



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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December 8, 2014

Ms. Angela Calvillo, Clerk  
Board of Supervisors  
City and County of San Francisco  
City Hall, Room 244  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

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CA 94103-2479

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**415.558.6378**

Fax:  
**415.558.6409**

Planning  
Information:  
**415.558.6377**

**Re: Transmittal of Planning Department Case Number 2013.1517M:  
General Plan Amendment**

**BOS File No:** \_\_\_\_\_ (pending)  
**Planning Commission Recommendation:** *Approval*

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

On November 20, 2014, the Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting to consider a Department sponsored Ordinance that would amend Policy 3.6 of the San Francisco General Plan's Recreation & Open Space Element to adopt the Urban Forest Plan (Phase 1: Street Trees) by reference.

The Urban Forest Plan was developed over a two-year period (2012-14) by the Planning Department, Department of Public Works (DPW), Urban Forestry Council (UFC) and the non-profit, Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF). The Plan grew out of the need to create a long-term strategy to ensure the ongoing health and sustainability of the city's street trees. It identifies policies and strategies to proactively manage and grow the city's street tree population. The Plan recommends increasing the street tree population and developing a comprehensive approach to street tree management and finance.

At the November 20th hearing, the Commission unanimously voted to recommend approval of the proposed Ordinance. The Ordinance would amend supporting text under Policy 3.6 of the Recreation and Open Space Element to read as follows:

"The Planning Department, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works, ~~has created~~ *is creating* a plan to promote San Francisco's urban forest with a focus on street trees. The Urban Forest Plan - Phase 1: Street Trees (2014), ~~adopted here by reference~~, identifies policies and strategies to proactively manage, grow and protect the City's street tree population."

On July 24, 2014, the Environmental Planning Section of the Planning Department determined that the Urban Forest Plan (Phase 1: Street Trees) was Categorical Exempt from environmental review under Classes 4 and 8 (State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15304(b) and 15308).

Please find attached documents relating to the Commission's action. If you have any questions or require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jon Swae  
SF Planning Department

Cc via electronic transmittal:  
Nicole Wheaton, Mayor's Office  
Supervisor Scott Wiener  
Supervisor Jane Kim  
Supervisor Malia Cohen  
Andrea Ruiz-Esquide, City Attorney,

Attachments (one copy of the following):  
Planning Commission Resolution No. 19281  
Urban Forestry Council Resolution No. 2014-07-UFC  
Draft Ordinance (original sent via interoffice mail)  
San Francisco Urban Forest Plan (Phase 1: Street Trees)



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## Planning Commission Resolution No. 19281

HEARING DATE: November 20, 2014

Date: November 20, 2014  
Case No.: **2013.1517M**  
Project: Urban Forest Plan (Phase 1: Street Trees) –  
Adoption of General Plan Amendments  
Project Boundaries: Citywide  
Staff Contact: Jon Swae – (415) 575-9069  
[jon.swae@sfgov.org](mailto:jon.swae@sfgov.org)  
Recommendation: Approval

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**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT OF THE SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL PLAN TO REFERENCE AND INCORPORATE THE URBAN FOREST PLAN (PHASE 1: STREET TREES) BY REFERENCE INCLUDING MAKING GENERAL PLAN AND PLANNING CODE SECTION 101.1 CONSISTENCY FINDINGS.**

**WHEREAS**, Section 4.105 of the San Francisco Charter empowers the Planning Commission to establish and update the City's General Plan, and calls for the General Plan to contain "goals, policies and programs for the future physical development of the City and County of San Francisco." The Charter calls for the Planning Commission to periodically recommend for approval or rejection to the Board of Supervisors proposed amendments to the General Plan, in response to changing physical, social, economic, environmental or legislative conditions.

**WHEREAS**, the City has previously adopted the Recreation and Open Space Element of the San Francisco General Plan which describes a vision, objectives and policies to positively shape long-term growth and change in the city.

**WHEREAS**, the proposed General Plan amendment would incorporate the Urban Forest Plan (Phase 1: Street Trees) into the General Plan by reference by amending supporting text under Policy 3.6 of the Recreation and Open Space Element to read as follows:

Policy 3.6. Maintain, restore, expand and fund the urban forest.

The Planning Department, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works, *has created is creating* a plan to promote San Francisco's urban forest with a focus on street trees. The Urban Forest Plan - Phase 1: Street Trees (2014), *adopted here by reference*, identifies policies and strategies to proactively manage, grow and protect the City's street tree population."

