissionStreamlining@sfgov.org to overturn eliminating the Urban Forestry Council too!

After all, any District Supervisor who approves any of the Mayor's tree removal or commission reform "streamlining" goals should face recall from office, just as Joel Engardio was recalled!

— Patrick Monette-Shaw

497. Richie Vasquez (*ZIP code: 94103*)

498. Teresa Palmer (*ZIP code: 94117-1219*)

499. Arthur Paul Cartier (*ZIP code: 94117-1219*)

500. Laurel Myers (*ZIP code: 94107*)

501. Diana Anderson (*ZIP code: 94117*)

Trees give us livability in an increasingly concrete city. They reduce heat in summer, block some wind tunnels and exchange carbon dioxide for oxygen. They take a LONG TIME to GROW- but only an hour to destroy

502. Andrea Biltagi (*ZIP code: 94102*)

503. Frank Lorch (*ZIP code: 94122*)

504. Nicky Trasvina (*ZIP code: 94132*)

Please stop this attack on SF residents, SF trees, and SF birds. San Francisco, as beautiful as it is, still needs our trees for a healthier environment! We also need to follow the law when it comes to protecting our trees from any City department or developer whose intention is to destroy this vital environmental factor that contributes to the health and beauty of San Francisco. What would Saint Francis say ? !

505. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 94103)

506. Jayme Kogel (ZIP code: 94103)

507. Paul Giese (ZIP code: 94103)

508. Wendy Oakes (ZIP code: 94117)

He just lost my vote. This is disgusting

509. Norm Ishimoto (ZIP code: 94116-1246)

We have had a Mayten in front of our house since, hmmm, 30 years? From a FUF campaign. SFPW has been erratic at irregular intervals, thankfully infrequent, in its attentions. Wife and I would be highly upset if we came home from shopping and found our Mayten was a stump or badly trimmed.

510. Linda R Miller (ZIP code: 94121)

PLEASE DO NOT CUT DOWN ANY TREES - THE BIRDS NEED THEM FOR MANY REASONS AND PEOPLE NEED BEAUTY AND SHADE.

511. Catherine Valentine (ZIP code: 94127-2143)

512. Nikhil Gowda (ZIP code: 94103)

File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban

513. Daniel Dokovna (ZIP code: 94103)

Protect our trees.

514. Kelly Fitzgerald (ZIP code: 94116)

Plant trees!

515. Zachariah Spellman (ZIP code: 94116)

We need our trees to breathe the breeze.

516. Jake Hanft (ZIP code: 94114)

517. Barbara Save PRATO (ZIP code: 94131-1161)

Save our beautiful native __. I was shocked to see Washington Park without that tree. WHY? Please now replace with a __.

518. Julia Ready (ZIP code: 94114)

Cutting trees to

Improve sidewalks passage - can be replaced with trees that have a better root system.

519. Sybil Meyer (ZIP code: 94131)

SF doesn't need less foliage!

520. Leah Edwards (ZIP code: 94103)

521. Nancy Burrill (ZIP code: 94109-6553)

522. Eric Oesterling (ZIP code: 94115)

523. Carole Issel (ZIP code: 94127-2212)

I was born in San Francisco 82 years ago. The public must have the right to appeal when the City initiates a tree removal. Greenery purifies our air and gives space to our wildlife. Too many trees have been destroyed by the City already. We have to protect them.

524. Loren Jones (ZIP code: 94127)

525. Kasey Rios (ZIP code: 94102)

To be the vibrant world-class city San Francisco aims for we must increase investment in forest canopy.

This means: protecting the trees we have, planting trees proportionate to development and respecting public process.

526. Terence Craig (ZIP code: 94109)

Removing the right to appeal would, of course, streamline new development, but at a considerable cost to beauty of the city. I say keep the right of appeal.

527. David Singer (ZIP code: 94103)

528. Keith Robert Saggars (ZIP code: 94133)

529. Elissa Matross (ZIP code: 94114)

I love trees

530. Shawn Agarwal (ZIP code: 94103)

Trees are a part of our community and neighbors shouldn't be stripped of our rights to advocate for them if necessary to protect them.

531. Annie Pearson (ZIP code: 94121)

Daniel Lurie is just here for the billionaires. Gross.

532. Victoria Isyanova (ZIP code: 94132)

533. Linda Hayashi (ZIP code: 94118)

534. Tom Duffy (ZIP code: 94127)

We need more trees not less. It's terrible what Parks and Rec is doing at Golden Gate Parkl. They took down a healthy 1 50 year old tree in the middle of Hellman meadow that was joy to behold. They also cut down many of the trees around the meadow. They are denuding Lake Merritt on the side

opposite to Fort Funston.

535. Brian Glennon (*ZIP code: 94132*)

Trees over developers!

536. Philip Schwartz (*ZIP code: 94107*)

537. Maryann Hrichak (*ZIP code: 94117*)

538. Jeanine Hawk (*ZIP code: 94116*)

Trees are an important part of our neighborhoods. Don't let developers buy out.

539. Juliette Hayes (*ZIP code: 94118*)

540. Mahon McGrath (*ZIP code: 94110*)

541. Angela DePaul (*ZIP code: 94133*)

542. Ton-Yun Fang (*ZIP code: 94114*)

543. Ann MacAndrew (*ZIP code: 94112*)

544. Alexander Koodrin (*ZIP code: 94131*)

545. Sebra Leaves (*ZIP code: 94110*)

Why do you want to cut the trees that are sequestering the carbon that would otherwise go into the air and are a major source for cooling our city?

