

1 [San Francisco Biodiversity Policy]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 - Pursuit of opportunities to enhance native biodiversity on City-owned lands that
9 currently harbor indigenous plants and wildlife habitat (or could do so), and are not otherwise
10 dedicated to another mandated City use;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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