**WHEREAS**, The Urban Forest Plan (Phase 1: Street Trees) carries out many of the objectives and policies of the City & County of San Francisco's General Plan, including:

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ELEMENT**

OBJECTIVE 4      ASSURE THAT THE AMBIENT AIR OF SAN FRANCISCO AND THE BAY REGION IS CLEAN, PROVIDES MAXIMUM VISIBILITY, AND MEETS AIR QUALITY STANDARDS.

OBJECTIVE 8      ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE IN THE CITY.

*Discussion: The Urban Forest Plan (Phase 1: Street Trees) promotes the use of trees and vegetation to achieve a range of environmental benefits including the filtration of airborne particulates, reduction of stormwater runoff, sequestration of greenhouse gases and creation of wildlife habitat.*

**RECREATION & OPEN SPACE ELEMENT**

OBJECTIVE 3      IMPROVE ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY TO OPEN SPACE

POLICY 3.6      Maintain, restore, expand and fund the urban forest.

*Discussion: The Urban Forest Plan (Phase 1: Street Trees) supports the use of trees along streets to reinforce and improve connections along the city's open space network.*

**URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT**

OBJECTIVE 1      EMPHASIS OF THE CHARACTERISTIC PATTERN WHICH GIVES TO THE CITY AND ITS NEIGHBORHOODS AN IMAGE, A SENSE OF PURPOSE, AND A MEANS OF ORIENTATION.

POLICY 1.4      Protect and promote large-scale landscaping and open space that define districts and topography.

POLICY 1.5      Emphasize the special nature of each district through distinctive landscaping and other features.

POLICY 1.10      Indicate the purposes of streets by means of a citywide plan for street landscaping.

OBJECTIVE 4      IMPROVEMENT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENT TO INCREASE PERSONAL SAFETY, COMFORT, PRIDE AND OPPORTUNITY

POLICY 4.11      Make use of street space and other unused public areas for recreation, particularly in dense neighborhoods, such as those close to downtown, where land for traditional open spaces is more difficult to assemble.

POLICY 4.12      Install, promote and maintain landscaping in public and private areas.

*Discussion: The Urban Forest Plan (Phase 1: Street Trees) calls for utilizing trees and landscaping to create a more enjoyable public realm and help establish unique identities for streets and neighborhoods.*

**TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT**

- POLICY 20.7      Encourage ridership and clarify transit routes by means of a city-wide plan for street landscaping, lighting and transit preferential treatments.
- OBJECTIVE 24      IMPROVE THE AMBIENCE OF THE PEDESTRIAN ENVIRONMENT.
- POLICY 24.2      Maintain and expand the planting of street trees and the infrastructure to support them.
- POLICY 24.5      Where consistent with transportation needs, transform streets and alleys into neighborhood-serving open spaces or “living streets”, especially in neighborhoods deficient in open space.
- OBJECTIVE 26      CONSIDER THE SIDEWALK AREA AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE CITYWIDE OPEN SPACE SYSTEM.

*Discussion: The Urban Forest Plan (Phase 1: Street Trees) promotes the use of trees and landscaping to support the city's transportation system by helping to create an enhanced pedestrian environment, calming traffic and promoting travel by non-auto modes (walking, bicycling and public transit).*

**WHEREAS**, Planning Code Section 101.1(b) establishes eight priority policies and is a basis by which differences between competing policies in the General Plan are resolved. The proposed amendment is consistent with the eight priority policies in that:

1.      The General Plan amendment will not negatively affect existing, neighborhood-serving retail.
2.      The General Plan amendment will not affect existing housing or neighborhood character.
3.      The General Plan amendment will not decrease the City's supply of affordable housing.
4.      The General Plan amendment will not impede MUNI, and will improve the pedestrian qualities of streets without impacting neighborhood parking needs.
5.      The General Plan amendment will not result in displacement of the City's industrial and service sectors for commercial office development.

6. The General Plan amendment will not negatively affect the City's preparedness for an earthquake.
7. The General Plan amendment will not affect Historic Resources.
8. The General Plan amendment will not affect any City parks or open spaces or their access to sunlight.

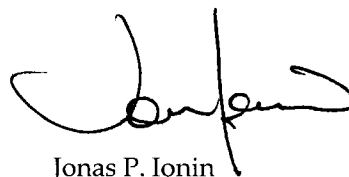
**WHEREAS**, On July 24, 2014, the Environmental Planning Section of the Planning Department determined that the Urban Forest Plan (Phase 1: Street Trees) was Categorically Exempt from environmental review under Classes 4 and 8 (State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15304(b) and 15308).

