



SANITATION AND STREETS COMMISSION

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Daniel Lurie, Mayor

Correspondence Log

April 16, 2026 through July 15, 2026

Date Received	From	Subject
April 23, 2026	Shaun Aukland	Agenda Request: Review and Repeal of Public Works Order 187246 & Comment Transcript
June 8, 2026	Denise Louie	Wildfire mitigation: Your response is requested

From: [REDACTED]
To: [SAS-Commission](#)
Cc: [Short, Carla \(DPW\)](#); [Moore, David \(DPW\)](#)
Subject: Agenda Request: Review and Repeal of Public Works Order 187246 & Comment Transcript
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026 8:51:56 AM

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Chair Parmenter and Secretary Fuller,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment during Tuesday's Sanitation and Streets Commission meeting.

Following my public comment regarding the severe inequities in San Francisco's urban forestry management, the lack of an equity plan to correct it, and the active harm caused by [Public Works Order 187246](#), you directed Director Short to follow up on these issues and "circle back with the commission." Thank you!

As noted in my comment, Public Works Superintendent David Moore recently admitted in a different City Hall meeting that the department is "due" to revise Order 187246 ([recording begins at 59:39](#)). Despite this admission, the department continues to refuse to update the policy that restricts replanting viable tree basins in environmental justice communities like SOMA.

Because department leadership acknowledged the policy requires revision but refuses to act, direct oversight from this Commission is now necessary.

The Commission must hold the department accountable to baseline environmental equity standards, rather than allowing them to continue stripping green infrastructure from historically marginalized neighborhoods simply because the department is "due for a lot of things right now."

Please confirm receipt and advise on the response process and timeline.

Thank you,

Shaun Aukland
Founder, FairTrees.org
Board Member, SOMA West Neighborhood Association

My Public Comment

Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Shaun Aukland, founder of FairTrees.org and Board Member for the SOMA West Neighborhood Association.

Last July, I authored the "Concrete Over Canopy" report, which is in your packet today. It shows how San Francisco systematically starves Environmental Justice Communities of basic green infrastructure. Our demand for a fair urban forest is now supported by 35 organizations and over 950 petitioners.

Director Carla Short recently acknowledged that Public Works has no equity plan for our urban forest. While San Francisco stalls, cities like Los Angeles, Oakland, and Sacramento have already established legally binding goals to prioritize plantings in their marginalized communities.

Instead of an equity plan, San Francisco uses random grant methodologies that direct plantings to higher-canopy neighborhoods, ignoring that SoMa has a mere 2.7 percent canopy compared to the 12.8 percent citywide average. Compounding this inequity is Public Works Order 187246, which mandates filling empty tree wells with concrete on sidewalks under seven and a half feet wide, even when there is sufficient ADA access. Public Works admitted they conducted no impact analysis. I did the math for them, and the data shows it eliminates 24 percent of our already meager tree canopy.

At a recent Urban Forestry Council hearing, Superintendent David Moore admitted on the record, "Are we due for revising the policy? Yes, I think that we're due. But we're due for a lot of things right now." He confirmed the department refuses to update this harmful policy due to administrative effort, dismissing our plea for basic equity as 'grievances over expectations that are not funded.'

Without a binding mandate, the department invents arbitrary justifications to divert resources. Just last month, in a written response to Supervisor Dorsey, Public Works admitted to diverting Proposition L street tree funds away from District 6. Their written justification was that the receiving districts were "largely residential in character."

Using "residential character" as a pretext to withhold environmental investments from SoMa, an Environmental Justice Community suffering from extreme pollution, is completely unacceptable and violates state law. Tens of thousands of people call SoMa home. We are residents, and our neighborhood character deserves the exact same protections.

Equality is planting trees where it is easy. Equity is actively correcting historical imbalances by planting trees where they are needed most. I urge this Commission to direct Public Works to repeal Order 187246 and establish a binding Tree Equity Plan.

Thank you for your time.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Commission, Recpark \(REC\)](#); [DPW-Public Works Commission](#); [Madland, Sarah \(REC\)](#); [Short, Carla \(DPW\)](#); [Moore, David \(DPW\)](#)
Cc: [Lurie, Daniel \(MYR\)](#); [Villarreal, Fernando \(MYR\)](#)
Subject: Wildfire mitigation: Your response is requested
Date: Monday, June 8, 2026 12:53:55 PM