546. Allyson Browne (*ZIP code: 94131*)

547. Marc Brenman (*ZIP code: 94110*)

548. Shelby Morales (*ZIP code: 94015*)

Our trees and green spaces provide immeasurable benefit to the air we breathe and the wild birds and other critters which enrich our lives. They must be responsibly stewarded, not sold out to developers who's primary concern is their bottom line.

549. Poppy Gilman (*ZIP code: 94122*)

From: [Claudia Stern](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Shaun Aukland](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 5:55:14 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I have lived and voted in San Francisco since 1985. As a retiree, I now volunteer in the garden (Sutro Park) near my house. I am lucky to have an increasing number of trees on the streets near my home thanks to the Friends of the Urban Forest. These trees reduce heat and noise, provide water absorption during rainy periods, and provide habitat for living creatures. We need more trees to make SF an even better city.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,
Claudia Stern
714 44th Avenue
415 318 6461

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more [Click Here](#).

From: [Tisay Baclay](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Subject: Public Comment – File No. 251211 – Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 4:44:10 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Subject: Public Comment – File No. 251211 – Opposition to Appeals Ban

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **strongly OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public’s right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. While framed as administrative “streamlining,” this provision fundamentally strips communities of their right to be heard and removes meaningful oversight over decisions that directly affect neighborhood health, environmental equity, climate resilience, and quality of life.

Under current law, when Public Works or another City agency seeks to remove mature trees, residents have the legal right to file an appeal and trigger a public hearing. This process is not theoretical - it works. File No. 251211 would eliminate this safeguard entirely.

The right to public participation and due process is not optional. It is protected under the **First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution**, including the rights to free speech, to petition the government for redress of grievances, and to due process under the law. Fast-tracking legislation that removes appeal rights, especially when initiated by City departments themselves, raises serious constitutional concerns and undermines democratic governance. San Francisco must not become a city where community voices are treated as impediments rather than essential partners.

San Francisco has long been recognized as a leader in **environmental protection, climate justice, and civic engagement**. At a moment when residents are already absorbing sweeping budget cuts across healthcare, social services, outreach, housing stabilization, and environmental programs, this legislation further erodes trust and participation. The question before us is not whether the City can move

faster, but whether it can do so **without abandoning its values**.

Across the city, residents have stepped up beyond expectations - working in partnership with community-based nonprofits, organizing neighbors, and serving as frontline responders to the consequences of disinvestment. We are the ones operating at ground zero, engaging directly with impacted communities and protecting neighborhood-level environmental health. Removing public oversight ignores this lived experience and weakens outcomes.

I am also deeply concerned about an **equity loophole** in the legislation. While the bill allows developers to pay an In-Lieu Fee in place of planting trees, it fails to clearly define “low tree canopy” neighborhoods. Without a strict, data-driven definition that includes **canopy cover metrics and environmental burden scores**, these funds risk being allocated without regard to actual environmental need, undermining the very equity goals the policy claims to advance.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **CONTINUE this item** until public appeal rights, constitutional protections, and clear environmental equity safeguards are fully restored.

Sincerely,

Teresa Dulalas

Resident - SoMa Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District 6

From: [Loren Craig Harrington](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 1:18:47 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for File No. 251211.

I am writing to OPPOSE the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please CONTINUE this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Craig Harrington
Twin Peaks SF

From: [Barbara Bagot-López](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [FelderStaff](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 10:29:24 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello, Chair Melgar & members of the Land Use Committee.

Please add my comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I OPPOSE the elimination of the public right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process--removing the voice of SF residents--is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

In addition, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please CONTINUE this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bagot-López

Resident of Bernal Heights and San Francisco for 49 years who appreciates street trees

From: [Nikhil Gowda](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 8:48:53 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Nikhil Gowda

West SoMa resident and home owner.

From: [Mc Mc 1](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: legislative File No. 251211. OPPOSE eliminating public appeal for tree removal
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 11:05:42 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,
Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.
I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.
Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.
Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.
Sincerely,
Mary McFadden
Anza Vista

From: [Frank Lorch](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 8:35:02 PM

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,
Frank Lorch
Sunset

From: [Andrea Biltagi](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 7:59:59 PM

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Andrea Biltagi

Tenderloin, 94102

From: [Laurel Myers](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 7:46:40 PM

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Laurel Myers, SoMA resident

From: [Amanda Rodriguez](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 6:57:16 PM

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Amanda Rodriguez

Glen Park resident

From: [Rebecca Hardy](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 6:54:21 PM

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Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining;" it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hardy, Potrero Hill

From: [Josh Jagerman](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 6:21:25 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Josh Jagerman

From: [Collin Tharp](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 5:20:43 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Collin Tharp

Potrero Hill

From: [Shalmali Bane](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 4:51:11 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Shalmali Bane, SOMA west neighborhood

From: [Abigail Kroch](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 4:35:52 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

- Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Abigail Kroch, SoMa resident

From: [Alice Rogers](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 4:21:11 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

As a decades-long tree advocate and FUF member, I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Additionally, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored. We need to get this right.

Respectfully,

Alice Rogers

.....

