

1 [Climate Stewardship Act]

2 **Resolution in support of the federal Climate Stewardship Act of 2019.**

3 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors formed the Urban Forestry Council to  
4 guide the stewardship of San Francisco's trees by promoting a healthy and sustainable  
5 urban forest that benefits all San Franciscans while ensuring public health and safety;  
6 and,

7 WHEREAS, Urban Forestry has been an increasing priority at the State of  
8 California and Federal levels in the respective government departments; and,

9 WHEREAS, Senator Cory Booker introduced in the U.S. Senate and  
10 Representative Debra Haaland introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, the  
11 Climate Stewardship Act of 2019 on September 10<sup>th</sup>; and,

12 WHEREAS, the Climate Stewardship Act will provide incentives for agricultural  
13 producers to carry out climate stewardship practices, provide for increased reforestation  
14 across the United States, and establish the Coastal and Estuary Resilience Grant  
15 Program; and,

16 WHEREAS, research has shown that annual forest carbon sequestration in the  
17 U.S. could be increased by 40% through tree planting alone; and,

18 WHEREAS, the Act requires all reforestation to employ ecologically-based  
19 practices that are informed by climate change science and that enhance forest health  
20 and biodiversity, and prioritizes restoration and maintenance of resilient landscapes and  
21 provision of increased habitat connectivity for wildlife; and,

22 WHEREAS, American Forests, the nation's first forest conservation organization,  
23 considers the Climate Stewardship Act to be the most ambitious legislation in our  
24 nation's history to mobilize America's forests as a climate change solution; and,

25 WHEREAS, the Climate Stewardship Act includes unprecedented federal  
26 investment in urban forests, including cost-share grants to help cities plant 400 million

1 trees with a focus on underserved areas, the establishment of a new Stewardship  
2 Corps, modeled on the New Deal-era programs, to help train and mobilize youth from  
3 low-income communities, indigenous communities, and communities of color, and the  
4 creation of an urban wood reuse program to assist cities to retain sequestered carbon  
5 and create jobs in disadvantaged communities; and,

6 WHEREAS, the Climate Stewardship Act clearly communicates and acts on the  
7 extreme sense of urgency shared at all levels of human society, including at the  
8 international level by the 2019 IPCC and IPBES reports, as well as by the San  
9 Francisco Board of Supervisors “Declaring a Climate Emergency in San Francisco”  
10 Resolution No. 160-19; and,

11 WHEREAS, tree planting in cities can provide, in addition to carbon and  
12 biodiversity, numerous direct resilience benefits for urban residents, including beauty,  
13 cooling, air quality, stormwater management, and overall quality of life now; therefore,  
14 be it,

15 RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Urban Forestry Council endorses the federal  
16 Climate Stewardship Act of 2019, including all of its provisions and programs for  
17 ecosystem restoration and carbon sequestration through sustainable agriculture, forest  
18 conservation and wetland restoration; and be it,

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Urban Forestry Council urges  
20 implementation of the Climate Stewardship Act to honor its urban commitment, by  
21 taking into consideration the increased cost of planting trees in cities, which is justified  
22 by the myriad positive benefits.

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24 I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Urban Forestry Council at  
25 its Regular Meeting on December 13, 2019.

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Anthony Valdez, Council Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ Dan Flanagan, Chair

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6 Vote:

7 Ayes:

8 Noes:

9 Absent: