

Urban Forestry Council

Major Development Project Review

Presentation Guidelines

The Urban Forestry Council is authorized by City ordinance to consider issues as they relate to trees on private property. In order to provide the public with an opportunity to have meaningful input about trees as part of major development projects, the Planning Department refers certain significant projects to the Urban Forestry Council for review. The intention for this step of the process is for Urban Forestry Council members and the public to provide input that would improve projects with respect to trees and greening.

Project sponsors should include the following information as part of their presentations to the Urban Forestry Council:

1. Project location
2. Project size, including total square feet and street level area of impact (*phrase better*)
3. The project's vision/general relationship to trees and greening.
4. Where and how many trees are being removed as part of the project.
5. Where and how many trees and other significant vegetation are being planted as part of the project.
6. Compliance with City ordinances and codes regarding trees (e.g., Article 16 of the Public Works Code).
7. Alignment with City plans and policies regarding trees and greening (e.g., the Urban Forest Plan or the Green Connections Plan)
8. Whether the project considered planting San Francisco or Bay Area native trees and where, how many, and which species.
9. Besides the UFC, what type and depth of community outreach/engagement has the project pursued.
10. Does the project have the explicit endorsement of the District Supervisor?

Review Checklist

1. Project has clear vision for trees and greening.
2. Tree removal specifics are fully spelled out and transparent.
3. Tree and other vegetation planting plan is clear and transparent.
4. The number of trees to be planted meets/exceeds applicable SF code.
5. The project goes above and beyond existing code. Explain.
6. The project aligns with existing plans. Explain.
7. The project is/is not planning to plant native trees. What percentage of overall?
8. Project has engaged local neighborhood.
9. Project has/does not have the endorsement of the District Supervisor.

Note to Council Members

The Environment Code mentions “publicly-sponsored developments” if you see below. Meanwhile, in Section 1201, it does more generally reference private property as indicated above.

SF Environment Code Chapter 12: Urban Forestry Council

SEC. 1203. RESPONSIBILITIES (2) Review project plans for major publicly-sponsored developments and civic improvements and changes to the public right-of-way as they may impact trees. Based on its review, the Council shall make recommendations regarding these projects to the Planning Department and other affected agencies;