Alice Rogers
10 South Park St
Studio 2
San Francisco, CA 94107

arcomnsf@pacbell.net

From: [Anna Papitto](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 4:06:40 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely, Anna Papitto, Noe Valley

From: [Christine S.](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [DorseyStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 3:56:18 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction. The City of San Francisco needs to be adding more trees to beautify the sad streets in SF.

I've been trying for 5 years just to get one tree planted after a car crashed into the gorgeous healthy ficus that adorned my street in SOMA. This is shameful. A missed opportunity to have a city that deserves to showoff its natural beauty.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Christine Segalas
District 6 (SOMA)

From: [Shamika Klassen](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 3:31:15 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shamika Klassen, Alamo Square Neighborhood

From: [Ruby Rieke](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - File No. 251211 - Opposition to Appeals Ban
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 3:30:19 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chair Melgar and Members of the Land Use Committee,

Please add these comments to the official legislative file for **File No. 251211**.

I am writing to **OPPOSE** the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.

Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.

Please **CONTINUE** this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

Sincerely, Ruby Rieke Mission District

From: [Shaun Aukland](#)
To: [CPC-Commissions Secretary](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Dennis Phillips, Sarah \(CPC\)](#)
Cc: [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Opposition & CEQA Objection: File No. 251211 (Street Tree Ordinance)
Date: Monday, January 5, 2026 12:34:38 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear President So, Chair Melgar, Supervisors, and Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of [FairTrees.org](#) to formally oppose [File No. 251211](#) and to object to the Planning Department's CEQA determination. Please also add this to the legislative file.

1. CEQA Objection. The legislative file states this ordinance is "Not defined as a project... because it would not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment." We dispute this finding. The legislation eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Historical data proves that the appeals process has successfully preserved hundreds of mature trees that the City intended to remove (e.g., Mission Verde, 24th St).

If the appeals process prevents tree removal, then removing the appeals process will logically result in the destruction of trees that otherwise would have been saved.

This will have an obvious impact to the city's physical environment. A reduction in urban canopy is a physical change to the environment that increases heat islands and reduces air quality. This requires environmental review, not an exemption. As our organization has communicated before, Environment Justice Communities like SOMA, the Tenderloin, Bayview Hunter's Point, and others are largely *losing* canopy, not gaining it. Ongoing projects like the Folsom / Howard Streetscape projects that have removed dozens of trees, and only added marginally.

2. The "Equity" Justification is Not Defined. The "In-Lieu Fee" Loophole The bill allows developers to pay fees to plant trees in "neighborhoods with low canopy" but fails to define that term. Without a data-driven definition (like "Equity Priority Communities"), this creates a slush fund where fees generated in high-need districts like SoMa (2.7% canopy) can be diverted to wealthier areas. We have seen this **over and over**, with the federal Inflation Reduction Act grant, as well as Prop L funds. Our organization has been analyzing canopy data from US Forestry, and can provide this to make this a more data-driven process.

3. SF Citizens Lose Their Last Remaining Voice in Trees: Stripping residents of the right to appeal City decisions removes the only check and balance against administrative overreach, and eliminates due process.. This is not streamlining; it is silencing.

We urge you to CONTINUE this item until the CEQA determination is corrected and these amendments are made.

Sincerely,

Shaun Aukland
FairTrees.org

From: [Michael Nulty](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211
Date: Friday, January 2, 2026 11:12:47 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

The Alliance for a Better District 6 and many of its affiliate partners are writing in strong opposition to the proposed amendments in File No. 251211, which seek to weaken San Francisco's urban forestry protections by expanding in-lieu fees for street tree planting, exempting accessory dwelling units (ADUs) from planting requirements, eliminating appeals for tree removals by City departments and commissions, and shifting notices to online postings only. These changes prioritize development efficiency over environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the long-term health of our city. San Francisco's tree canopy is already critically low at 13.7%, and these amendments risk further erosion at a time when California grapples with climate change, persistent droughts, and catastrophic wildfires—while the City faces severe budget deficits projected to reach nearly \$1 billion in coming years. Below, we outline key points of opposition, drawing from the ordinance details, comparisons to other California cities, and broader environmental and fiscal concerns.

Key Points of Opposition:

1. Erosion of Mandatory Tree Planting and Immediate Greenery Benefits—Especially Critical Amid Budget Shortfalls:

- The proposal allows any development project to pay an in-lieu fee (currently around \$2,590 per tree) instead of planting required street trees, even when planting is feasible. This shifts from the current system, where waivers are granted only for impossibility, impracticality, or safety issues, and alternatives like sidewalk landscaping are limited.
- Exempting ADUs and Junior ADUs from tree requirements ignores their cumulative impact on urban density. New developments without on-site trees exacerbate urban heat islands, increase storm water runoff, and diminish local biodiversity—issues amplified by California's ongoing drought, which has led to water restrictions and heightened fire risks.
- In recent years, **new development has become one of San Francisco's primary alternative ways new trees get planted**, due to chronic underfunding of city agencies like Public Works' Urban Forestry Bureau. With historic budget deficits—including an \$800 million shortfall addressed in the FY 2025-2026 budget and projections of up to \$1 billion in future cycles—core urban forestry programs face constraints, reductions in

positions, and reliance on grants or voter-set-asides. In-lieu fees, deposited into the Adopt-A-Tree Fund, may fund future plantings but often result in delayed or off-site actions that fail to benefit the immediate community. Expanding these fees risks reducing even this key source of new trees, when we desperately need more planted now, not deferred payments that could be further strained by ongoing fiscal pressures.

