[Support of Green Landscaping Ordinance]

Resolution recommending that the Board of Supervisors approve the Green Landscaping Ordinance.

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Urban Forestry Council is to guide the stewardship of San Francisco's trees by promoting a healthy and sustainable urban forest that benefits all San Franciscans while ensuring public health and safety; and,

WHEREAS, the Urban Forestry Council considers issues as they relate to trees on property managed by government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private property owners; and,

WHEREAS, Section 1203 of the Urban Forestry Council Ordinance establishes that the Council shall advise the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, City departments and Commissions on urban forestry concerns; and,

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2009 Mayor Newsom and Supervisors Carmen Chu and Bevan Dufty introduced the Green Landscaping Ordinance [BF 091453]; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has stated that it intends to consider the Ordinance within 90 days of introduction; and,

WHEREAS, the Ordinance impacts various landscaping issues, including street tree matters such as (1) increasing the triggers where street trees would be required; (2) increasing the zoning districts where street trees would be required; (3) increasing the size of the street tree required; (4) increasing the requirements for large Planned Unit Developments (PUD); (5) adding a street tree requirement for parking lots; and (6) adding an interior tree requirement for parking lots; and, now therefore be it,
RESOLVED, That the Urban Forestry Council recommends approval of this proposed Ordinance to both the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors; and, therefore be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Urban Forestry Council supports the proposed Ordinance and commends the Mayor and Supervisors Carmen Chu and Bevan Dufty for the proposed legislation; and, therefore be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Urban Forestry Council recommends that the Mayor and or the Board of Supervisors make the following modifications to the proposed Ordinance: Striking Section 143 (i) (4) in its entirety to remove requirements for placement of grates in tree wells as these grates are detrimental to tree health, and adding to Section 156 (j) that the requirement to plant one tree for every five parking spaces should result in a canopy coverage of 50% within 15 years of the installations of these trees.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Urban Forestry Council at its regular meeting on March 26, 2010.

Mei Ling Hui, Urban Forestry Council Coordinator

VOTE: Approved (7-0) (3 Absent) (1 Vacant)

Ayes: Council Members Milne, D'Agostino, Cohen, LeBeau, Sherk, Rodgers and Buck

Noes: None

Absent: Council Members Costello, Hillan and Vargas