



SF Environment

Our home. Our city. Our planet.

A Department of the City and County of San Francisco



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Biodiversity Policy History

The City has a long history of setting biodiversity and natural resources policies. The following City documents and policies guide how San Francisco should treat its natural environment.

- 1981** - The **San Francisco Park Code** prohibits “disturbing animals, birds, and fish.”
- 1986** - The **Environmental Protection Element** of the **General Plan** directs the City to (1) conserve and protect the city’s natural resources; (2) restore and improve the quality of natural resources; (3) coordinate management of natural resources; (4) promote citizen action and environmental education; (5) protect natural plant and animal habitats and rare and endangered species.
- 1991** - The **General Plan’s Recreation and Open Space Element (ROSE)** has Policy 2.13, which prioritizes conservation and restoration of our significant natural resource areas.
- 1993** - The **City Charter** empowers the Commission on the Environment to pursue work related to habitat restoration and natural resource conservation.
- 1997** - The **Biodiversity Chapter** of the **Sustainability Plan** includes long-term goals and objectives: (1) awareness; (2) ecosystem restoration; (3) sensitive habitat and species protection; and (4) maximizing habitat in the developed and naturalistic environments; and (5) organizing biodiversity information.
 - The **Waterfront and Land Use Plan** of the **Port of San Francisco** includes “designating protected wetlands south of China Basin.”
- 2003** - The **Environment Code’s** Precautionary Principle “requires the selection of the alternative that presents the least potential threat to human health and the City’s natural systems.”

- 2006** - The Recreation & Park Department (RPD) **Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Plan** (SNRAMP, still in CEQA, due in 2014) includes goals for natural resources conservation, ecological restoration, community stewardship, education, research, monitoring and adaptive management.
- 2006** - The **SF Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Sustainability Plan** established indicators to help evaluate project performance around "Habitat Conservation and Biodiversity Protection."
- Guided by its **Water Enterprise Environmental Stewardship Policy**, the SFPUC will "proactively manage the watersheds ... in a manner that maintains the integrity of the natural resources, restores habitats for native species, and enhances ecosystem function."
- 2011** The **Environment Commission's Resolution 2011-05-COE** reinforces the importance of protecting, restoring, and enhancing the city's biodiversity and directed SF Environment staff to seek funding for biodiversity programs.
- 2013** - The **Green Connections Plan** will "increase wildlife habitat" in a network of green street corridors by integrating local ecology into planning and design.
- 2014** - The **Updated ROSE** of the **City's General Plan** has a new Biodiversity Objective, which directs the City to protect and conserve biodiversity throughout the city, including the natural areas, other green spaces and the built environment.
- The Draft **Urban Forest Plan** includes recommendations to promote "biodiversity and habitat" among the urban forest of the city's streets.