# SANITATION AND STREETS COMMISSION

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

**Daniel Lurie**, Mayor

***Correspondence Log***

***October 13, 2026 through November 10, 2026***

| Date Received | From | Subject |
|---|---|---|
| October 18, 2026 | Shaun Aukland | Public Comment for October 19: September 29 tree well closures |
| | | |

49 South Van Ness Avenue Suite 1600 San Francisco, CA 94103
sas.commission@sfgov.org 628-271-3040

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | FairTrees.org |
| **To:** | SAS-Commission; Fuller, Bob (DPW) |
| **Subject:** | Public comment for October 19: September 29 tree well closures |
| **Date:** | Sunday, October 18, 2026 11:42:32 PM |
| **Attachments:** | PW_311_Closures_2026-09-29.xlsx<br>Hearing Public Correspondence.pdf |

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Commissioners,

Please include this in the record for tomorrow's meeting.

On September 29, five days after the Board's hearing on tree canopy equity in District 6 (File 260433), Public Works closed 284 empty tree well requests in one hour, each as "Case Cancelled. Planned Maintenance." District 6 lost 157 of its 169 open requests, including 84 of the 85 shown to the Board's committee. Six districts had none closed. The attached spreadsheet lists every case, with a link to the City's own case page.

I have also attached the public correspondence record for that Hearing (and available here), so you are able to benefit from the public feedback on Public Works performance.

I request that the Commission have the Director report on how these closures were decided, and whether the requests will be reopened until trees are planted.

Shaun Aukland
FairTrees.org

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Liz Cahill <liz@decentered.org>
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 16, 2026 4:07 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live at 1175 Folsom St. My block has some newly planted and established streets but trees are an important part of my district and the planet as a whole. Many of my neighbors are experiencing empty tree wells and SOMA is a heat island in general. With a planet that continues to warm a robust tree canopy is important for resilience.

I am asking for two answers:

1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them.

2. Public Works: when will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met. The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

Thank you,
Liz Cahill
1175 Folsom St. Floor 3 San Francisco CA 94110
--
**Liz Cahill**
Co-founder & Executive Director
**e:** liz@decentered.org || **w:** www.decentered.org
A 501c3 dedicated to building resilient community through art of all mediums.
I have dyslexia please excuse any typos : )

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Elliot Helman <muzungu_x@yahoo.com>
**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2026 12:22 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Jue, Tyrone (ENV); Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433. I live on Mission Bay Blvd North in Mission Bay. The 4 blocks around my building have a fair number of young trees (this is a fairly new neighborhood), but we have 12 empty tree wells which I have photographed and which were reported at least 120 days ago.

My understanding is that Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list." Please treat the locations above as that list. I am asking for two answers:

1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them.
2. Public Works: when will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met? The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

I am attaching photos of only 2 of the 12 empty wells that I documented, as I don't want to blow up your inboxes. These 2 are on Long Bridge between 4th Street and Mission Rock and are not even included in the City's listings. I'd be happy to upload all 12 if you would like to see them.

Thank you,

Elliot Helman
626 Mission Bay Blvd North



## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** mary elizabeth <maryeliza687@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2026 1:10 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live on [STREET] in [NEIGHBORHOOD]. My block has [#] street trees and [#] empty tree wells. What I notice most walking my block is [ONE SENTENCE].

Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list." Please treat the locations above as that list. [ATTACH A PHOTO OF AN EMPTY TREE WELL ON YOUR BLOCK]

I am asking for two answers:

1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them.

2. Public Works: when will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met. The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

Thank you,
Mary Church
1074 Folsom St, San Francisco, CA 94103
(at Moss)

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Rhea Joseph <rhea@decentered.org>
**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2026 4:38 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I run a community third space and art gallery, Decentered Studio in SOMA (1175 Folsom St 2A, San Francisco CA 94103). My block has a small number of newly planted and established trees but they are not enough given the important role trees play in our district and the planet as a whole. Many of my neighbors are experiencing empty tree wells and SOMA is a heat island in general. With a planet that continues to warm a robust tree canopy is important for resilience. Trees are important to uplift SOMA, its businesses, buildings, communities and residents.

I am asking for two answers:

1. Supervisor Dorsey: Will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them.

2. Public Works: When will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met. The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

Thank you,
Rhea Joseph

**Rhea Joseph**
Co-founder

**e:** rhea@decentered.org || **w:** www.decentered.org
A 501c3 dedicated to building resilient community through art of all mediums.

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** elfgirlmindless@gmail.com
**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2026 5:43 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

Why do we not get trees? They clean our air, provide shade and beauty.

1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them.

2. Public Works: when will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met. The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

Thank you,
Melissa & family

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** SBRMB NA <sbrmbna@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2026 7:54 PM
**To:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS)
**Cc:** Crayton, Monique (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV); Tam, Madison (BOS); Gary Pegueros; Bruce Agid; Mike Linksvayer; Sarah Bertram; Sarah Davis; Alice Rogers; Shaun Aukland
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6
**Attachments:** 09_17_26_Tree Equity Action Request.pdf

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

September 17, 2026

Re Hearing 260433—Tree Canopy Equity In District 6

Dear Supervisor Dorsey,

We've cheered you on, early and often, for your work on pedestrian safety. Now's the time to **take your work to the next level: cleaning the traffic sewer air and cooling the sidewalks so pedestrians can walk safely in a healthy environment where air quality and heat island effects are mitigated.** How?

**Step forward to address your colleagues at the September 24th Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee meeting and introduce legislation setting date-certain, binding tree canopy targets for neighborhoods with the least amount of tree cover in the city.** These include us—your constituents in SoMa, Mission Bay, Rincon and South Beach. There is grant money to meet this obligation. You need to kickstart the political will.

**And lead your Board colleagues to press Public Works to revise Director's Order 187246** so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met.

Please.

We stand with FairTrees.org in advocating these measures because of their extensive, verifiable research and the unequivocal inequities they have surfaced. And because our health, safety, and environment are degraded without our equitable allocation of trees. (Please see attached PDF for photos.)

We ask you to stand FOR us, and WITH us. Add tree stewardship to your urbanist portfolio.

Respectfully,

**The South Beach | Rincon | Mission Bay Neighborhood Association Board**
Alice Rogers, President
Gary Pegueros, Vice President/Secretary
Bruce Agid, Director
Sarah Bertram, Director

SOUTH BEACH • RINCON • MISSION BAY

**SB|R|MB NA**

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

September 17, 2026

Re Hearing 260433—Tree Canopy Equity In District 6

Dear Supervisor Dorsey,

We've cheered you on, early and often, for your work on pedestrian safety. Now's the time to **take your work to the next level: cleaning the traffic sewer air and cooling the sidewalks so pedestrians can walk safely in a healthy environment where air quality and heat island effects are mitigated.** How?

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**And lead your Board colleagues to press Public Works to revise Director's Order 187246** so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met.

Please.

We stand with FairTrees.org in advocating these measures because of their extensive, verifiable research and the unequivocal inequities they have surfaced. And because our health, safety, and environment are degraded without our equitable allocation of trees.

We ask you to stand FOR us, and WITH us. Add tree stewardship to your urbanist portfolio.

Respectfully,

**The South Beach | Rincon | Mission Bay Neighborhood Association Board**
Alice Rogers, President
Gary Pegueros, Vice President/Secretary
Bruce Agid, Director
Sarah Bertram, Director
Sarah Davis, Director
Mike Linksvayer, Director

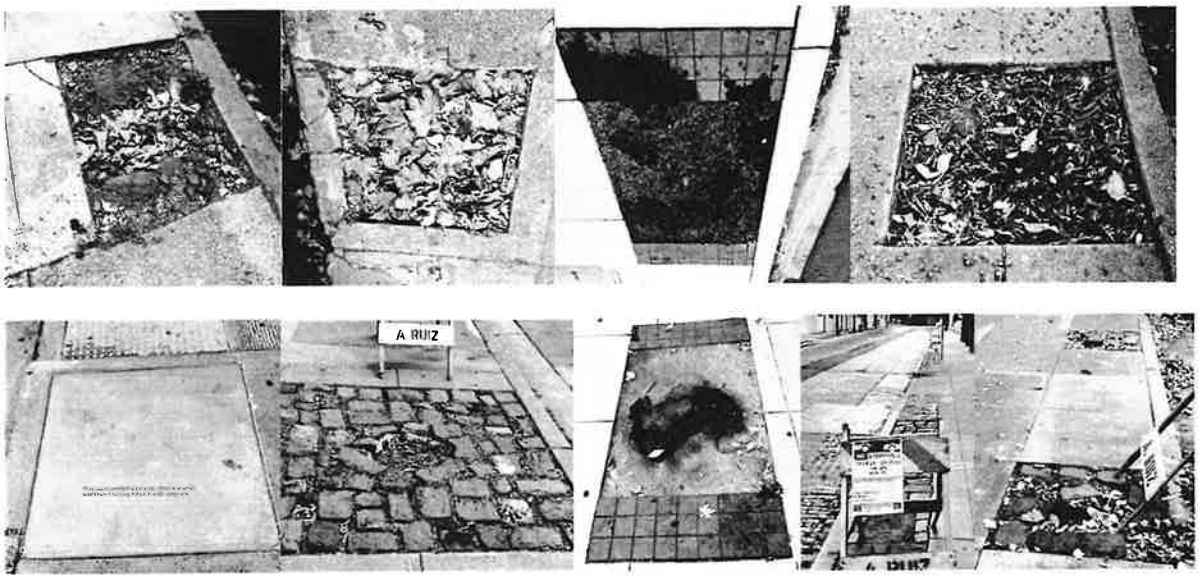
CC: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee

SOUTH BEACH • RINCON • MISSION BAY

**SB|R|MB NA**

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Empty tree wells within one block of just two of our Directors' residences: 22 South Park; 84 South Park; 461 2nd St; 469 Bryant St; 493 3rd St; 540 Delancey St; 598 2nd St; Federal St, Delancey to Rincon; Delancey St at Bayside Village



## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | mauri.schwartz@gmail.com |
| **Sent:** | Saturday, September 19, 2026 4:46 PM |
| **To:** | Crayton, Monique (BOS) |
| **Cc:** | Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV) |
| **Subject:** | Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6 |

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live on King Street in South Beach. While King Street between the freeway and Embarcadero has several trees, our neighborhood as a whole has very few, especially compared to other districts. It isn't fair for us to be overlooked and for funds allotted to trees in our district to be used elsewhere.