2. Elimination of Public Appeals and Reduced Transparency:

- Under existing law, decisions on street tree removals (including hazard trees) by the Department of Public Works (DPW) or other City agencies are appealable first to the DPW Director and then to the Board of Appeals, with robust noticing via postings, newspapers, and notifications to abutters and organizations.
- The amendments make these decisions final and nonappealable, limiting public input and oversight. This is particularly concerning for non-hazard trees, where 15-day objection periods currently allow hearings.
- Replacing newspaper notices with website postings reduces accessibility for non-digital-savvy residents, potentially excluding vulnerable communities.
- In contrast, many other California cities maintain strong appeal processes to ensure accountability:
 - Beverly Hills: Appeals to the Planning Commission (Municipal Code Title 10, Chapter 3).
 - Pacifica: 10-day appeal period to Planning Commission, with further escalation to City Council (Title 4, Chapter 12).
 - Los Altos: 10-day public notification for appeals to City Clerk.
 - Mountain View: Appeals to Urban Forestry Board or City Council within 10 days.
 - Santa Cruz: Appeals to Parks and Recreation Commission for heritage trees.
 - Saratoga: 15-day appeal window for nearby homeowners.
 - San Luis Obispo: Appeals to Tree Committee.
 - Santa Monica: Reviews by Urban Forest Task Force.
 - Pasadena: Standard zoning code appeals for tree protections.
- These models demonstrate that appeals foster community trust and prevent arbitrary removals, unlike the proposed streamlining, which could lead to unchecked tree loss.

3. Exacerbation of Environmental and Climate Challenges:

- San Francisco's urban forest enhances walkability, livability, and sustainability by filtering air pollutants, sequestering carbon, and providing shade—essential amid California's wildfires, which have scorched millions of acres and degraded air quality statewide (e.g., the 2020 fires blanketed the Bay Area in smoke).

- Without mandatory planting, new developments contribute to climate change by increasing heat retention and energy use for cooling, while reducing natural defenses against drought-induced water scarcity.
- Trees clean the air of wildfire particulates and support resilience against extreme weather; removing appeal processes risks hasty removals that diminish this buffer. California needs more trees, not fewer, to combat these interconnected crises—yet this ordinance balances toward developer certainty over ecological necessity.

4. Inconsistency with Broader Policies and Public Welfare:

- The ordinance affirms compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), General Plan, and Planning Code Section 101.1, but these amendments undermine the spirit of sustainability and public welfare findings under Section 302.
- By prioritizing efficiency in development, it overlooks the long-term costs: poorer air quality, higher health risks from heat and pollution, and reduced property values in less green neighborhoods—compounded by budget constraints that already limit proactive planting.
- Alternative landscaping options (e.g., 75 sq ft per waived tree) are insufficient substitutes, as they lack the full ecological benefits of mature trees.

In summary, these amendments threaten to stall progress on expanding San Francisco's meager tree canopy, diminish public participation, reduce a vital source of new plantings amid fiscal challenges, and heighten vulnerability to climate threats. The Alliance for a Better District 6 and many of its affiliate partners urge you to reject File No. 251211 and instead reinforce protections that mandate on-site planting, preserve appeals, and prioritize urban greening. Our city's future depends on robust environmental policies, not shortcuts that favor short-term gains.

Sincerely,

Michael Nulty
Alliance for a Better District 6
Executive Director

Michael Nulty

P.O. Box 420782
San Francisco, CA 94142-0782
(415) 339-8327 - Direct
(415) 339-8779 - Alliance for a Better District 6
<http://abd6.cfsites.org/>

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#)
Cc: [BOS-Operations](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [De Asis, Edward \(BOS\)](#); [Entezari, Mehran \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: 2 Letters Regarding File No. 251211
Date: Tuesday, December 30, 2025 9:37:15 AM
Attachments: [2 Letters Regarding File No. 251211.pdf](#)

Hello,

Please see attached 2 letters regarding **File No. 251211:**

Ordinance amending the Public Works Code to allow development projects to satisfy street tree planting requirements through payment of an in lieu fee or providing alternative landscaping; exempt accessory dwelling units from street tree planting requirements; eliminate appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments and commissions; and update in lieu fee reporting requirements; amending the Administrative Code to create a separate account within the Adopt-A-Tree Fund to receive in lieu fees for street tree requirements; amending the Planning Code to update street tree applicability requirements; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; making findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1; and making public necessity, convenience, and welfare findings under Planning Code, Section 302.

Regards,

John Bullock

Office of the Clerk of the Board
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-5184
BOS@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

Disclosures: *Personal information that is provided in communications to the Board of Supervisors is subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act and the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance. Personal information provided will not be redacted. Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Board of Supervisors and its committees. All written or oral communications that members of the public submit to the Clerk's Office regarding pending legislation or hearings will be made available to all members of the public for inspection and copying. The Clerk's Office does not redact any information from these submissions. This means that personal information—including names, phone numbers, addresses and similar information that a member of the public elects to submit to the Board and its committees—may appear on the Board of Supervisors website or in other public documents that members of the public may inspect or copy.*

From: [San Francisco Tree Campaign](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments
Date: Friday, December 19, 2025 1:43:02 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed amendments in **File No. 251211**, which would weaken San Francisco's urban forestry protections by:

- Allowing developers to satisfy street tree requirements through in-lieu fees or undefined "alternative landscaping,"
- Exempting ADUs and JADUs from tree planting requirements,
- Eliminating the public's right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments and commissions, and
- Replacing existing public notice requirements with online postings only.

