

1 [San Francisco Urban Forestry Council Resolution on Ramaytush Ohlone Land  
2 Acknowledgement]

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4 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Urban Forestry Council (UFC) acknowledges that the  
5 Ramaytush Ohlone are the original peoples of the San Francisco Peninsula; and

6 WHEREAS, The UFC acknowledges that the area comprising the City and County of  
7 San Francisco was originally inhabited by the Yelamu, an independent tribe of the Ramaytush  
8 Ohlone peoples; and

9 WHEREAS, The UFC acknowledges that the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone has  
10 actively worked to research, expand public awareness of, and preserve Ohlone history and  
11 culture; and

12 WHEREAS, The UFC acknowledges that the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples have survived  
13 the brutalities of colonialism, enslavement, genocide, discrimination, racism, gender-based  
14 violence, theft, forced assimilation, and other atrocities driven by local, federal, and global  
15 governments; and

16 WHEREAS, The UFC acknowledges that environmental degradation is caused by  
17 colonization and white supremacy and the resultant forced removal of the Ramaytush Ohlone  
18 from their lands, and that, in stark contrast, Ramaytush Ohlone peoples as original caretakers of  
19 Yelamu have maintained balance with nature for millennia; and

20 WHEREAS, The UFC acknowledges that early environmentalists and conservationists  
21 were part of efforts to forcibly remove people and deny Indigenous wisdom, traditional  
22 ecological knowledge, Indigenous practices, and rights to the land; and

1           WHEREAS, The UFC acknowledges that Ramaytush Ohlone peoples are not a mythical  
2 population of the past, but an integral and active community in the present San Francisco Bay  
3 Area region, and beyond, whose ongoing exclusion and invisibility denied the greater Native  
4 American community's inclusion and respect in San Francisco; and

5           WHEREAS, The UFC acknowledges that the City and County of San Francisco was  
6 founded on unceded territory, and that the existence of the City and County on this land  
7 continues to contribute to the erasure and exclusion of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples; and

8           WHEREAS, To acknowledge the truth of the lands and peoples' history is a human right  
9 and a demonstration of honor and respect for the contributions and sacrifices of the Ramaytush  
10 Ohlone ancestors who have been inhabiting and caring for this land; now, therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, From this date forward, the San Francisco Urban Forestry Council will  
12 state the following land acknowledgement at the beginning of each Council meeting:

13           The Urban Forestry Council acknowledges that we occupy the unceded ancestral homeland of  
14 the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples, who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula.

15           We wish to pay our respects to the Ancestors, Elders and Relatives of the Ramaytush  
16 Community and to affirm their sovereign rights as First Peoples. We honor the Ramaytush  
17 Ohlone for their enduring commitment to steward Mother Earth. We recognize that the  
18 Ramaytush Ohlone have lived in harmony with nature for millennia, and that to achieve a truly  
19 ecologically sustainable future for San Francisco, we must embrace Indigenous traditional  
20 ecological knowledge in how we care for the city's lands, waters, and all its people; and, be it

21           FURTHER RESOLVED, That an adapted version of this acknowledgement will also be  
22 read at the beginning of Planning and Funding and Landmark Tree Ad-Hoc Committee meetings  
23 of the UFC; and, be it

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FURTHER RESOLVED, That the UFC’s land acknowledgement is just a part of the first step needed in acknowledging and honoring the land, culture, wisdom, and contributions of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples throughout the San Francisco Bay Area; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The UFC will establish a relationship with the Ramaytush Ohlone by engaging in a meaningful tribal consultation process to understand their unique needs, concerns, and ecological knowledge as the original caretakers of Yelamu, especially as it relates to climate appropriate plant selection for social and ecological resilience; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The UFC will engage with San Francisco’s American Indian Cultural District and other American Indian stakeholders to elevate American Indian traditional ecological knowledge, concerns, and expertise.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Urban Forestry Council’s meeting on August 24, 2021.



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Peter Brastow, Urban Forestry Coordinator

Andrew Sullivan, Chair

Vote: Approved

Ayes: M. Sullivan, Crawford, Keller, Hernandez-Gomez, Spigelman, Trang, Troxel, Vaisset-Fauvel, Xochitl

Noes:

Absent: Lacan, Nagle, Polony, Stevens, A. Sullivan