I am asking for two answers:

1. Supervisor Dorsey: Will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them.

2. Public Works: When will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met? The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

Thank you,
Mauri Schwartz
King & 3rd

*Mauri Schwartz*
Mauri.Schwartz@gmail.com
415-505-6130

Streets

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Barklee Sanders <barkleesanders@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Sunday, September 20, 2026 11:30 AM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Subject:** Public Comment -- File 260433, Tree Canopy Equity in District 6 (Sept 24 hearing)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Clerk Crayton --

Please enter this into the official record for File 260433, Tree Canopy Equity in District 6, ahead of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee hearing on Thursday, September 24.

My name is Barklee Sanders. I live on Bridgeview Way in Mission Bay, District 6.

The numbers first. District 6 has the least tree canopy of any supervisorial district in San Francisco, and it is still shrinking: South of Market 2.7%, Mission Bay 3.2%, Financial District/South Beach 4.5%, Treasure Island/Yerba Buena Island 8.2%, against a citywide average of 12.8% (USDA Forest Service and CAL FIRE, 2022 canopy cover, released 2025). Three of our four neighborhoods sit in the bottom seven of forty citywide.

In 2023 the city won $12 million in federal grant money to plant street trees and named South of Market in the announcement. Since then, four trees have gone into SoMa under that grant, and none into the rest of District 6. Four.

The empty wells. Volunteers with FairTrees counted more than 460 empty tree wells on foot across District 6 -- including one at China Basin and Bridgeview, on my own block in Mission Bay. Public Works told the Board there are 135. That is not a rounding error; it is the difference between planting and not planting. Public Works told the Board it will review empty wells "upon receipt of a site list." You now have the site list.

And the rule that guarantees the gap never closes. Public Works confirmed in writing that no binding canopy targets exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and there is no timeline to create any. Order 187246 -- the 2018 rule that bans trees on any sidewalk narrower than 7'6", even with full wheelchair clearance -- condemns 24% of SoMa West's tree wells to concrete on its own. You cannot plant your way out of a rule that bans planting.

I am asking for two answers on the record:

1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation setting binding tree canopy targets for our neighborhoods, and when?
2. Public Works: when will Order 187246 be revised?

A hearing about how bad things are is not a win. Two answers on the record are.

Barklee Sanders
Mission Bay, San Francisco, CA 94158

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Ramona Draeger <ramonaldraeger@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Sunday, September 20, 2026 12:45 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); MahmoodStaff; Sauter, Danny (BOS); SauterStaff; Wong, Alan (BOS); WongStaff (BOS); Dorsey, Matt (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live on [STREET] in [NEIGHBORHOOD], in District 5.

My block has [#] street trees and [#] empty tree wells. What I notice most walking it is [ONE SENTENCE].

Although this hearing concerns District 6, the policies behind it are citywide, and I am asking the Committee for two things that would apply to my neighborhood as well:

1. Binding, neighborhood-specific tree canopy targets, with a deadline. Public Works has confirmed in writing that no such targets exist, and that there is no timeline to create them.

2. A revision of Public Works Director's Order 187246, which bars planting on any sidewalk narrower than 7'6" anywhere in San Francisco, even where full ADA clearance exists. The Department has confirmed it was adopted in 2018 with no analysis of how many planting sites it would eliminate.

Thank you,
Ramona DRaeger
Fell & Schrader Streets

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Alice Rogers <arcomnsf@pacbell.net>
**Sent:** Sunday, September 20, 2026 2:17 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS); Dorsey, Matt (BOS)
**Cc:** Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6--7 empty tree wells needing trees

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live on South Park St in South Beach/The South End Historic District. My block is more fortunate than most because it has an historic park at its core, but our narrow sidewalk and sidewalks within one block of me—on South Park St., 2nd St., 3rd St., and Stillman St.—have empty tree wells as shown below:

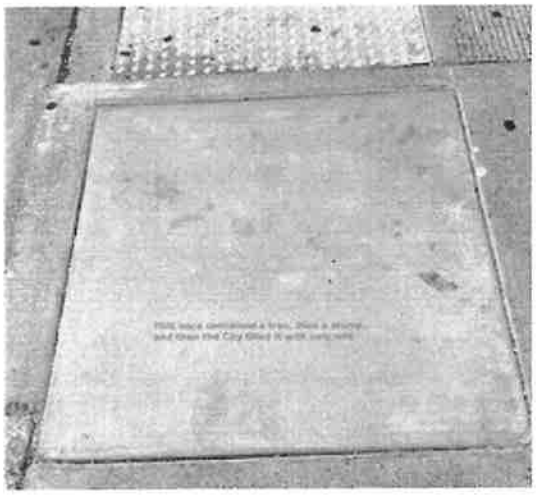
22 South Park



84 South Park



493 3rd St



Stillman and 3rd St



Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list." Please treat the locations above as that list.

I join a multitude of others in asking for two answers:

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Stuart Collins <collins.stu@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Sunday, September 20, 2026 3:23 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6
**Attachments:** IMG_4976.jpeg; IMG_4980.jpeg; IMG_4979.jpeg; IMG_4981.jpeg; IMG_4978.jpeg

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433. I live on the 0-99 block of Harriet st in SoMa, the entrance for the Gene Friend Rec Center.

My block has ~12 street trees and 5 empty tree wells. 1 tree was removed during the construction of Gene Friend Rec Center to make way for the entrance.

On the 0-99 block of Harriet we can't plant new trees b/c the plots are deemed 'too small', even though we have other trees on the block. Even smaller trees with a shorter life expectancy is better than a barren pot or paved plot. Hopefully our existing trees don't die b/c SF would then have a concrete street as the entrance to Gene Friend Rec Center.

On our street, the cars get a lot of space (two lanes and two lines of parking), and the pedestrians and trees are given the minimum.

Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list." Please treat the attached site pictures from 0-99 Harriet as that list.

I am asking for two answers:

1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them.

2. Public Works: when will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met. The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

Thank you,
Stuart Collins
970-215-1199
80 Harriet St

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

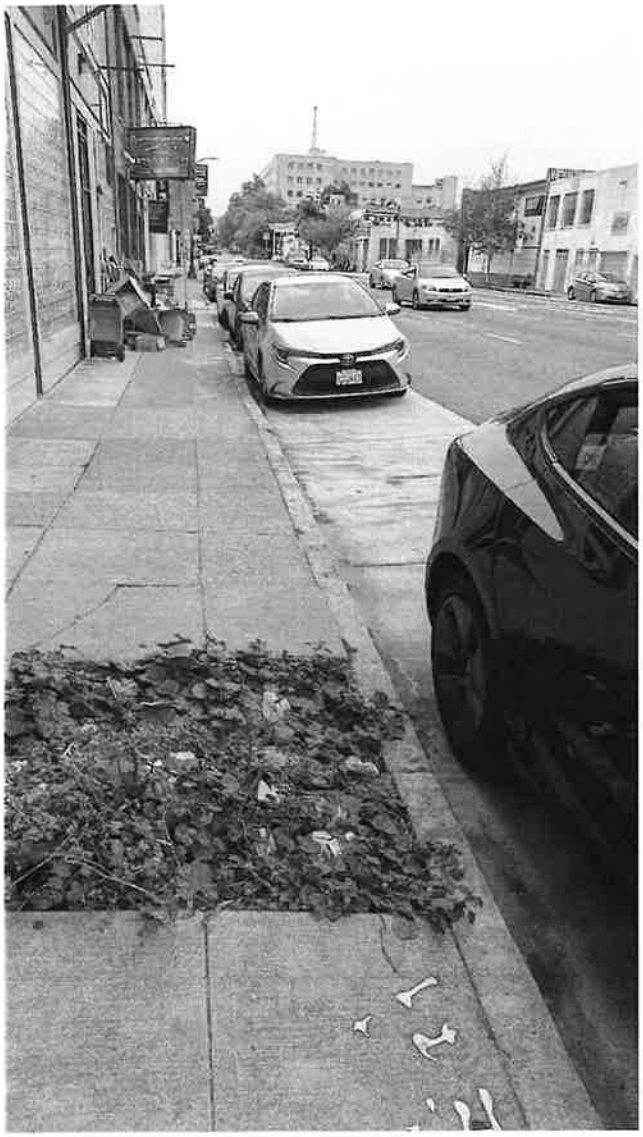
**From:** Laurel Myers <laurelmyers@google.com>
**Sent:** Sunday, September 20, 2026 6:55 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live on Bryant Street in SoMa My block has 0 street trees on the south side (Bryant between 5th and 6th) and at least 2 empty tree wells. What I notice most walking my block is how crummy it looks.

Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list." Please treat the locations above as that list and pictures below:



I am asking for two answers:

1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them.

2. Public Works: when will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met. The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

Thank you,
Laurel Myers
767 Bryant St.

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Sammy Hodroge <sammy0837@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Sunday, September 20, 2026 9:33 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live on Camp in the mission. My block has 2 empty tree wells.

Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list."

I am asking for two answers:

1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them.

2. Public Works: when will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met. The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

Thank you,
Sammy

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Roger W <sf21roger@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Sunday, September 20, 2026 9:43 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Sauter, Danny (BOS); SauterStaff; Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); MahmoodStaff; Wong, Alan (BOS); WongStaff (BOS); Dorsey, Matt (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live on Kearny/Broadway, in District 3.

My block has 4 empty tree wells.

Although this hearing concerns District 6, the policies behind it are citywide, and I am asking the Committee for two things that would apply to my neighborhood as well:

1. Binding, neighborhood-specific tree canopy targets, with a deadline. Public Works has confirmed in writing that no such targets exist, and that there is no timeline to create them.

2. A revision of Public Works Director's Order 187246, which bars planting on any sidewalk narrower than 7'6" anywhere in San Francisco, even where full ADA clearance exists. The Department has confirmed it was adopted in 2018 with no analysis of how many planting sites it would eliminate.