Taken together, these changes prioritize administrative convenience over environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the long-term health and resilience of San Francisco.

1. In-Lieu Fees Will Reduce Tree Planting at a Time We Can Least Afford It

San Francisco's tree canopy is critically low—approximately **13–14%**, among the smallest of any major U.S. city. New development has become one of the *primary remaining mechanisms* through which new street trees are planted, largely because City planting capacity is chronically underfunded.

Allowing developers to opt out of planting trees by paying an in-lieu fee (currently ~\$2,600 per tree) will result in **fewer trees planted, full stop**. The fee does not cover the true cost of planting, watering, and replacing trees over their three-year establishment period, nor does it compensate for lost planting opportunities when new frontages are designed to permanently preclude trees.

This shift is especially troubling given the City's ongoing fiscal crisis. With projected deficits approaching **\$1 billion**, Public Works and its Urban Forestry Bureau already lack the operational capacity to convert in-lieu fees into timely, neighborhood-level plantings. Deferred payments do not cool streets, clean air, or support public health.

Exempting ADUs and JADUs further compounds this problem. While small individually, their cumulative impact on density, heat islands, and storm water runoff is significant—particularly in neighborhoods already lacking canopy.

2. Eliminating Appeals for City-Initiated Tree Removals Removes Oversight—Not Red Tape

The proposal to eliminate appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments does **not** meaningfully expedite housing or private development. City-initiated removals are overwhelmingly associated with public works and infrastructure projects, not private construction.

Appeals serve a critical function: they require departments to justify removals publicly and have repeatedly led to **better outcomes**, including:

- Preservation of healthy trees,
- Revised designs that accommodate both infrastructure and canopy,
- Increased replacement ratios, and
- Innovative community partnerships such as **Mission Verde**, which now serves as a model for volunteer-supported tree watering and green jobs.

Removing appeals eliminates one of the City's only effective oversight mechanisms for urban forestry decisions and creates a real risk of abuse—encouraging developers to pressure City agencies to initiate removals on their behalf, at taxpayer expense, with no public recourse.

3. Reduced Public Notice Undermines Transparency and Equity

Replacing established notice requirements with website-only postings will disproportionately exclude residents who lack reliable internet access, have language barriers, or are otherwise disconnected from digital-only processes. Tree removals affect public space, neighborhood health, and climate resilience; they warrant robust, accessible notice and public participation.

Notably, many California cities—including Beverly Hills, Mountain View, Santa Cruz, Pasadena, and others—maintain clear appeal processes for tree removals. San Francisco would be moving *backward* by eliminating them.

4. These Amendments Conflict with Climate, Equity, and Public Health Goals

Urban trees are essential infrastructure. They reduce extreme heat, filter air pollution (including wildfire smoke), manage storm water, support biodiversity, and improve mental and physical health. Weakening planting requirements and oversight contradicts the City's Climate Action Plan, General Plan sustainability goals, and stated equity commitments—particularly as climate impacts intensify statewide.

Conclusion

File No. 251211 risks accelerating canopy loss, reducing public trust, and undermining San Francisco's climate resilience at precisely the wrong moment. I urge you to reject these amendments and instead pursue policies that:

- Preserve mandatory, on-site tree planting whenever feasible,
- Maintain the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals,
- Strengthen—not weaken—public notice requirements, and
- Invest in scalable City–community partnerships that expand planting and watering capacity.

San Francisco needs **more trees, more accountability, and more public engagement**, not fewer of each.

Respectfully submitted,

John Nulty co-chair San Francisco Tree Campaign

<https://sanfranciscotreecampaign.blogspot.com>

From: [Tenderloin Tree Campaign 2004](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211
Date: Friday, December 19, 2025 2:00:37 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Executive Summary and Analysis of Proposed Amendments Affecting San Francisco's Tree Canopy

Overview of Proposed Amendments

The proposed amendments under review in San Francisco include two primary changes:

- 1. Street Tree Planting Requirements:** Developers may satisfy street tree planting obligations by either:
 - Planting trees,
 - Paying an in lieu fee (currently about \$2,590 per tree),
 - Or providing alternative landscaping (a vaguely defined option that excludes street trees).
- 2. Elimination of Public Appeals:** The public's right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments and commissions to the Board of Appeals would be removed, making such removals final and non appealable.

Key Concerns and Critique

1. Impact on San Francisco's Tree Canopy

Reduction in Actual Tree Planting: Allowing developers to pay fees or provide alternative landscaping instead of planting trees will likely reduce the number of new trees planted. The current in lieu fee barely covers the full cost of planting and maintaining trees, including replacement of dead or damaged trees.

Undefined "Alternative Landscaping": The term is vague and explicitly excludes street trees, which means no guaranteed net gain or even maintenance of the current canopy.

Operational Capacity Limits: The City's Public Works department and its nonprofit partner, Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF), lack sufficient resources and coordination capacity to meet tree planting and maintenance goals effectively.

