



TREE

MAINTENANCE TRANSFER

Presented by Carla Short • October 27, 2014

**Public Works believes a
healthy urban forest
enhances our quality of
life, and reduces water,
air and noise pollution.**

Public Works as Stewards of the Urban Forest

Public Works Code, Article 16

- Jurisdiction over all trees in the public right of way
- Charged with managing the urban forest to realize the benefit of trees

Management includes:

- Planning
- Planting
- Maintenance
- Removal



For trees in the right of way.

We care for public street trees and enforce the code for privately maintained trees.

Public Works as Stewards of the Urban Forest

Funding Cuts

Public Works' resources for tree maintenance continue to decline

- Unable to care for all trees which are our responsibility
 - Trees **should be** pruned every 3 to 5 years
 - With current resources, pruned every 10 to 12 years
- Lack of maintenance causes trees to threaten public safety and/or property, including sidewalk damage
- Necessary to transfer maintenance to property owners

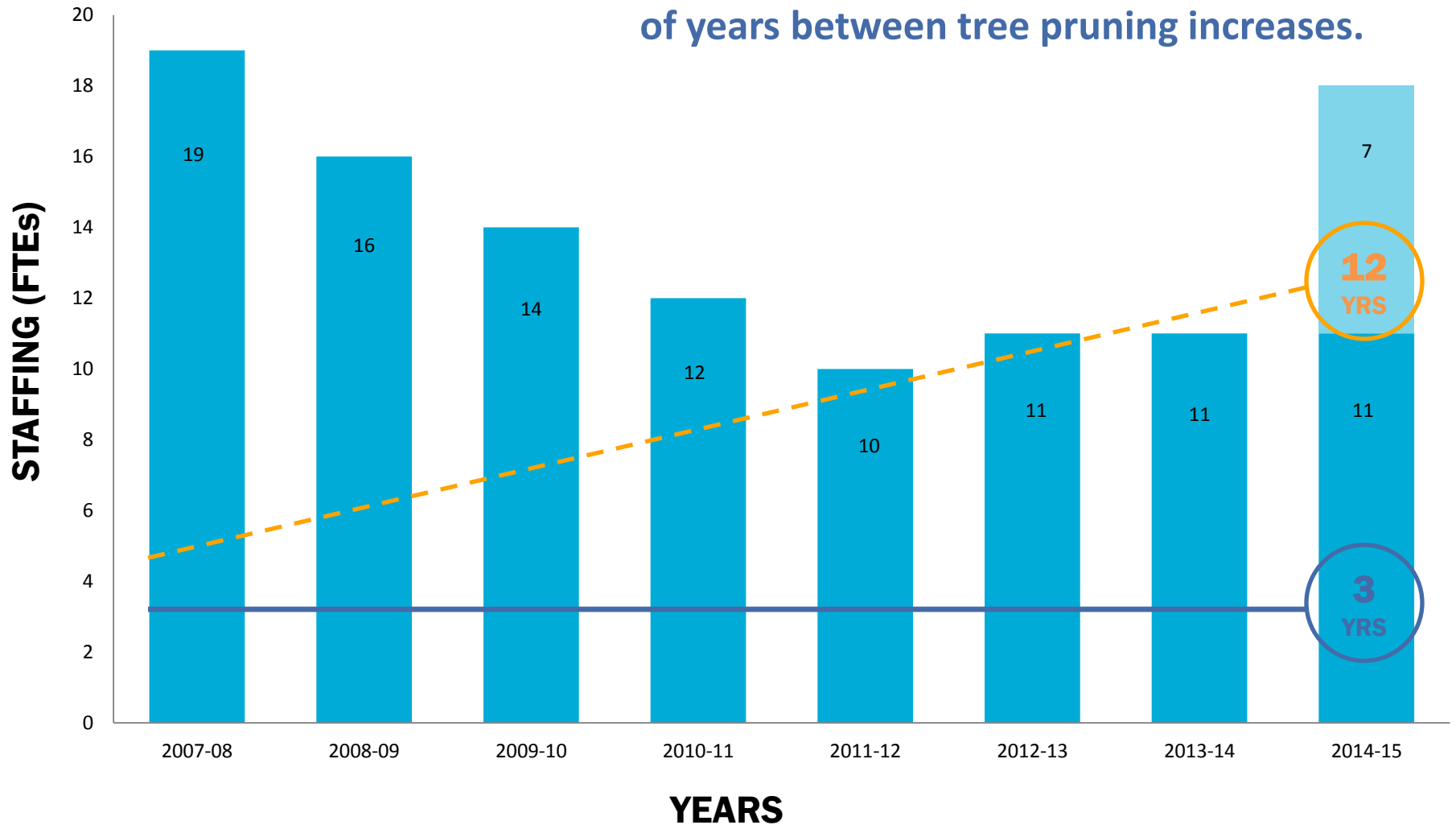
State of the Urban Forest

San Francisco has approximately 105,000 street trees planted in sidewalks or medians. Historically, Public Works maintained about 1/3 and property owners maintained about 2/3 of street trees.

	Before Transfer	Trees Transferred	After Transfer
Privately maintained street trees	65,000	+21,653	86,653
Public Works-maintained street trees	32,800	-21,653	11,147
Public Works-maintained median trees	7,500	0	7,500
Total	105,300	0	105,300

Public Works Resources for Tree Care

As resources decline, the average number of years between tree pruning increases.



Arborist Crews (FTEs)

Arborist Apprentices (FTEs)



Average Street Tree Maintenance Cycle (years)



Recommended Maintenance Cycle (years)

Purpose of Tree Maintenance Transfer

Align Public Works' assets with available resources

Allocate responsibility more equitably citywide

Provide caretakers for trees

Protect public safety



Transfer Process

Inspect trees to ensure health and no immediate maintenance required

Post notices on trees and notify property owners by mail

Provide information packets regarding tree care

Address questions and concerns by phone and web

Inform owners regarding public hearings

Challenges of Tree Maintenance Transfer

Property owners unable or unwilling to care for trees

Concerns about quality of tree care and destruction of trees

Property owners facing costs they've never borne or planned for

Higher per tree costs/loss of efficiencies of scale



Challenges of Tree Maintenance Transfer

Concerns about quality of tree care and destruction of trees



Tree Maintenance Transfer Status



Estimated total street tree population.....	105,300
Privately maintained trees (currently).....	70,255
Trees to remain Public Works maintenance.....	18,647
Total trees to be transferred.....	21,653
Trees not yet inspected.....	8,657
Trees inspected, but not yet able to be transferred....	6,275
Trees posted for transfer by June 2014.....	3,052
Transferred to other City agencies FY 13-14.....	1,466
Trees transferred to private property owners.....	2,203



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