Thank you,
RW

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Mayo Molnar <mayo.molnar@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Sunday, September 20, 2026 10:44 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live on 12th Street in SoMa, between Isis St and Bernice St. My block has THREE empty tree wells. Their locations are as follows:

- Isis st & 13th St (SE Corner, outside warehouse numbered 60 13th St)
- 30 Bernice St
- 24 Bernice St

SoMa has the lowest tree canopy coverage of any SF neighborhood, and rectifying this has to become one of the top priorities for the city.

Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list." Please treat the locations above as that list.

I am asking for two answers:

1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them.

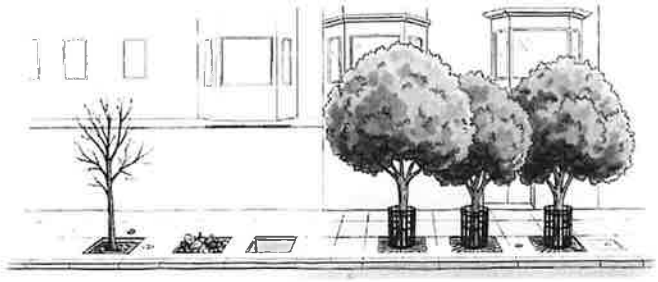
2. Public Works: when will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met. The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

I sincerely hope that these questions get concrete answers by the end of the hearing because, quite frankly, SoMa residents are not happy.

Thank you,

Mayo Molnar

356 12th St, SoMa



FairTrees.org

September 21, 2026

Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

**Re: Hearing File 260433 — Tree Canopy Equity and Resource Allocation in District 6**

Chair Sauter and Supervisors,

Rather than argue this myself, I have set out the record in the City's own words.

Public Works closed 49 empty tree well service requests in District 6 with this note:

> *"We have confirmed that this is an empty basin. Unfortunately, we do not currently have the resources to plant a new tree at this location... If you want to pursue the planting of and can water a new tree weekly for three years, please let us know."*
>
> *San Francisco 311, recorded on 49 District 6 cases, February 28, 2022 – August 22, 2024.*

September 3, 2025. Director Carla Short, meeting with residents at her office:

> *"If that is working on an equity plan, we can assign some folks and we can start doing that."*

No equity plan has been produced, and no timeline set, in the twelve months since.

September 26, 2025. Planning Department Senior Planner Ilaria Salvadori, to the Urban Forestry Council:

> *"Asking the community to advocate individually for every street, I think it perpetuates inequity because the communities I work with, they don't have capacity."*

Superintendent David Moore, at the same meeting, on why higher-income neighborhoods receive more trees:

> *"It's kind of like a self-propelling inequity."*

That meeting assigned four people: two Council members, Planning, and Public Works to draft a written process for obtaining an exception to the sidewalk-width rule.

February 24, 2026. Council member Joshua Klipp, on that assignment:

> *"That hasn't happened... five months later and we're still not having a conversation about it."*

The Urban Forestry Council was dissolved three months later. The exception process was never written, and the body that undertook it no longer exists.

March 27, 2026. Public Works, responding in writing to Supervisor Dorsey's Letter of Inquiry:

> *"At this time, formally adopted neighborhood-specific tree canopy cover targets do not exist for District 6 neighborhoods, including South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, and Treasure Island. There is currently no defined timeline for the creation of such targets."*

And on the 2018 order barring planting on sidewalks under 7 feet 6 inches:

> *"No formal impact analysis was conducted prior to adoption of Director's Order 187246 to quantify how many existing street trees or planting sites would become ineligible for replacement, either citywide or by district."*

One more, because it explains the photographs I have attached to this letter. Director Short, describing her department's own work in District 6:

> *"In 2008, we did a huge planting where we planted from Market to Bryant on all of the numbered streets... we didn't have great long-term maintenance at the time, and so some of those trees didn't make it and now they need to be replanted."*

Those are the tree wells. 151 of them in District 6 are reported and still open today, a median of 194 days. The attached packet photographs them, street by street, with the case number for every one.

Our request follows, with questions the Committee may wish to put to the Department. It is what we asked the Urban Forestry Council to recommend in September 2025, before that body was dissolved.

Respectfully,

Shaun Aukland, FairTrees.org

## Questions the Committee may wish to put to the Department

We respectfully submit the following for the Committee's use.

**1. When will Director's Order 187246 be revised?**
The order bars planting on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" and was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis of how many sites it would make ineligible.

**2. Who is now responsible for writing the exception process, and by when?**
The Urban Forestry Council assigned this in September 2025. It was not completed before the Council was dissolved.

**3. When will neighborhood canopy targets exist, and who will set them?**
The Department states none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline. Priority 1.3 of the City's adopted Environmental Justice Framework requires them.

**4. What became of the equity plan the Director committed to in September 2025?**

**5. In February the Department told the Urban Forestry Council that the closure of more than 900 empty tree well requests "is not true." In March it confirmed in writing that the closures occurred and were not tied to any capital project or funding source. Which account is correct?**

**6. District 9, 10 and 11 street trees are watered under a $4.9 million contract. District 6 trees are watered in part by a Community Benefit District funded by an assessment on District 6 property owners. What is the basis for that difference?**

**7. What is the establishment-period survival rate for street trees, by district?**

**8. Will the Department produce the Delayed Tree Replacement Report required by Ordinance 001-22?** The Department states it has never maintained one.

**9. South of Market is at 2.7% tree canopy against 12.8% citywide. What would it take to close that gap, and over what period?**

We ask the Committee to continue this item rather than file it, and to direct Public Works to return within 90 days with answers to the questions above, a decision on Director's Order 187246, and a date for neighborhood canopy targets.

Attached:

- *151 Empty Tree Wells, Still Waiting* (12 pp.) — photographs and case numbers from San Francisco 311.
- Petition: A Fair Share of Trees for Every Neighborhood (7 pp.) — 883 signatures, 212 from District 6.
- Analysis of the Department's March 27, 2026 response to the Letter of Inquiry, previously submitted to the Bureau of Environmental Justice.
- Public Works' March 27, 2026 response to Supervisor Dorsey's Letter of Inquiry (20 pp.)

HEARING FILE 260433 · TREE CANOPY EQUITY IN DISTRICT 6

# 151 Empty Tree Wells, Still Waiting

Supervisor District 6 — photos and case records from San Francisco 311

Open cases as of September 18, 2026

San Francisco Public Works closed **49 District 6 cases** with this note:

> "We have confirmed that this is an empty basin. Unfortunately, we do not currently have the resources to plant a new tree at this location, but it is on our list of sites to plant once funding is available. If you want to pursue the planting of and can water a new tree weekly for three years, please let us know at urbanforestry@sfdpw.org"
>
> Reproduced verbatim from the City's 311 records. These 49 cases were closed between February 28, 2022 and August 22, 2024.

The tree well was inspected and confirmed empty. The case was closed without a tree being planted. The resident was invited to buy the tree and water it weekly for three years themselves — on a public sidewalk the City is responsible for maintaining.



**9th Street, approaching Brannan**
A Public Works barricade (SFDPW-BSSR) posts a no-stopping work window for October 20–24, 2025. Utility locates are sprayed in orange and a tree well is laid out in white. The concrete inside the marks was never cut.

**151**

empty tree wells reported in District 6 and still open today, out of 256 reported in the last two years

**33%**

of every empty tree well report still open anywhere in San Francisco is in District 6 — which filed 13[illegible] of the city's reports

**194 days**

median wait for an open case; the longest has been open 402 days

## The tree wells already exist. They just need trees.

**Filling every tree well in this document would close under 2% of District 6's tree canopy gap.**

FairTrees estimate from USDA Forest Service and CAL FIRE canopy data. Method available on request.

Prepared by Shaun Aukland, FairTrees.org, September 21, 2026. Case counts from San Francisco 311; every case number below links to the City's record.

## The sites already exist

Public Works tells this district it has too few places to put a tree, and that its streets are too narrow. The City's own reports say otherwise. **127 of the 256 empty tree wells reported here — half of them — are on the district's widest thoroughfares**: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Streets, and Mission, Howard, Market, Folsom and Harrison. **76** of those are still open. Not one of them requires a new cut in the pavement.

Beyond them are long stretches of wide sidewalk with no tree wells at all — and sites the City has itself surveyed, marked out and posted for work, where the pavement was never cut. The barricade and white tree well outline on the cover of this document stand on 9th Street, two blocks from the frontage below.



**9th Street at Brannan Street**
An entire block frontage, wide throughout, with no street tree and no tree well.



**The same block, at pavement level**
Full width the length of the building. No tree well anywhere along it.



**Two tree wells marked out, at dusk**
Two outlines sprayed in white on a wide sidewalk. The pavement inside them has not been cut.



**Beneath the freeway viaduct**
Tree wells laid out in white along a wide sidewalk. There is no tree on either side of the street.

District 6 has room for trees. Tree wells here were cut years ago and now sit empty. At the sites above, the City has sprayed out where the next ones go and never cut the pavement.

## Three in five reports are still open

Residents filed **256** reports of empty tree wells in District 6 between September 18, 2024 and September 18, 2026. **151 of them — 59% — are still open.** The median open case has waited 194 days; the longest has been open 402 days.

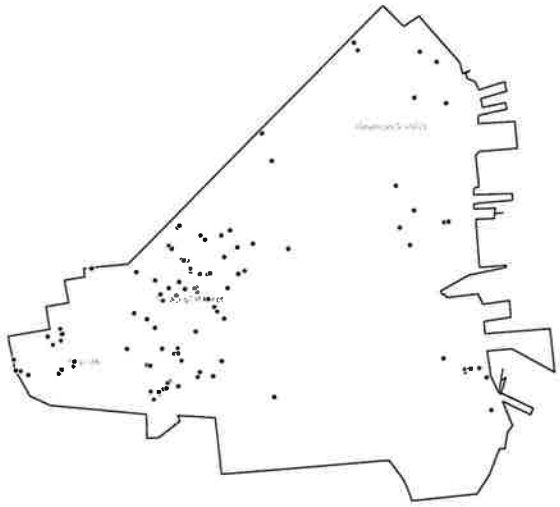
# 868

empty tree well reports closed across San Francisco in a single day, December 5, 2025 — every one of them noted "Cancelled — Planned Maintenance." **83 were in District 6.** Residents have since filed fresh reports at 14 of those District 6 locations, and every one of those new reports is still open. 10 of them are photographed on page 6.