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission finds that the proposed General Plan amendment as set forth in Draft Ordinance, attached hereto as Exhibit I, is consistent with the eight Priority Policies of Planning Code Section 101.1.

**WHEREAS**, The Planning Commission finds from the facts presented that the public necessity, convenience and general welfare require approval of the proposed General Plan amendment.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Planning Code Section 340 (d), the Planning Commission approves a Resolution to adopt amendments to the General Plan of the City and County of San Francisco, related to the Urban Forest Plan (Phase 1: Street Trees), contained in the Draft Ordinance attached hereto as Exhibit I. The Planning Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the amendments.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the San Francisco Planning Commission on November 20, 2014.



Jonas P. Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES: 7

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0

ADOPTED: November 20, 2014

**[Resolution Endorsing the Urban Forest Plan: Phase One, Street Trees]**

The Urban Forestry Council endorses the Urban Forest Plan: Phase One, Street Trees and urges the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission, the Department of Public Works, and the Planning Department to adopt the Urban Forest Plan, incorporate the Urban Forest Plan into the City's General Plan, and to complete the next two phases of the Urban Forest Plan related to Parks and Open Spaces (Phase 2) and Trees on Private Property and Greening Buildings (Phase 3).

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors formed the Urban Forestry Council to protect the community interest and ensure that San Francisco realizes the full range of tree benefits into the future; and,

WHEREAS, The Council is charged with guiding the stewardship of San Francisco's trees by promoting a healthy and sustainable urban forest that benefits all San Franciscans while ensuring public health and safety; and,

WHEREAS, The Urban Forestry Council is charged with development and adoption of a comprehensive urban forest plan; and,

WHEREAS, The Urban Forestry Council adopted the 2006 Urban Forest Plan; and,

WHEREAS, The Urban Forest Plan: Phase One, Street Trees includes important planning, funding and design considerations to improve the management, health, and size of San Francisco's street tree population; and,

WHEREAS, The Planning Department intends to develop two future phases of the Urban Forest Plan focusing on Parks and Open Spaces and Trees on Private Property and Greening Buildings; and,

WHEREAS, The City's General Plan identifies that, "The livability, amenity and character of residential areas are greatly enhanced by trees, more so than by any other single element"; and,

1 WHEREAS, The City's General Plan identifies an adopted policy to "Maintain and  
2 expand the Urban Forest"; and,

3 WHEREAS, In Urban Forestry Council's Annual Urban Forest Reports, which  
4 provides data on urban forestry management activities and resources, San Francisco's  
5 urban forest managers consistently identify their highest priority issue is the lack of  
6 adequate resources to effectively maintain the city's trees; and,

7 WHEREAS, Urban Forestry Council has continually advocated for dedicated,  
8 stable funding to support the city's urban forestry; therefore, be it:

9 RESOLVED, That the Urban Forestry Council endorses the Urban Forest Plan:  
10 Phase One, Street Trees; and be it,

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Urban Forestry Council endorses the  
12 recommendation of maximizing the benefits of our urban trees as outlined in the Urban  
13 Forest Plan; and be it,

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Urban Forestry Council endorses the  
15 recommendation of growing the street tree population by half (50,000 newly planted  
16 street trees) as outlined in the Urban Forest Plan; and be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Urban Forestry Council urges the Planning  
18 Department to work with other city departments to develop a city-wide tree canopy  
19 coverage goal as part of the next phases of the Urban Forest Plan; and be it,

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Urban Forest Council supports the  
21 establishment of dedicated funding sources for street tree planting and maintenance as  
22 outlined in the Urban Forest Plan; and be it,

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Urban Forest Council endorses the  
24 establishment of Citywide Street Tree Maintenance Program whereby the Department  
25 of Public Works would take on maintenance responsibility for 100% of San Francisco's  
26 street trees; and be it,



1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Urban Forestry Council urges the Department  
2 of Public Works to manage all street trees through their lifecycles including the  
3 establishment of a Street Tree Nursery and Urban Wood Re-Use Program, with secured  
4 adequate funding as outlined in the Urban Forest Plan; and be it,

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That that the Urban Forestry Council urges the Board of  
6 Supervisors, the Planning Commission, and the Planning Department to adopt the  
7 Urban Forest Plan: Phase One, Street Trees and incorporate the Plan into the General  
8 Plan; and be it,

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Urban Forestry Council urges the Board of  
10 Supervisors, Planning Department and other City Agencies to prioritize funding and  
11 support for the completion of the next two phases of the Urban Forest Plan; and be it,

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Urban Forestry Council urges the Planning  
13 Department to work with the Recreation and Parks Department and the Department of  
14 the Environment to complete the Urban Forest Plan: Phase Two, Parks and Open  
15 Spaces and the Urban Forest Plan: Phase Three, Trees on Private Property and  
16 Greening Buildings.