Watering and Maintenance Challenges: Ongoing watering for about three years after planting is critical but underfunded. The \$19 million annual StreetTreeSF budget is legally restricted to maintenance of existing trees, not planting or watering new ones, limiting successful establishment of new trees.

2. Elimination of Public Appeals for City-Initiated Tree Removals

Loss of Oversight and Accountability: Removing the public’s right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments eliminates an important check on City actions, reducing transparency and public input.

No Real Efficiency Gain: Appeals currently take 6-8 weeks and are not a significant bottleneck to development. Eliminating appeals does not meaningfully expedite projects but removes public scrutiny.

Risk of Corruption and Reduced Public Input: Without appeals, developers might pressure the City to remove trees on public land to avoid scrutiny, shifting costs to taxpayers and reducing transparency.

Context: Importance of Urban Trees in San Francisco

Critical Role of Urban Forests: Urban trees contribute significantly to climate resilience, public health, and social equity by reducing urban heat, improving air quality, and enhancing community well-being.

San Francisco’s Tree Canopy Status: The city’s tree canopy covers about 13.7% of the urban area, one of the smallest among major U.S. cities. Protections mainly cover street trees and significant trees near sidewalks; trees in parks and private yards are largely unregulated.

Historical Policy Changes: Before 2017, property owners maintained street trees, limiting growth due to cost concerns. Proposition E (2017) shifted maintenance responsibility to Public Works with a dedicated budget, but this funding cannot be used for planting or watering new trees, only for maintenance and sidewalk repairs.

Financial and Operational Realities

Aspect	Current Situation	Impact of Proposed Amendments
In Lieu Fee Amount	Approximately \$2,590 per tree, barely covers planting and watering costs	Encourages fee payment over actual planting, reducing canopy growth
Tree Planting Funding	Patchwork, unreliable, mostly volunteer-driven	No new dedicated funding; watering remains a bottleneck
	Limited Public	Increased demand without

Operational Capacity	Works and FUF resources	capacity increase will hinder planting efforts
Public Oversight	Board of Appeals hears appeals on tree removals	Eliminating appeals removes public checks and balances

Answers to Your Specific Questions

What are the proposed alternatives?

Developers can satisfy street tree planting requirements by:

- Planting trees,
- Paying an in lieu fee,
- Or providing “alternative landscaping,” a vaguely defined option that excludes street trees and does not guarantee canopy growth.

How much is the in lieu fee?

The in lieu fee is currently approximately \$2,590 per tree.

What is the current tree canopy percentage?

San Francisco’s urban tree canopy is approximately 13.7%, one of the lowest among major U.S. cities.

Who is FUF?

Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) is a nonprofit partner organization that collaborates with the City’s Public Works department to plant and maintain urban trees in San Francisco. FUF plays a critical role in volunteer-driven tree planting and maintenance efforts but faces resource constraints.

Opposition Points and Broader Concerns

The amendments prioritize development efficiency over environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the long-term health of San Francisco’s urban forest.

Exempting accessory dwelling units (ADUs) from tree planting requirements ignores their cumulative impact on urban density and environmental quality. The elimination of public appeals and reduction of public notices to online postings only reduces transparency and public participation, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and digitally disconnected communities.

Other California cities maintain robust appeal processes for tree removals,

fostering community trust and preventing arbitrary removals. Given San Francisco's budget deficits and climate challenges, weakening tree protections risks exacerbating urban heat islands, storm water runoff, biodiversity loss, and public health issues.

Potential Alternatives and Solutions (Brief Mention)

The document suggests exploring balanced policy solutions that support both expedited development and urban canopy growth.

Possible approaches include:

- Increasing the in lieu fee to reflect true planting and maintenance costs,
- Defining and incentivizing meaningful alternative landscaping that includes canopy benefits,
- Securing dedicated funding for planting and watering new trees,
- Maintaining public appeal rights to ensure transparency and accountability,
- Enhancing operational capacity of Public Works and FUF through increased funding and coordination.

Conclusion

The proposed amendments, as currently drafted, pose significant risks to San Francisco's urban tree canopy by reducing actual tree planting, weakening public oversight, and failing to address critical operational and financial challenges. The elimination of public appeals undermines transparency and accountability without delivering meaningful efficiency gains. A more nuanced and balanced approach is essential to protect and grow San Francisco's urban forest while supporting sustainable development.

The in lieu fee in San Francisco is currently set at approximately **\$2,590 per tree**. This fee is designed to cover the city's estimated cost to plant and water a tree for three years. The rationale behind the fee is to allow developers to pay this amount instead of planting trees directly, with the city then responsible for planting and maintaining trees elsewhere.

However, this fee has been criticized as barely sufficient to cover the full costs involved, including planting, watering, and maintaining the trees over time. Because of this, there is concern that allowing developers to pay the fee instead of planting trees on-site may reduce the overall number of new trees planted and hinder the growth of San Francisco's urban canopy.

The fee is part of a broader discussion about balancing development needs with environmental sustainability and urban forestry goals in the city.

Improving operational capacity for urban tree planting and maintenance in San Francisco involves addressing several key challenges related to resources, coordination, funding, and community engagement. Here are detailed strategies that could enhance the city's ability to effectively plant and maintain its urban forest:

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how they can participate in planting and maintenance.

Community Partnerships: Collaborate with nonprofits, schools, and neighborhood groups to foster local stewardship and expand capacity.