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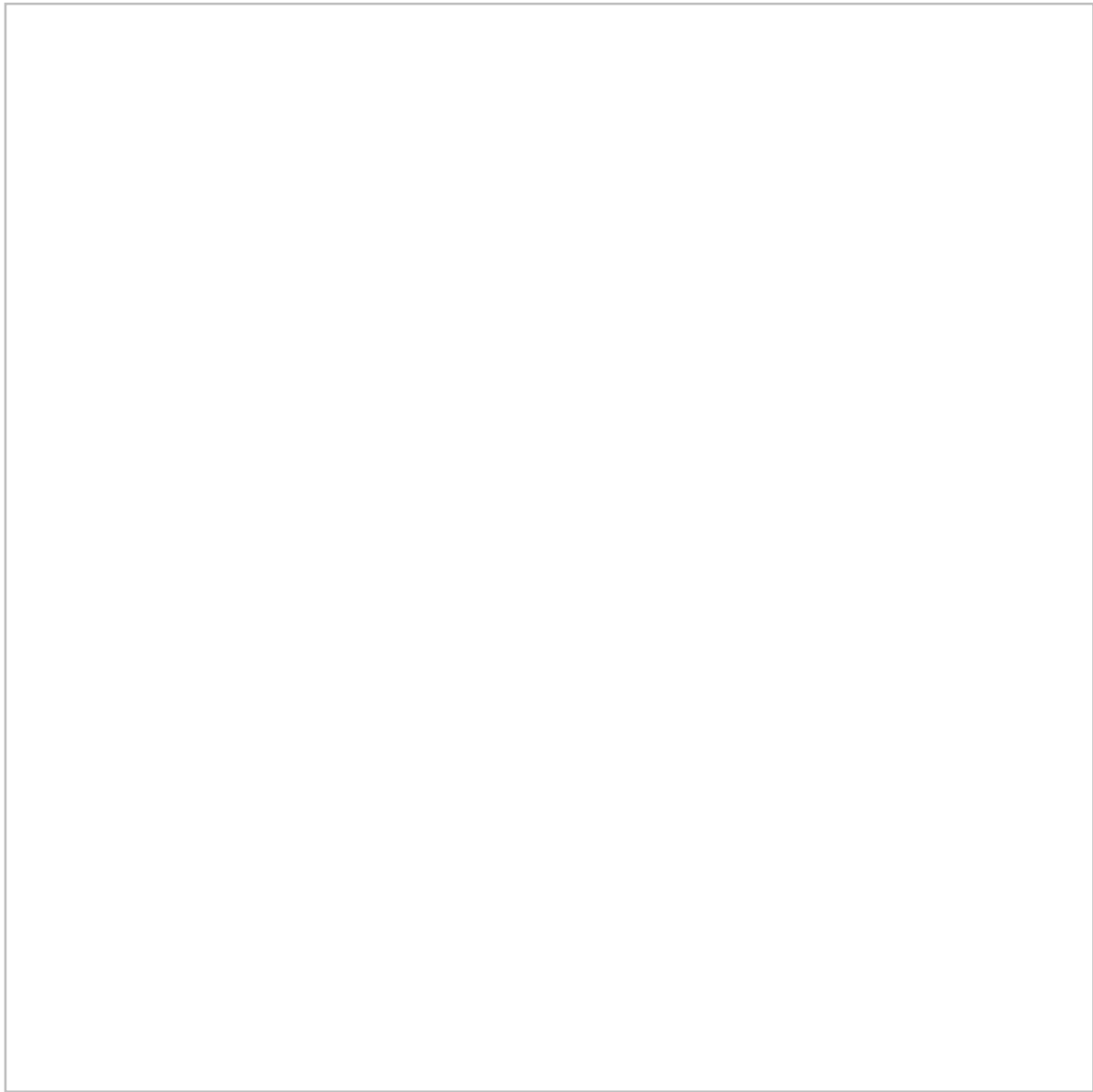
Hi Rec and Park and Public Works Commissioners and Staff,
Thank you if you are considering funding sources for tree removals. Have your people applied for the \$100 m State grants for community wildfire resilience? (See <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/cal-fire-announces-100-million-in-funding-to-increase-community-and-landscape-wildfire-resilience/>.)

I strongly urge you to remove unirrigated stands of eucalyptus, starting with the 3 plantations on Mts. Davidson and Sutro and in Glen Canyon Park. These slopes and canyons in the geographic center of the City are the most dangerous terrains for spreading fire quickly and for casting embers all around the City. I am aware that Cal Fire may cut down some eucalyptus in Glen Canyon. However, much more can be done and in short order. Leaving felled trees and vegetative litter on these slopes can increase fire risk, as most fires start as ground fires. Further, wildfire survivors tell us that thinning trees doesn't work; if there's a fire, it will come for us.

I also urge you to remove eucalyptus from these plantation where trees are within striking distance of utility lines and homes. Homes on Mt. Sutro are actually nestled among these trees. Windy days can topple these tall, shallow-rooted trees onto utility lines and spark a fire. One toppled tree did fall on top of private property and a utility line on Bosworth in 2024; we were lucky no one was injured and no fire ensued.

Further, I ask that you track trees felling and removals so that you can report your fire mitigation activities in detail. I ask that you provide related information to the general public on your website and in your email blasts. Citizens are deeply concerned about wildfire risk.

Below is the California Department of Forestry's 2007 map showing many very high wildfire hazard severity zones in San Francisco.



Thank you for considering wildfire risk as a public safety issue,

Denise Louie

Advocate for fire prevention and preparedness and for native biodiversity in San Francisco