## 548 Stevenson Street has been reported six times this year. Every report is still open.

The reports were filed on April 14, May 14, May 27, June 24, July 23 and September 10. Each one is a separate 311 case.

### Where the open reports are



One dot per open report. Treasure Island, also in District 6, is not shown; none of its 6 reports is open.

### By neighborhood

| Neighborhood | Reports | Open |
|---|---|---|
| South of Market | 148 | 100 |
| Hayes Valley | 29 | 6 |
| Mission | 25 | 15 |
| FiDi / South Beach | 25 | 15 |
| Mission Bay | 16 | 13 |
| Tenderloin | 7 | 2 |
| Treasure Island | 6 | 0 |

### The other 105

**95 of the 105** closed reports say only "Cancelled — Planned Maintenance." **None records a tree being planted.** Some may have been, but the City's closure notes no longer say, so residents can't tell and keep reporting the same tree wells.

## District 6 against the rest of the city

District 6 filed **13%** of San Francisco's empty tree well reports over these two years and holds **33% of every one still open** — 151 of 460, more than twice the next district. Everywhere else the share still open is below one in three. Its median open case has waited 194 days, against 106 citywide.




| District | Reports | Still open | % open | Median days open |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **District 6** | **256** | **151** | **59%** | **194** |
| District 11 | 25 | 8 | 32% | 237 |
| District 2 | 351 | 107 | 30% | 94 |
| District 5 | 250 | 53 | 21% | 106 |
| District 3 | 404 | 85 | 21% | 95 |
| District 10 | 96 | 13 | 14% | 107 |
| District 1 | 31 | 4 | 13% | 114 |
| District 9 | 149 | 17 | 11% | 70 |
| District 4 | 44 | 3 | 7% | 106 |
| District 8 | 282 | 15 | 5% | 60 |
| District 7 | 77 | 4 | 5% | 87 |

# One block: Langton Street

Langton Street is a two-block alley between Folsom and Howard. Residents photographed **eleven empty tree wells** along it. Six were reported on a single day, March 19, 2026.



**7 Langton St**
Dec 26, 2025 · open 266 days
#10100321054[illegible]



**20 Langton St**
Mar 19, 2026 · open 183 days
#1010037076[illegible]



**26 Langton St**
Dec 26, 2025 · open 266 days
#10100321054[illegible]



**30 Langton St**
Mar 19, 2026 · open 183 days
#1010037076[illegible]



**42 Langton St**
Dec 26, 2025 · open 266 days
#10100321054[illegible]



**80 Langton St**
Mar 19, 2026 · open 183 days
#1010037076[illegible]



**91 Langton St**
Dec 26, 2025 · open 266 days
#10100321054[illegible]



**130 Langton St**
Mar 19, 2026 · open 183 days
#1010037076[illegible]



**132 Langton St**
Mar 19, 2026 · open 183 days
#1010037076[illegible]



**136 Langton St**
Mar 19, 2026 · open 183 days
#1010037076[illegible]



**176 Langton St**
Dec 26, 2025 · open 266 days
#10100321054[illegible]

## Closed as "Planned Maintenance," then reported again

Each of these tree wells was among the 83 District 6 reports the City closed on December 5, 2025. Each was reported again afterwards by a resident, and photographed. **Every one of these newer reports is still open.** The date shown is the date of the new report, not the closed one.



**1438 Harrison St**
Dec 20, 2025 · open 272 days
#101003179397



**Decker Aly & Langton St**
Dec 26, 2025 · open 266 days
#101003210557



**765 Mission St**
Jan 3, 2026 · open 258 days
#101003247327



**1400 Harrison St**
Jan 23, 2026 · open 238 days
#101003371415



**426 10th St**
Jan 23, 2026 · open 238 days
#101003371414



**1456 Harrison St**
Jan 23, 2026 · open 238 days
#101003371410



**1445 Harrison St**
Jan 23, 2026 · open 238 days
#101003371409



**167 8th St**
Feb 5, 2026 · open 225 days
#101003445268



**520 Minna St**
Feb 10, 2026 · open 220 days
#101003477373



**1581 Market St**
Apr 25, 2026 · open 146 days
#101003837828

# 9th Street and Harrison Street

9th Street is four lanes wide with sidewalks to match. Harrison runs the width of the district. Residents photographed **24 empty tree wells** along the two.



**130 9th St**
Jan 23, 2026 · open 238 days
#10100336620G



**219 9th St**
Jan 19, 2026 · open 242 days
#10100334135J



**333 9th St**
Feb 24, 2026 · open 206 days
#10100335572J9



**346 9th St**
Jan 23, 2026 · open 238 days
#10100337021G



**353 9th St**
Jan 21, 2026 · open 240 days
#10100335743G




**364 9th St**
Jan 23, 2026 · open 238 days
#10100337021G



**449 9th St**
Jan 21, 2026 · open 240 days
#10100335759J



**450 9th St**
Jan 20, 2026 · open 241 days
#10100334853J



**451 9th St**
Dec 19, 2025 · open 273 days
#10100317561J



**1420 Harrison St**
Jan 23, 2026 · open 238 days
#10100337141J



**1488 Harrison St**
Jan 23, 2026 · open 238 days
#10100337140J

## The alleys: Minna, Natoma and Stevenson

Minna, Natoma and Stevenson run parallel between Mission and Howard. Residents photographed **16 empty tree wells** across the three. 548 Stevenson, reported six times this year, is one of them.



**591 Minna St**
Feb 7, 2026 · open 223 days
#10100345988O



**594 Minna St**
Feb 7, 2026 · open 223 days
#10100345957S



**598 Minna St**
Dec 26, 2025 · open 266 days
#10100322070O9



**465 Natoma St**
Jul 10, 2026 · open 70 days
#10100044082I0



**488 Natoma St**
Jul 6, 2026 · open 74 days
#10100436244S



**599 Natoma St**
Mar 8, 2026 · open 194 days
#10100365535S



**639 Natoma St**
Apr 1, 2026 · open 170 days
#10100379136O



**670 Natoma St**
Apr 1, 2026 · open 170 days
#10100379135O



**540 Stevenson St**
Feb 9, 2026 · open 221 days
#10100347063I



**548 Stevenson St**
Apr 14, 2026 · open 157 days
#10100386317O

## Folsom Street and Mission Street

Residents photographed **15 empty tree wells** along Folsom and Mission. The oldest report shown here has gone **238 days** without an answer.



**261 Folsom St**
Jun 24, 2026 · open 86 days
#10140043106854



**273 Folsom St**
Apr 28, 2026 · open 143 days
#10100038851771



**1001 Folsom St**
Mar 17, 2026 · open 185 days
#10100036892263



**1065 Folsom St**
Feb 6, 2026 · open 224 days
#10100034573222



**1346 Folsom St**
Jan 23, 2026 · open 238 days
#10100033711385



**1427 Folsom St**
Jan 23, 2026 · open 238 days
#10100033711391



**1437 Folsom St**
Feb 7, 2026 · open 223 days
#10100034625742



**1440 Folsom St**
Jan 23, 2026 · open 238 days
#10100033711392



**1021 Mission St**
Jun 24, 2026 · open 86 days
#10100043111530



**1181 Mission St**
Feb 3, 2026 · open 227 days
#10100034812223

## China Basin Street and Howard Street

China Basin Street runs through Mission Bay, the district's newest neighborhood. Howard Street runs four lanes through South of Market. Residents photographed **15 empty tree wells** across the two.



**330 China Basin St**
Feb 22, 2026 · open 208 days
#1010035433355



**380 China Basin St**
Feb 22, 2026 · open 208 days
#1010035433331



**390 China Basin St**
Feb 22, 2026 · open 208 days
#1010035433340



**411 China Basin St**
Feb 22, 2026 · open 208 days
#1010035433782



**420 China Basin St**
Feb 22, 2026 · open 208 days
#1010035433341



**421 China Basin St**
Feb 22, 2026 · open 208 days
#1010035433345



**69 Howard St**
Feb 3, 2026 · open 227 days
#1010034433090



**1093 Howard St**
Dec 26, 2025 · open 266 days
#1010033207082



**1145 Howard St**
Mar 7, 2026 · open 195 days
#1010034830850



**1162 Howard St**
Mar 19, 2026 · open 183 days
#1010037009529



**1184 Howard St**
Mar 19, 2026 · open 183 days
#1010037009596



**1449 Howard St**
Feb 22, 2026 · open 208 days
#1010035444686

## Market Street and the numbered thoroughfares

Market Street is the City's main street. 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th are four lanes or more apiece. Residents photographed **27 empty tree wells** across the five.



**368 11th St**
Jan 27, 2026 · open 234 days
#101003392549



**45 7th St**
Dec 26, 2025 · open 266 days
#101003207119



**65 7th St**
Dec 26, 2025 · open 266 days
#101003207118



**115 7th St**
Dec 26, 2025 · open 266 days
#101003207100



**172 7th St**
Apr 1, 2026 · open 170 days
#101003791373



**176 8th St**
Feb 5, 2026 · open 225 days
#101003445263



**486 8th St**
Mar 18, 2026 · open 184 days
#101003701549



**735 Market St**
Jan 17, 2026 · open 244 days
#101003331429



**1573 Market St**
Dec 19, 2025 · open 273 days
#101003171355

## The rest of the district

Other streets across the district: Otis, Grove, Moss, Beale, Clarence, Page, Mission Rock, Terry A Francois and the Embarcadero, among others. The oldest of these has been waiting **402 days**.