Summary

Improving operational capacity requires a multifaceted approach combining increased funding, enhanced coordination, technological support, innovative maintenance practices, stronger policies, and active community involvement. These measures will help San Francisco meet its urban forestry goals, ensuring sustainable growth and health of its tree canopy amid development pressures and environmental challenges.

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How much funding is needed?

To effectively support San Francisco's urban forestry goals, including planting, watering, maintenance, and staffing, recent estimates indicate that a fully funded citywide urban forestry program would require about \$20 million annually. This level of funding is necessary to overcome current resource constraints and ensure sustainable growth and health of the city's tree canopy.

From: [Wang, Jocelyn \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments
Date: Monday, December 29, 2025 8:40:15 AM

Not sure if you received this.

Best regards,
Jocelyn Wang
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
T: 415.554.7702 | F: 415.554.5163
jocelyn.wang@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

(VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS) To schedule a “virtual” meeting with me (on Microsoft Teams), please ask and I can answer your questions in real time.

Due to the current COVID-19 health emergency and the Shelter in Place Order, the Office of the Clerk of the Board is working remotely while providing complete access to the legislative process and our services

Click here to complete a Board of Supervisors Customer Service Satisfaction form
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-----Original Message-----
From: San Francisco Tree Campaign <sfreetreecampaign@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 1:43 PM
To: Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org>; Iomin, Jonas (CPC) <jonas.iomin@sfgov.org>
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments

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Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed amendments in File No. 251211, which would weaken San Francisco's urban forestry protections by:

- * Allowing developers to satisfy street tree requirements through in-lieu fees or undefined “alternative landscaping.”
- * Exempting ADUs and JADUs from tree planting requirements,
- * Eliminating the public's right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments and commissions, and
- * Replacing existing public notice requirements with online postings only.

Taken together, these changes prioritize administrative convenience over environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the long-term health and resilience of San Francisco.

1. In-Lieu Fees Will Reduce Tree Planting at a Time We Can Least Afford It

San Francisco's tree canopy is critically low—approximately 13–14%, among the smallest of any major U.S. city. New development has become one of the primary remaining mechanisms through which new street trees are planted, largely because City planting capacity is chronically underfunded.

Allowing developers to opt out of planting trees by paying an in-lieu fee (currently ~\$2,600 per tree) will result in fewer trees planted, full stop. The fee does not cover the true cost of planting, watering, and replacing trees over their three-year establishment period, nor does it compensate for lost planting opportunities when new frontages are designed to permanently preclude trees.

This shift is especially troubling given the City's ongoing fiscal crisis. With projected deficits approaching \$1 billion, Public Works and its Urban Forestry Bureau already lack the operational capacity to convert in-lieu fees into timely, neighborhood-level plantings. Deferred payments do not cool streets, clean air, or support public health. Exempting ADUs and JADUs further compounds this problem. While small individually, their cumulative impact on density, heat islands, and storm water runoff is significant—particularly in neighborhoods already lacking canopy.

2. Eliminating Appeals for City-Initiated Tree Removals Removes Oversight—Not Red Tape

The proposal to eliminate appeals to the Board of Appeals for tree removals undertaken by City departments does not meaningfully expedite housing or private development. City-initiated removals are overwhelmingly associated with public works and infrastructure projects, not private construction.

Appeals serve a critical function: they require departments to justify removals publicly and have repeatedly led to better outcomes, including:

- * Preservation of healthy trees,
- * Revised designs that accommodate both infrastructure and canopy,
- * Increased replacement ratios, and
- * Innovative community partnerships such as Mission Verde, which now serves as a model for volunteer-supported tree watering and green jobs.

Removing appeals eliminates one of the City's only effective oversight mechanisms for urban forestry decisions and creates a real risk of abuse—encouraging developers to pressure City agencies to initiate removals on their behalf, at taxpayer expense, with no public recourse.

3. Reduced Public Notice Undermines Transparency and Equity

Replacing established notice requirements with website-only postings will disproportionately exclude residents who lack reliable internet access, have language barriers, or are otherwise disconnected from digital-only processes. Tree removals affect public space, neighborhood health, and climate resilience; they warrant robust, accessible notice and public participation.

Notably, many California cities—including Beverly Hills, Mountain View, Santa Cruz, Pasadena, and others—maintain clear appeal processes for tree removals. San Francisco would be moving backward by eliminating them.

4. These Amendments Conflict with Climate, Equity, and Public Health Goals

Urban trees are essential infrastructure. They reduce extreme heat, filter air pollution (including wildfire smoke), manage storm water, support biodiversity, and improve mental and physical health. Weakening planting requirements and oversight contradicts the City's Climate Action Plan, General Plan sustainability goals, and stated equity commitments—particularly as climate impacts intensify statewide.

Conclusion

File No. 251211 risks accelerating canopy loss, reducing public trust, and undermining San Francisco's climate resilience at precisely the wrong moment. I urge you to reject these amendments and instead pursue policies that:

- * Preserve mandatory, on-site tree planting whenever feasible,
- * Maintain the public's right to appeal City-initiated tree removals,
- * Strengthen—not weaken—public notice requirements, and
- * Invest in scalable City-community partnerships that expand planting and watering capacity.

San Francisco needs more trees, more accountability, and more public engagement, not fewer of each.