17 I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Urban Forestry Council's  
18 Regular Meeting on May 23, 2014.

19 

20 Monica Fish, Council Secretary



21 Dan Flanagan, Council Chair

22 VOTE: Approved 8-0; 2 Absent; 1 Vacant

23 Ayes: Council Members Flanagan, Short, Hillan, Hillson, Kida, Leffingwell, Sullivan,  
24 Swae

25 Noes: None

Absent: Council Members Most and Sherwin

[General Plan Amendments – Urban Forest Plan (Phase 1: Street Trees)]

**Ordinance amending the San Francisco General Plan by amending Policy 3.6 of the Recreation and Open Space Element to reflect the adoption by reference of the Urban Forest Plan (Phase 1: Street Trees); affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act, and making findings of consistency with the General Plan and the eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1.**

NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.  
**Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.  
**Deletions to Codes** are in ~~*strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*~~.  
**Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.  
**Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.  
**Asterisks (\* \* \* \*)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code subsections or parts of tables.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. Findings.

A. Section 4.105 of the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco provides that the Planning Commission shall periodically recommend to the Board of Supervisors, for approval or rejection, proposed amendments to the General Plan.

B. On \_\_\_\_\_, the Board of Supervisors received from the Planning Department a proposed General Plan amendment which amends Policy 3.6 of the Recreation and Open Space Element (ROSE) to reflect the adoption by reference of the Urban Forest Plan (Phase 1: Street Trees).

C. Section 4.105 of the City Charter further provides that if the Board of Supervisors fails to Act within 90 days of receipt of the proposed General Plan amendment, then the proposed amendment shall be deemed approved.

1           D.     San Francisco Planning Code Section 340 provides that an amendment to the  
2     General Plan may be initiated by a resolution of intention by the Planning Commission, which  
3     refers to, and incorporates by reference, the proposed General Plan amendment. Section  
4     340 further provides that Planning Commission shall adopt the proposed General Plan  
5     amendment after a public hearing if it finds from the facts presented that the public necessity,  
6     convenience and general welfare require the proposed amendment or any part thereof. If  
7     adopted by the Commission in whole or in part, the proposed amendment shall be presented  
8     to the Board of Supervisors, which may approve or reject the amendment by a majority vote.

9           E.     On October 9, 2014 the Planning Commission initiated the adoption of the  
10    General Plan amendment amending Policy 3.6 of the ROSE, at a duly noticed public hearing.

11          F.     On July 24, 2014, the Environmental Planning Section of the Planning  
12    Department determined that the proposed General Plan amendment was categorically  
13    exempt from environmental review under Classes 4 and 8 (State CEQA Guidelines Sections  
14    15304(b) and 15308).

15          G.     The Planning Commission, in Resolution \_\_\_\_\_, found that the public  
16    necessity, convenience and general welfare required the proposed General Plan amendment.  
17    The letter from the Planning Department transmitting the proposed General Plan amendment  
18    to the Board of Supervisors, the environmental determination, and the Planning Commission  
19    Resolution approving proposed General Plan amendment is on file with the Clerk of the Board  
20    in File No \_\_\_\_\_. These and any and all documents referenced in this Ordinance have  
21    been made available to, and have been reviewed by, the Board of Supervisors, and may be  
22    found in either the files of the City Planning Department, as the custodian of records, at 1650  
23    Mission Street in San Francisco, or in Board File No. \_\_\_\_\_ with the Clerk of the Board  
24    of Supervisors at 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco.

1 H. The Board of Supervisors has reviewed and considered all the documents  
2 mentioned above, and hereby adopts as its own and incorporates by reference the Planning  
3 Department's environmental determination as though it were fully set forth in this Ordinance.

4 I. The Board of Supervisors finds, pursuant to Planning Code Section 340, that the  
5 General Plan amendment set forth in the documents on file with the Clerk of the Board in File  
6 No. \_\_\_\_\_ will serve the public necessity, convenience and general welfare for the reasons  
7 set forth in Planning Commission Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ and incorporates those reasons  
8 herein by reference.

9 J. The Board of Supervisors finds that the General Plan amendment as set forth in  
10 the documents on file with the Clerk of the Board in Board File No. \_\_\_\_\_, is in conformity  
11 with the General Plan and the eight Priority Policies of Planning Code Section 101.1 for the  
12 reasons set forth in Planning Commission Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_. The Board hereby  
13 adopts these findings and incorporates them herein by reference.