**8th St & Ringold St**
Dec 26, 2025 · open 266 days
#10100321099



**21 Clarence Pl**
Aug 12, 2025 · open 402 days
#10100241268



**Folsom St & Harriet St**
Feb 3, 2026 · open 227 days
#10100343684



**85 Grove St**
Jan 22, 2026 · open 239 days
#10100335966



**517 Mission Rock St**
Mar 5, 2026 · open 197 days
#10100361530



**10 Moss St**
Feb 3, 2026 · open 227 days
#10100343084



**25 Moss St**
Jan 22, 2026 · open 239 days
#10100335926



**15 Otis St**
Jan 19, 2026 · open 242 days
#10100324065



**70 Otis St**
Jan 19, 2026 · open 242 days
#10100334084



**82 Otis St**
Jan 19, 2026 · open 242 days
#10100324084



**34 Page St**
Jan 6, 2026 · open 255 days
#10100326401



**63 The Embarcadero**
Feb 3, 2026 · open 227 days
#10100343411

# Petition: A Fair Share of Trees for Every Neighborhood

To Mayor Daniel Lurie and Carla Short, Director, San Francisco Public Works
Submitted for Hearing File 260433 · FairTrees.org

**This petition asks City Hall to:**

1. Reverse the ban on replacing trees on historic, narrow sidewalks.
2. Refill every empty tree well across San Francisco.
3. Direct federal funding equitably to the low-canopy neighborhoods that need it most.
4. Create a long-term goal to close the canopy gap citywide.

**883 people have signed.** 832 gave San Francisco as their city, and 587 provided a street address that places them in a supervisorial district — **212 of them in District 6.** Many left a comment. Those from San Francisco signers follow, by neighborhood.

Signers' names and contact details are not shown. The full list is available to the Clerk on request.

## District 6

**South of Market** 33

> On the 0-99 block of Harriet we can't plant new trees b/c the plots are deemed 'too narrow', even though we have other trees on the block. Hopefully they don't die b/c we'd end up with a concrete street as the entrance to Gene Friend Rec Center. We have 4 empty plots - please don't pave them over.

> We are losing trees regularly to vandalism, neglect (no water), cars, age, and being ficus trees. But they aren't being replaced regularly.
>
> A public works order prevents us from planing trees on narrow sidewalks. We will have concrete if this stays in force. Please recind that order.
> Best case - start redesigning some of our streets to have bulb outs. It will slow fast drivers and provide big wells for high longevity trees.
> Please help us reverse course on SoMa's tree decline.

> Our street trees provide shade, beauty, and nature. As long as there is room for wheelchairs and strollers to pass by, please don't take them away from us! They're an integral part of the charm of our narrow side streets, which can too easily feel like forgotten alleyways.

> Thank you for organizing around this issue. Keeping our streets beautiful and disrupting the harsh concrete environment with natural trees is essential to city life. People in other neighborhoods talk about how beautiful SF is. It's hard to see it from SOMA West sometimes because of all the concrete. We need these trees to keep this neighborhood livable rather than depressing. Don't take our trees!

> If they don't replace the trees, DPW needs to refill the sidewalks with concrete. It is very dangerous to walk our streets when a tree is missing. If they can't plant a tree replace it with a nice planter.

> SOMA needs all the tree coverage it can get & some more. Street trees in SOMA are beneficial to all of SOMA's residents and will greatly help with the amount of pollution this neighborhood gets from car traffic, due to its proximity to the freeway. In addition, these trees help my street feel livable and calm.

> we are already in one of the least green parts of San Francisco — please stop taking our trees

> The tree an outside my building has been dead for a year or so, and the city has not replaced it despite numerous requests.

> Please notify me about any tree plantings on Clementina and eighth Street. It's the 600 block of clementina

> Please fund the effort to increase tree equity. Thank you.

> Replant the missing trees in and around our area. One missing in from of scuba shop in 4th near Marlowe

> I was part of group that planted the Clementina Washington Hawthorn trees under MMayor Gavin Newsom's adopt-a-street program.

> Plant more trees! My business is GRNHS 864 Folsom and I am trying to get more people to green up our SOMA and city!

> We need more trees and foliage on Folsom!

> Has this impacted trees for SFMTA Folsom Street Project?

> Plant more trees on 4th street to beautify the street.

> I am a member of Sierra Club's San Francisco chapter, and this sounds like something we would be on board with. I am also the liaison for the district 6 supervisor, and can recommend this at our next meeting (likely next year)

> Trying to get more mature or robust trees for this neighborhood would help since frail saplings get trashed very quickly

> Im a resident and have a nonprofit community art space in the neighborhood. We need more trees!

> I support planting trees and protecting our environment and community in District 6

> I believe this is important for our neighborhoods, our planet and our well being !

> Would love to see trees restored to the neighborhood.

> i love this idea! we need more green!

> We need more trees and dog parks in SOMA

> Please leave our greenery where it is! It is one of the few things that makes our neighborhoods feel like home and not an apocalyptic hell scape.

> Thank you for this great effort. If the don't plant trees they need to re cement the empty holes. Theses open spaces are dangerous to pedestrians.

> Please use the money allocated to SOMA's urban development and stop deferring it to places it wasn't allocated for.

> this is incredible! There are so many benefits to having greenery in SoMa.
>
> -increase property value.
> -reduces the heat island affect
> -cleans the air.
> -improves neighborhood comfort.

> Please don't take our trees. There's so much negativity in this environment already ?

> Please don't take our trees away!!

> Thank you for organizing! So important.

> I'm looking forward to the result of this!

> We need some greenery in soma. Lack of is affecting our property values as well as general aesthetics of the neighbourhood

**Mission Bay** 4

> San Francisco needs more trees not fewer trees. Trees reduce pollution add oxygen and provide much needed shade. Climate change will eventually make many parts of the earth uninhabitable. We can insure the continuation of a healthy environment in San Francisco by planting trees.
> If one tree is removed we should replace that tree and add more trees whenever possible.
> The Embarcadero should be lined with trees !!!

> My neighborhood, Mission Bay has more empty tree wells every year. We do not want to replace canopy with concrete. Please bring trees back to Mission Bay, soon.

> This is one of the most important issues San Francisco has ever confronted
> If more residents knew about it there would be a groundswell of support

> We deserve a green San Francisco!

**Financial District/South Beach** 3

> I am an advocate for more trees and shade in a world that is increasingly getting warmer and more dangerous to our health and well-being. Planting trees is a great way to remedy these issues on a local level. Empty streets without trees are an eyesore, contributing to urban blight and worsening conditions. We have no problem allowing cars to have space on our streets, let's prioritize trees and greenery.

> I support placing foliage in these empty soil pots.

> Love to bring more nature and green to beautify with cityscape

**Neighborhood not recorded** 2

> San Francisco needs more trees

> Trees are good for everyone!

**Mission** 2

> 2 beautiful mature trees on mission between s van Ness & Lafayette
> Not in danger of falling not muni lines
> Not arborist decimate if pruning
> Destroyed 1 didn't replace great space for feces and urine
> 2 tree trimmed yet left height and width
> WHY DID YOU APPROVE SLAUGHTER OF 1 OF 2 IDENTICAL TREES
> LAFAYETTE PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE TREES

> On McCoppin at Jesse we have a bulb-out at the end of back in angle parking row that would be nice to have planted.

## Elsewhere in San Francisco

**District 1 · Neighborhood not recorded** 1

> Our beautiful city needs more trees as well as more housing!

**District 1 · Inner Richmond** 1

> We need the canopy to provide relief from heat, to aid air pollution and to provide the beautiful environment EVERY San Francisco resident deserves.

**District 1 · Outer Richmond** 4

> Trees, as long as they comply with ADA requirements, are an important asset for the urban landscape. They provide cooling shade, habitat, and water absorption (less into the sewer).

> It's now or never to save our planet—so why are we not placing environmental planning and protections front and center?

> I am in favor of any proposal that requires adding trees to our street-scape. In addition the City of SF should provide a water and upkeep maintenance for all trees and green spaces.

> San Francisco needs more trees, especially as climate change leads to warmer temperatures in the city.

**District 2 · Neighborhood not recorded** 1

> The streets of SOMA bear some of the greatest burden of San Francisco's social service destinations, homeless shelters and rehab facilities — and yet this neighborhood, MY neighborhood, is somehow not worthy of its fair share of trees. These restrictive planting policies and funding decisions make no logical sense, and they unfairly burden parts of the city that are already struggling to maintain a decent quality of life for businesses and residents alike. It sure seems as though Lurie and Short are actively discriminating against the neighborhoods that need help most. Please do better, folks.

**District 2 · Marina** 1

> Please reverse the ban on replacing trees on hour historic and narrow sidewalks. Refill every empty tree well in San Francisco.
> Thank-you for your careful consideration regarding this matter!

**District 2 · Pacific Heights** 2

> The trees make the city ever more magical, more of them would be wonderful! Also good for the environment!

> Why not ask some of the local tech billionaires to underwrite tree planting?!

**District 2 · Presidio Heights** 1

> Several trees have been chopped down in my neighborhood, including one that the developer said he would save, at the corner of Laurel and Euclid . 200 more are slated to come down at 3333 California Street. This is the only significant tree canopy between the Presidio and Golden Gate Park. Chopping them all down is a travesty.

**District 2 · Russian Hill** 1

> I'm lucky. I live across from Francisco Park in Aquatic Park neighborhood and we just had trees planted in light wells a few year ago when the park was completed. AND I have the park. Lucky! Very lucky. This is a great idea! Mayor Lurie, City and County of San Francisco and Carla Short, Director, San Francisco Public Works, please support it.

**District 2 · Western Addition** 2

> Environmental Improvements:
>
> Air Quality: Trees act as natural air filters, absorbing pollutants such as particulate matter, ozone, and nitrogen dioxide, which are often prevalent in dense urban settings. This can lead to healthier air for Tenderloin residents.
> Temperature Regulation: The Tenderloin can experience higher temperatures due to the urban heat island effect. Trees provide shade, reducing ambient temperatures and making the neighborhood more comfortable, especially during warmer months. This can also decrease reliance on energy-intensive cooling.
> Stormwater Management: Tree canopies intercept rainfall, reducing the volume and speed of stormwater runoff. This helps to prevent localized flooding and reduces the burden on the city's drainage systems.
> Noise Reduction: The dense foliage of trees can absorb and deflect sound waves, contributing to a quieter and more peaceful urban environment.

> Elm Street has no trees at all even though it's named after a tree

**District 3 · Neighborhood not recorded** 1

> San Francisco is supposed to lead the nation on green spaces and environmentalism. Our wildlife and Communities depend on trees to thrive. Plant and conservative our trees!

**District 3 · Nob Hill** 5

> I live on Sutter Street between Larkin and Hyde, and we are not even saving the trees that exist. Dog feces, dog urine, and garbage are killing them.