Respectfully submitted,

John Nulty co-chair San Francisco Tree Campaign

<https://sanfranciscotreecampaign.blogspot.com>

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From: [Tenderloin Tree Campaign 2004](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211
Date: Friday, December 19, 2025 2:00:36 PM

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Executive Summary and Analysis of Proposed Amendments Affecting San Francisco's Tree Canopy

Overview of Proposed Amendments

The proposed amendments under review in San Francisco include two primary changes:

1. **Street Tree Planting Requirements:** Developers may satisfy street tree planting obligations by either:

- Planting trees,

- Paying an in lieu fee (currently about \$2,590 per tree),

- Or providing alternative landscaping (a vaguely defined option that excludes street trees).

2. **Elimination of Public Appeals:** The public's right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments and commissions to the Board of Appeals would be removed, making such removals final and non appealable.

Key Concerns and Critique

1. Impact on San Francisco's Tree Canopy

Reduction in Actual Tree Planting: Allowing developers to pay fees or provide alternative landscaping instead of planting trees will likely reduce the number of new trees planted. The current in lieu fee barely covers the full cost of planting and maintaining trees, including replacement of dead or damaged trees.

Undefined "Alternative Landscaping": The term is vague and explicitly excludes street trees, which means no guaranteed net gain or even maintenance of the current canopy.

Operational Capacity Limits: The City's Public Works department and its nonprofit partner, Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF), lack sufficient resources and coordination capacity to meet tree planting and maintenance goals effectively.

Watering and Maintenance Challenges: Ongoing watering for about three years after planting is critical but underfunded. The \$19 million annual StreetTreeSF budget is legally restricted to maintenance of existing trees, not planting or watering new ones, limiting successful establishment of new trees.

2. Elimination of Public Appeals for City-Initiated Tree Removals

Loss of Oversight and Accountability: Removing the public’s right to appeal tree removals initiated by City departments eliminates an important check on City actions, reducing transparency and public input.

No Real Efficiency Gain: Appeals currently take 6-8 weeks and are not a significant bottleneck to development. Eliminating appeals does not meaningfully expedite projects but removes public scrutiny.

Risk of Corruption and Reduced Public Input: Without appeals, developers might pressure the City to remove trees on public land to avoid scrutiny, shifting costs to taxpayers and reducing transparency.

Context: Importance of Urban Trees in San Francisco

Critical Role of Urban Forests: Urban trees contribute significantly to climate resilience, public health, and social equity by reducing urban heat, improving air quality, and enhancing community well-being.

San Francisco’s Tree Canopy Status: The city’s tree canopy covers about 13.7% of the urban area, one of the smallest among major U.S. cities. Protections mainly cover street trees and significant trees near sidewalks; trees in parks and private yards are largely unregulated.

Historical Policy Changes: Before 2017, property owners maintained street trees, limiting growth due to cost concerns. Proposition E (2017) shifted maintenance responsibility to Public Works with a dedicated budget, but this funding cannot be used for planting or watering new trees, only for maintenance and sidewalk repairs.

Financial and Operational Realities

Aspect	Current Situation	Impact of Proposed Amendments
In Lieu Fee Amount	Approximately \$2,590 per tree, barely covers planting and watering costs	Encourages fee payment over actual planting, reducing canopy growth
Tree Planting Funding	Patchwork, unreliable, mostly volunteer-driven	No new dedicated funding; watering remains a bottleneck
	Limited Public	Increased demand without

Operational Capacity	Works and FUF resources	capacity increase will hinder planting efforts
Public Oversight	Board of Appeals hears appeals on tree removals	Eliminating appeals removes public checks and balances

Answers to Your Specific Questions

What are the proposed alternatives?

Developers can satisfy street tree planting requirements by:

- Planting trees,
- Paying an in lieu fee,
- Or providing “alternative landscaping,” a vaguely defined option that excludes street trees and does not guarantee canopy growth.

How much is the in lieu fee?

The in lieu fee is currently approximately \$2,590 per tree.

What is the current tree canopy percentage?

San Francisco’s urban tree canopy is approximately 13.7%, one of the lowest among major U.S. cities.

Who is FUF?

Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) is a nonprofit partner organization that collaborates with the City’s Public Works department to plant and maintain urban trees in San Francisco. FUF plays a critical role in volunteer-driven tree planting and maintenance efforts but faces resource constraints.

Opposition Points and Broader Concerns

The amendments prioritize development efficiency over environmental sustainability, public accountability, and the long-term health of San Francisco’s urban forest.

Exempting accessory dwelling units (ADUs) from tree planting requirements ignores their cumulative impact on urban density and environmental quality. The elimination of public appeals and reduction of public notices to online postings only reduces transparency and public participation, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and digitally disconnected communities.

Other California cities maintain robust appeal processes for tree removals,

fostering community trust and preventing arbitrary removals. Given San Francisco's budget deficits and climate challenges, weakening tree protections risks exacerbating urban heat islands, storm water runoff, biodiversity loss, and public health issues.

Potential Alternatives and Solutions (Brief Mention)

The document suggests exploring balanced policy solutions that support both expedited development and urban canopy growth.

Possible approaches include:

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From: [San Francisco Tree Campaign](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [Ionin, Jonas \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to File No. 251211 – Urban Forestry Amendments
Date: Friday, December 19, 2025 1:43:04 PM

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John Nulty co-chair San Francisco Tree Campaign

<https://sanfranciscotreecampaign.blogspot.com>