14 Section 2. The Board of Supervisors hereby amends the San Francisco General Plan  
15 by adopting the amendment to Policy 3.6 of the ROSE, as recommended to the Board of  
16 Supervisors by the Planning Commission on \_\_\_\_\_, and referred to above.

17 Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after  
18 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the  
19 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board  
20 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

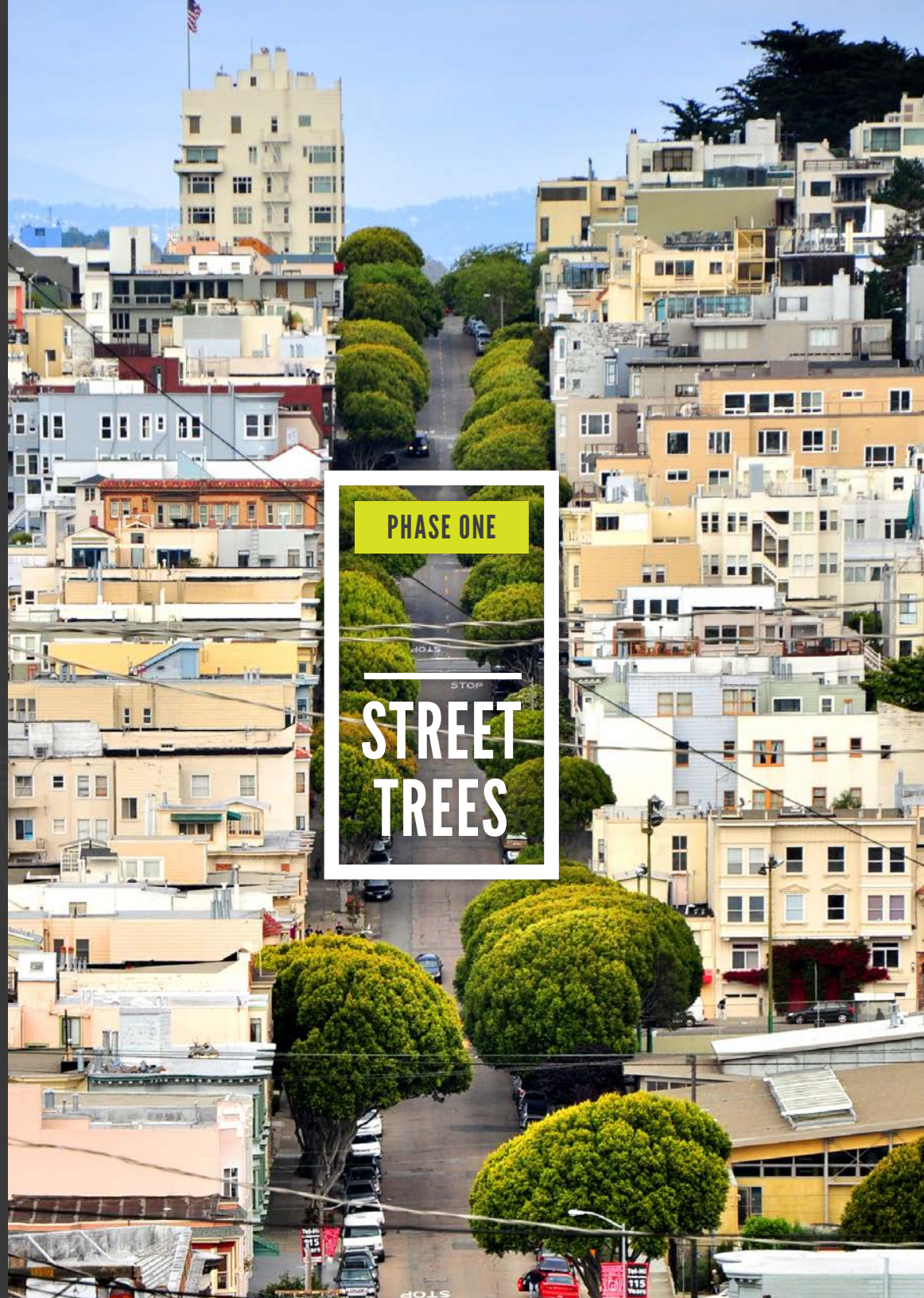
21 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
22 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

23 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
24 ANDREA RUIZ-ESQUIDE  
25 Deputy City Attorney

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SAN FRANCISCO  
**URBAN  
FOREST  
PLAN**

FINAL FALL 2014



PHASE ONE

STREET  
TREES