> The city needs more trees. In this neighborhood especially. The sidewalks are wide enough to accommodate trees and pedestrians. Let's not be rediculous and over protect for all the wrong reasons.

> We need more trees. !
> Love trees. They are a beautiful stable to any city.

> Every tree is a gift from the Creator

> Please keep me in the loop for planting or advocacy efforts! I appreciated your highlight on the news and in streetsblog

**District 3 · North Beach** 2

> The city cut down a beautiful old tree on Pfeiffer at the corner of Stockton. They are preparing to concrete the tree well. This is exactly the problem and I'm glad you are working on it.
> This particular location is very photogenic and might be useful to you.

> Trees and planters add to a neighborhood's beauty and character.

**District 3 · Russian Hill** 1

> Trees support life, clean the air, are beautiful and enrich the entire city. Plant more!

**District 4 · Sunset/Parkside** 4

> Trees are needed not just for their aesthetics but for cleaner air!

> No trees, no air, no life. Please do not cement. Beautiful city, happy people.

> We have a lot of streets in the Central Sunset with few if any trees. This despite research that shows how trees significantly cool down our overheated streets (yes, even in the Sunset District our temperatures are climbing higher) and we all know how much beauty they add to our environment. We need MORE TREES, not fewer, and we certainly don't need more ways developers can pay their way out of requirements that have been put in place for a reason and are widely supported by the public. Get a grip. Trees fight global warming and we need more of them now, more than ever.

> The Mayor and friends need to stop attempting and succeeding in taking away the rights of voting tax-paying San Francisco citizens by deferring to developers who are not from the communities in which they are building. Let us keep our process and protective laws and stop insisting they are unnecessary. They are important and exist for good reasons.

**District 5 · Haight Ashbury** 2

> We need more trees, especially in SOMA!

> This is so wrong. We worked very hard in the early 70's to get street trees planted. Look at pictures of Haight pre 1974. It made a hige difference in quality of life. We have too much hardscape! Plant trees and tax developers to maintain them!

**District 5 · Hayes Valley** 4

> In addition to health benefits, trees make our neighborhoods more beautiful, build neighborhood pride and a sense of belonging. I urge the city to invest in city beautification in the form of planting trees that will live for generations.

> San Francisco's urban tree canopy is severely lacking when compared to other major US cities. This flawed policy gets us even further away from strengthening our street trees.

> We haven't had trees in our 2 plots around our building in years. We really need them for beautification.

> I work south of market. Need more trees.

**District 5 · Pacific Heights** 1

> A growing body of research supports increased tree canopy in cities to reduce retained heat caused by climate change.

**District 5 · Tenderloin** 1

> I used to live on Howard Street and for 6 years I tried getting FUF & the city to replant trees that are empty wells that are still empty 8 years later.

**District 7 · Inner Sunset** 2

> Older trees provide habitat for songbirds, air-cleaning canopies, and are comforting and happiness-inducing and lovely to look at. There is no way that skinny "replacement" trees can give any of that. San Francisco already has one of the lowest ratio of trees to people of any city in the USA. Let our existing trees live.

> Trees create a neighborhood

**District 7 · Twin Peaks** 1

> Please require the tree be replaced 🌳

**District 7 · West of Twin Peaks** 6

> We demand our right to have trees in all sf neighborhoods. DO NOT FORGET YOUR JOB You were elected to represent us and to improve our city.

> Thank you for helping us get more trees in SF!

> Trees are vital to a healthy city. Any large developer can work them into their overall plan. We can do better!

> Trees beautify our city, create habitats for birds and other animals. Planning is favoring developers over the residents who pay taxes and are the ones who live their lives in the city who build communities. Developers from private equity firms, just build and leave. They don't care what they leave behind as long as they make money.

> Our city government is out of control with the removal of established healthy trees. Hundreds of healthy trees have been removed by the 7th Avenue Water reservoir and on the south side of Edgehill Mountain. Hundreds more have been removed near Glen Park Canyon. Makes no sense and costs so much money for a city operating with a money deficit!

> Now is not the time to be passing laws that reduce our tree canopy. San Francisco's ecological resilience is already compromised. Reducing the urban tree canopy, weakening oversight, or limiting public discourse regarding our green infrastructure is counterproductive to the City's stated environmental mandates.

**District 8 · Neighborhood not recorded** 1

> More trees! More shade and better air!

**District 8 · Castro/Upper Market** 2

> We need our trees to keep our urban environment cool in the heat waves, and beautiful all year round. Why is the new SF "order" so hellbent on giving developers everything they want? Aren't they members of our society, too? Why wouldn't they want what's good for our communities? What good community member is against planting trees????

> We all know that trees are beneficial to all residents, for many reasons. This is a shameful give-away to developers. Please do not allow this flawed policy to move forward, thank you.

**District 8 · Glen Park** 2

> We fully support this. The trees across from us on Diamond Hts. Blvd. rotted or were knocked into chronic death by lack of care or trucks backing up.

> We need more trees and the developers can afford to help make it happen

**District 8 · Haight Ashbury** 1

> This is a wonderful plan. Is there any consideration/ plan for tree maintenance as this is a general problem on accountability through the city.

**District 8 · Hayes Valley** 2

> There are several plots of empty trees on Buchanan that can host trees, and some dead trees that can be replaced as well.

> We need more trees not less

**District 8 · Mission** 1

> We need more trees on our sidewalks, residential and commercial.

**District 8 · Noe Valley** 1

> The city is only going to get hotter. We need more trees to improve air quality and make spaces liveable.

**District 8 · West of Twin Peaks** 1

> Urban trees are a vital palliative in this age of global warming.

**District 9 · Bernal Heights** 7

> Trees are such important "members" of our city and are an essential resource contributing to a greener, healthier San Francisco. Trees take time to get established so there is no time to waste. Let's see that all empty tree wells are replanted. This flawed city policy needs to be corrected.

> Trees are essential to the beauty and health of our community and to its natural ecosystem.

> Cut red tape and plant a few trees! Get stuff done! I voted for you Dan Lurie and have a lot of confidence in your leadership ability.
> Sf soma property owner
> Longtime city resident

> SF has the lowest density of tree cover of any major city in the US

> I'm willing to plant with you!

> Please reconsider this policy and find a way to keep trees in our neighborhoods.

> I am writing to OPPOSE the provision in this legislation that eliminates the public's right to appeal city-initiated tree removals. Removing due process is not "streamlining"; it is a removal of critical oversight that has historically saved mature trees from unnecessary destruction.
> Furthermore, I request that the legislation be amended to strictly define "low tree canopy" neighborhoods with a data-driven methodology that includes canopy cover and environmental burden scores. Without this definition, the In-Lieu Fee risks becoming a slush fund that fails to serve the neighborhoods with the highest environmental burden.
> Please CONTINUE this item until these democratic and equitable protections are restored.

**District 9 · Mission** 7

> There's a tree that was cut down in front of our house and unfortunately it's never been replaced. For a city that has such beautiful mature landscaping, we should plant as many trees as possible.

> You want tourists? Plant and maintain trees. Cleaner air in the asthma belt? Plant ans maintain trees. Dignity and beauty equally for all citizen's neighborhoods? Plant and maintain trees! And house everyone!

> We had two trees knocked down by trucks and FUF told us we couldn't replant! We have gaping holes in our sidewalks and requested them to be filled but the city hasn't gotten around to it- it's been years.

In order to ensure young just-planted trees have the best chance of survival, health, and growth, it's best to plant in late autumn - early winter: November being ideal.

I have a tree, but if others want trees in front of their houses, the program should be opened up for them to plant them.

Thank you.

They cut down a beautiful tree and didn't replace it! What the actual f*ck!

The Mission District also has this problem.

Small streets deserve trees too!

**District 10 · Bayview Hunters Point** 1

Our neighborhood of 300 families on 6 blocks in BVHP needs more trees. Money should be directed towards low canopy neighborhoods

**District 10 · Mission** 1

We need trees to breathe!

**District 10 · Potrero Hill** 4

Dear Mayor Lurie and Carla Short,
We need more trees lining our SF streets, not fewer. Trees benefit communities by improving air quality, reducing the urban heat island effect, providing shade and cooling, and creating habitats for wildlife. Happy to provide scientific references if you would like to learn more about the importance of treed streets in our urban landscape.

I live on D10 but my street is badly in need of trees

empty wells as well as dead trees recently planted but not kept, or just not adapting

Please don't cut the trees

**District 11 · Excelsior** 1

It's hard to believe that the Geneva Mission Safety Project in the Excelsior does not include a single blade of grass in its design.

**District 11 · Oceanview/Merced/Ingleside** 1

Not only is this decision environmentally unsound it is a very UGLY decision. Building concrete to the concrete curb is so very ugly. It's already happening in various places on the west side of the city.
You are turning a charmingly beautiful city and turning into concrete block buildings with little to no architectural interest or beauty.

**District 11 · Outer Mission** 2

two tree wells empty on my block - two!! that's awful. We need the 3500 project to be implemented.

Trees are important for the beauty of our city and our environment. Developers should pay $2600 and plant the trees.

## Signers who did not provide a street address

These signers gave San Francisco as their city but no street address, so their district could not be determined.

2 beautiful large trees were removed from 7th st at Folsom for apparent safety reasons and never replaced, then eventually the old stumps were replaced with concrete. Shameful.

Stop removing trees from our neighborhoods and not replanting them. I understand about trees, reaching majority and needing to be trimmed or replaced, but they need to be replaced! We do not want to end up looking like a complete concrete jungle. We need the trees for cleaning the air, Giving us visual peace and some beauty.

Filling in the pits entirely is a mistake, when we desperately need more permeability, not less. So if ADA throughway is a concern, replace non compliant pits with narrower planted areas. We need tree canopy for so many reasons

Trees make neighborhoods better for people. Please make sure that all residents of the city have livable streets and alleys!

We need more trees!!! Trees clean our air, provide shade and reduce heat on warm days, provide homes for pollinators and other wildlife. San Francisco's tree canopy is insufficient.

No room in front of my house. Otherwise I would like a tree.

More street trees lead to healthier happier communities.

The tree canopy in San Francisco is an embarrassment. It is one of the smallest for a major city in the US. Stop eliminating the natural wooded areas in the City. We don't need any more immaculately groomed parks with only one or two trees. We need to support natural spaces for wildlife to shelter from the increasing invasion of humanity and its intrusive activities such as constant night lighting and loud concerts.

> We have lost SO many trees from the last wind/storm events! Hundreds. San Francisco citizens deserve trees like so many other cities that have them... People would be happier, calmer and birds would have places to live & rest!

> Street trees are such an important part of making city life joyous and human. They should be planted in every possible spot.

> Urging you to take immediate action to develop a comprehensive plan to re-green San Francisco. thank you.

> Trees are a social justice issue. Bernal does not have enough trees - not replacing trees makes no sense.

> More trees are better but city needs to step up its voted in responsibility to deal with invasive roots on sidewalks.

> Not happy about the number of trees cut down at John McLaren Park, and more recently, in Glen Canyon Park.

> District 1 has many unused tree wells and should have more canopy

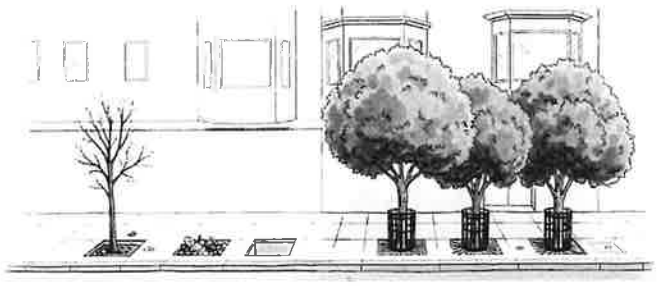
> SAVE THE TREES!

> We need to be adding more trees, not getting rid of trees.

> Please, let's plant trees! Our residents, animals, and polinators need them.

> Thank you for making this!

> We need more healthy trees in the city



May 18, 2026

Rob Bonta, Attorney General of California
Attention: Bureau of Environmental Justice
California Department of Justice
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

**Subject: Supplemental Evidence of SB 1000 Violations and Discriminatory Resource Diversion in San Francisco**

Attorney General Bonta and Bureau of Environmental Justice,

I am submitting this Supplemental Information to append newly acquired statements from the San Francisco Department of Public Works to our active complaint regarding the City's violation of Senate Bill 1000.

On March 27, 2026, Public Works Director Carla Short issued a written response to an inquiry from District 6 Supervisor Matt Dorsey. In this document, the Department makes multiple written admissions confirming that it routinely ignores the City's adopted Environmental Justice Framework and utilizes prohibited, discriminatory criteria to divert environmental resources away from designated Environmental Justice Communities.

These admissions warrant immediate review by the Bureau of Environmental Justice.

## 1. Written Admission of Non-Compliance with Environmental Justice Targets

Priority 1.3 of San Francisco's adopted Environmental Justice Framework clearly requires the City to "develop neighborhood-specific targets and stewardship programs for watersheds, tree canopy cover, green infrastructure, urban greening, and other biodiversity targets."

In the attached response to Supervisor Dorsey, the Department of Public Works admits in writing that it is entirely ignoring this mandate:

> **"At this time, formally adopted neighborhood-specific tree canopy cover targets do not exist for District 6 neighborhoods, including South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, and Treasure Island. There is currently no defined timeline for the creation of such targets."**

Instead of targeted equity metrics, the Department admits its only operational goal is "to achieve full stocking of viable planting sites" citywide. A blanket policy of equal stocking

is the antithesis of environmental equity. South of Market currently suffers from a severe APEZ pollution burden and a 2.7% tree canopy, while neighborhoods like the Inner Sunset enjoy clean air and 22% canopy coverage. Operating without a data-driven prioritization framework directly perpetuates this disparity.

In addition, this operational refusal violates California Government Code Section 65300.5(a), which mandates that a General Plan remain an "integrated, internally consistent and compatible statement of policies." Under Section 65860, municipal actions must remain consistent with the General Plan. The City cannot legally adopt an Environmental Justice Framework to satisfy State regulators while its operating departments publicly admit they have no intention or timeline to implement its core directives.

## 2. Misrepresentation of Baseline Municipal Funding

On page 2 of the response, the Department claims:

> **"San Francisco Public Works does not have a dedicated, locally controlled funding source for new street tree planting."**

This statement is demonstrably false. As noted in my initial complaint, the FY2024-2025 Bureau of Urban Forestry Budget allocates $1.3 million in General Fund Continuing Authority specifically for tree establishment (Source: FY25 Bureau of Urban Forestry Budget, project codes 10034784 and 10036482). The Department is knowingly misrepresenting its baseline budget to a sitting Supervisor to justify its reliance on outside grants and private Community Benefit Districts.

## 3. Discriminatory Diversion of Funds Using "Neighborhood Character"

The Department's response also admits to the deliberate diversion of Proposition L environmental funds away from District 6. The Department justifies redirecting these funds to Districts 9, 10, and 11 using the following rationale:

> **"Districts 9, 10, and 11 met universal equity priority metrics and are largely residential in character... By contrast, District 6 contains a higher concentration of commercial and office development."**

This statement is highly incriminating for two reasons. First, Districts 9, 10, and 11 all possess a significantly higher baseline canopy cover than District 6. Second, and more importantly, the Department is openly using "neighborhood character" to deny environmental infrastructure to an Environmental Justice Community.

In October 2023, a sister state agency, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), issued a comprehensive Policy and Practice Review condemning San Francisco's planning practices. In Required Action 1.4 of that State directive, HCD specifically ordered the City to "Eliminate the use of 'neighborhood character' and 'neighborhood compatibility' terminology" because it is weaponized as a discriminatory tool to block equitable development (source: HCD Policy and Practice Review, page 19).

The Department of Public Works is utilizing this exact prohibited concept to fully exclude District 6. Over 24,000 residents live in the South of Market neighborhood. The commercial "character" of our neighborhood does not strip those residents of their right to environmental justice, nor does it justify withholding baseline mitigation for the severe air quality and heat island burdens they endure daily.

## 4. Willful Dismissal of Documented Community Demand

On pages 14 and 15, the Department provides its 311 request data. District 6 residents submitted 150 requests for street trees over the past year. District 11 submitted only 16 requests.

However, the Department plainly admits it directed the $4.9 million watering contract and the Proposition L plantings to Districts 9, 10, and 11. They justify ignoring the overwhelming demand from District 6 by claiming they prioritize "block-based or corridor-based planting strategies" for administrative efficiency.

Administrative convenience and operational efficiency are never legally valid justifications for disparate impact, nor do they excuse the systematic exclusion of a designated Environmental Justice Community. This proves that when residents of an Environmental Justice Community repeatedly petition for resources through the proper channels, the Department ignores the data.

## 5. Institutionalizing Disparate Impact and Unlawful Supplantation

The Department orchestrates an intentionally designed system of disparate impact regarding tree planting and watering. In their response, Public Works defends awarding a $4.9 million sole-source contract to the Clean City Coalition to water and maintain trees **exclusively in Districts 9, 10, and 11** based on unpublished "equity considerations."

Simultaneously, the Department refuses to provide this exact same baseline municipal service to the South of Market neighborhood. Instead, residents in District 6 are forced to rely on their own property-tax funded Community Benefit District to fund tree watering through special property tax assessments. The City is utilizing general funds to service higher-canopy districts while forcing a designated, low-canopy Environmental Justice Community to privately subsidize its own baseline environmental health. This is a textbook example of disparate impact and an unlawful supplantation of municipal services under California Constitution Article XIII D (Proposition 218).

## 6. Commingling of Equity Grant Funds Without Tracking

When asked exactly where the 408 trees funded by the $1 million Proposition L grant were planted, the Department provided a stunning admission on page 5:

> **"Rather than tracking which specific 408 trees were planted using SFCTA funds, the department reported all tree planting performed with multiple funds, including the SFCTA."**

The Department is admitting in writing that it pools equity grant dollars and does not track exactly where specific funds are deployed. This absence of financial accountability demonstrates the City cannot accurately verify if equity funds are actually reaching designated equity neighborhoods.

## 7. Unlawful Extraction of Mitigation Fees Without Local Reinvestment

The Department's response attempts to justify ignoring District 6 by citing its higher concentration of commercial and office development, which theoretically provides trees through entitlement requirements. However, on page 17, the Department notes that if developers cannot plant trees due to site constraints, "in-lieu fees are assessed." On page 20, they admit:

> **"The Department tracks violations and associated fines at the project level... However, it does not maintain a standing accounting of violation-related revenue aggregated by Supervisorial District."**

This validates the Mitigation Fee Act argument from my initial complaint. The City is extracting in-lieu fees and fines from massive commercial development in the South of Market neighborhood, failing to track the revenue by district, and dumping it into a citywide pool to spend elsewhere. They are using our disadvantaged neighborhood as a funding mechanism for the rest of the city.

## 8. Enacting Blanket Constraints Without Equity Impact Analysis

South of Market has only a 2.7% canopy cover. In March 2018, the the Department of Public Works passed Director's Order 187246, which now prohibits planting on any sidewalk less than 7.5 feet in total width, even if sufficient ADA sidewalk passage (48″) exists.

> ii. No street tree planting will be allowed in sidewalks with a width less than 7′-6″. Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis, as approved by Public Works.

excerpt from page 10

When questioned about the origin of this restrictive policy, the Department made a staggering admission regarding its failure to conduct due diligence:

> **"No formal impact analysis was conducted prior to adoption of Director's Order 187246 to quantify how many existing street trees or planting sites would become ineligible for replacement, either citywide or by district. The Department did not prepare a district-level inventory of potentially affected sites, nor did it conduct a quantified assessment of potential canopy impacts associated with the updated standards."**

We did the analysis ourselves, and Director's Order 187246 effectively redlines and bars the replanting of 24% of the environmental justice community's potential tree basins, as pictured below.



SOMA West. Red dots are trees on sidewalks with sufficient ADA passage, but insufficient total sidewalk width following the 2018 order.

Enacting a blanket restriction that disproportionately devastates the green infrastructure of a state-designated disadvantaged and environmental justice community without conducting a single environmental or equity impact analysis is a gross dereliction of duty. Additionally, the Department's attempt to justify this policy in their letter by providing two isolated, anecdotal photos of a fallen tree and a parked car demonstrates a bad faith reliance on pretexts rather than data.

