URGING THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO TO MAKE URBAN FORESTRY A HIGH PRIORITY IN SAN FRANCISCO

WHEREAS, the environmental, health, and aesthetic benefits of trees are well documented and accepted, and include improved air quality, reduction of energy emissions, absorption of excess waste water, and remediation of contaminated sites; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco, a sparsely-planted area historically, continues to have a lower tree-cover than most major American cities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors adopted a policy in 1984 of increasing the number of street trees in San Francisco by 80,000; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco has made a significant financial investment in urban forestry since 1984; and

WHEREAS, this investment will be jeopardized if continued funding does not provide for the care and maintenance of these trees; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco lacks a centrally conceived and coordinated urban forestry program, but rather divides responsibility and planning under the jurisdictions of several departments; and
WHEREAS, current funding for urban forestry in San Francisco which has come from the Transportation Authority via Proposition B will expire in June of 2000; and

WHEREAS, additional funding for the urban forestry program in San Francisco has not yet been identified; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco to adopt as a high priority a long-term policy of commitment to restore, replenish, expand, and maintain the urban forest of San Francisco; and, be it

RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco to call for the establishment of a unified urban forestry plan with central coordination and accountability; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco to support and fund the urban forestry program; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment urges the Transportation Authority to approve funding for the urban forestry program for Fiscal Year 2000-2001.