

## **LEGISLATIVE DIGEST**

[Environment Code - Revising the Urban Forestry Council Composition and Meeting Requirements]

Ordinance amending the Environment Code to revise the composition and meeting schedule requirements for the Urban Forestry Council.

### **Existing Law**

Section 1202 of the Environment Code addresses the composition and administration of the Urban Forestry Council.

Section 1202(a) currently provides that the Urban Forestry Council shall be composed of eleven voting members. The Board of Supervisors appoints seven voting members; the Mayor appoints two voting members; and the Director of the Department of Public Works and the Director of the Planning Department (or their respective representatives) each are voting members. Section 1202(b) provides that the Council shall have four advisory members comprised of representatives from the Recreation and Park Department, the Public Utilities Commission, the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Under Section 1202(d), the Urban Forestry Council is to meet once a month.

### **Amendments to Current Law**

To increase the effectiveness of the Urban Forestry Council at carrying out its role in advising the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on critical issues relating to urban forestry, Section 1202(a) and (b) are amended to give all Council members equal standing by eliminating the distinction between advisory and voting members, thereby making every member a voting member.

Because the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency was dissolved in 2012, its member seat is vacant. To fill the vacancy, Section 1202(a) is amended to authorize the Port of San Francisco to appoint a representative as a voting member of the Council.

Section 1202(a) is also amended to provide that the Golden Gate National Recreation area may appoint a voting member, and if it declines to do so within 60 days of the seat becoming vacant, the Presidio Trust may appoint a voting member to that seat. If the Presidio Trust fails to appoint a member within 30 days after it is authorized to do so, the Mayor may appoint an at-large member to serve the duration of the term.

Between 2009 and 2013, the Council averaged nine meetings per year, which has been sufficient for the Council to effectively and efficiently carry out its general business. Accordingly, Section 1202(d) is amended to require the Council to meet at least six times per year.

#### Background Information

The Urban Forestry Council was established by Ordinance No. 171-03 to serve as an advisory body to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on urban forestry issues. The Council is comprised of members representing the full range of urban forest stakeholders, including City departments, non-profit organizations, educators, community members, and industry professionals

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