## 9. Data Manipulation and Falsification of Public Records

The Department's data regarding empty tree basins is routinely manipulated to suppress the documented need for infrastructure in Environmental Justice Communities. In their response, the Department admits to systematically closing hundreds of 311 public service requests for empty tree basins under the resolution code "Planned Maintenance."

However, they immediately confess that this code is entirely fabricated for these closures:

> **"The closure of these requests was not tied to a capital project, nor were specific capital project codes or dedicated funding sources assigned to each of the affected service requests. Rather, the action reflected a data reconciliation effort within the work order system."**

Closing public infrastructure requests with a promise of "Planned Maintenance" when no such maintenance is funded or scheduled is the falsification of public records. To expose this data manipulation, our coalition conducted a manual, block-by-block survey of District 6 (source: San Francisco Tree Campaign In-Person Survey Locations). We physically documented over 460 empty, blighted tree basins sitting completely vacant. The Department is systematically deleting the digital record of our missing infrastructure to conceal the physical reality on the ground.

## 10. Open Defiance of Legislative Accountability Mandates

In January 2022, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Ordinance 001-22. This ordinance requires the Department to either replace removed trees within 120 days or place them on a "Delayed Tree Replacement Report." This legislation was specifically designed to create transparency and prevent City bias in how neighborhoods receive replacement green infrastructure.

In the attached letter, the Department openly admits in this letter that it operates in open defiance of this law:

> **"The Department has not maintained a standing, automatically generated Delayed Tree Replacement Report in the format contemplated by the ordinance."**

By refusing to maintain the legally mandated tracking report, the Department shields its replacement schedule from public scrutiny. This allows Public Works to continue its practice of selectively neglecting tree replacements in marginalized communities without triggering the legislative oversight mechanisms designed to prevent exactly that behavior.

## Requested Remedies & Conclusion

The attached letter serves as an on-the-record admission that the City of San Francisco treats its Environmental Justice Framework as entirely optional, defies local transparency ordinances, falsifies public maintenance records, and continues to use discriminatory criteria to distribute public resources.

I request that this document be added my open complaint. In light of these sweeping new admissions, I reiterate my initial requests and strongly urge the Attorney General to compel San Francisco to execute the following remedies:

1. **Bind the Environmental Justice Framework and Establish a Tree Equity Plan:** Mandate San Francisco's adoption of binding, quantifiable equity targets to replace the current system of discretionary, discriminatory resource distribution.
2. **Enforce the Mitigation Fee Act:** Require the City to audit its Adopt-A-Tree Fund and all in-lieu fee collections to ensure funds extracted from Environmental Justice Communities are reinvested directly back into those specific neighborhoods.
3. **Investigate Discriminatory Contracting:** Review the $4.9 million sole-source grant awarded to the Clean City Coalition to determine if the unpublished "equity considerations" used to exclude District 6 violate state civil rights or environmental justice laws.

4. **Cure the Proposition 218 Violation:** Compel the City to financially reimburse the SoMa West Community Benefit District for baseline tree establishment, curing the unlawful supplantation of municipal services and the residents double-payment for the same service.
5. **Audit Falsified Public Records:** Initiate an immediate audit of the Department of Public Works' 311 service order management system to uncover the true extent of suppressed infrastructure requests in Environmental Justice Communities.
6. **Require the Repeal of PWO 187246:** Compel the City to revise PWO 187246, such that it does not create a substantial disparate impact in Environmental Justice Communities that have the least, and continue to lose the most trees.

On a personal note, I am a regular citizen with a full-time day job. I began researching urban forestry simply by walking around my South of Market neighborhood. I noticed how few trees we have, our proximity to the freeway, how my air purifiers immediately start running on high when I open my windows, how trees are rarely replaced when we lose them, and how our meager canopy continues to shrink as a result.

The Department of Public Works, the Planning Department, the Commission on the Environment, and City Hall have shown total indifference to this reality and these concerns. The City offers performative plantings of 30 trees at a time, equal or less than other neighborhoods, when we face a deficit of thousands of trees. There exists no plan to achieve environmental equity for the residents of SOMA, or even a policy statement that it matters.

All we ask for is a government that works, for Environmental Justice laws to be followed, and for the City to stop discriminating against specific neighborhoods that are used as containment zones. All local efforts with the City are exhausted, and State intervention is now necessary.

Thank you for your continued dedication to environmental equity in California.

Shaun Aukland
Founder, FairTrees.org

CC:
Matt Haney, California State Assembly District 17
Scott Wiener, California State Senate District 11
Catherine Stefani, California State Assembly District 19
Carla Short, Director, San Francisco Public Works
Sarah Dennis Phillips, Director, San Francisco Planning Department
Planning Commission, City of San Francisco
Commission on the Environment, City of San Francisco
Mayor Daniel Lurie
Supervisor Matt Dorsey, District 6
Alicia John-Baptiste, Chief of Climate, Infrastructure, and Mobility

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March 27, 2026
Supervisor Matt Dorsey
Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Tree Canopy Equity and Resource Allocation in District 6

Dear Supervisor Dorsey,

Thank you for your January 27, 2026, Letter of Inquiry regarding the City's implementation of its tree planting, replacement, and maintenance policies, particularly as they relate to South of Market and other neighborhoods in District 6. Please find responses below.

1. **Environmental Justice Framework and General Plan Policies: California Senate Bill (SB) 1000 requires that cities and counties adopt policies in their General Plan to address environmental justice. In response, the Planning Commission adopted the Environmental Justice Framework in 2023 to establish a clear set of visions and priorities to advance health in communities of color and low-income communities. This was later codified by the Board of Supervisors via Ordinance No. 084-23.**

    a. **How does the Department operationalize the San Francisco Environmental Justice Framework in tree planting and maintenance decisions, and does it use the City's Environmental Justice Burden Scores to guide or weight resource allocation?**

The Environmental Justice Framework is available at:
https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/Environmental_Justice_Framework.htm

As stated in the Framework:

"DISCLAIMER: This Environmental Justice Framework articulates broad visions and priorities to guide city policy objectives. The Environmental Justice Framework does not identify specific future city policies and does not approve, fund, or authorize implementation of any specific projects. New and amended City policies and any implementation project will be reviewed and approved over time and follow protocols and best practices for adoption, which may require additional public review, review by City decision-makers, and/or environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act. As a result of those reviews, there may be alternatives and mitigation measures developed that may be implemented as well.

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

The Environmental Justice Framework also names example strategies and actions being performed in the community related to environmental justice. They include City-led initiatives, community-led initiatives, and partnerships between the City and community. Some of these examples are broad vision documents that guide City policies, and some are more concrete. Some have been adopted, and some are still under review at the time of this document's writing. If and when any of the examples still under review is proposed for adoption, it will go through robust community planning and environmental review, as needed."

San Francisco Public Works does not have a dedicated, locally controlled funding source for new street tree planting. As a result, the majority of tree planting activities are supported through grant funding, which the department proactively seeks out with the intention of expanding tree planting operations in equity priority communities. Since 2022, Public Works has applied for and has been awarded over $17 Million in urban forestry-related grants focused in equity priority communities, some of which are completed and others currently in progress (see attached map titled Urban Forestry Grant Funding in District 6 2022-2029). The geographic areas eligible for these grants are typically defined by the funding entity, based on equity-related criteria. Federal and State grant programs often apply their own equity metrics and scoring methodologies to determine priority geographies, which may differ from the City's Environmental Justice Burden Scores. Accordingly, planting locations funded through these sources must align with the eligibility criteria and equity frameworks established by the grantor – outside of City control.

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

# Urban Forestry Grant Funding in District 6 (2022-2029)



BOS District 6

US Forest Service Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Grant: $12,000,000

California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Grant: $456,000

San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) Proposition L Grant: $1,100,000

Street Tree Nursery:

CAL FIRE Urban & Community Forestry Grant: $1,193,594

Caltrans Clean California Grant: $3,825,000

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

With respect to tree maintenance — specifically the pruning of mature street tree s— Public Works employs a citywide strategy that considers multiple factors. These include tree species, growth characteristics, maintenance requirements, logistical efficiency, and equity considerations. Public Works is responsible for maintaining all street trees citywide, with the exception of properties that have formally opted out. Tree maintenance is conducted as a routine, ongoing activity to support public safety, tree health, and a variety of environmental benefits intrinsic to a sustainable and robust urban forest.

**b. Priority 1.3 of the Environmental Justice Framework calls for developing neighborhood specific targets for tree canopy cover. This echoes a recommendation the Budget and Legislative Analyst made in their 2021 Street Resurfacing Program and StreetTreeSF Program Performance Audit. Do such targets exist for neighborhoods in District 6, including South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, and Treasure Island? If so, what are those targets? If not, what is the timeline for their creation?**

Tree canopy cover refers to the total area of ground shaded by tree canopy. This coverage is generated by multiple sources, including street trees, park trees, trees in other public open spaces, trees located on private property, and on the properties of other agencies. Because tree canopy is influenced by several land jurisdictions and managing entities, the establishment of neighborhood-specific canopy targets is inherently an interdepartmental effort led by the Planning Department. Public Works participates in this coordination alongside other relevant agencies.

With respect to street trees specifically, Public Works' operational target is to achieve full stocking of viable planting sites, as outlined in the Urban Forest Master Plan: Phase I Street Trees. Full stocking refers to planting and maintaining street trees in all suitable and eligible locations. As noted in the disclaimer to the Environmental Justice Framework, the Framework articulates broad policy direction and does not itself establish binding implementation targets.

At this time, formally adopted neighborhood-specific tree canopy cover targets do not exist for District 6 neighborhoods, including South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, and Treasure Island. There is currently no defined timeline for the creation of such targets.

Public Works, nonprofit partner Friends of the Urban Forest (with funding from San Francisco Public Works), the SoMaWest Community Benefit District and local volunteers are actively planting and caring for young street trees within District 6. These partnerships are critical to achieving our mutual tree planting goals. We look forward to continued collaboration and success in these efforts.

**2. Funding Equity and Allocation**

**a. In November 2022, San Francisco voters approved Proposition L, which replaced the prior half-cent transportation sales tax under Proposition K. Proposition L funds include support for the planting and establishment of street trees in the public right of way. In November 2023, the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) announced a $1 million allocation to plant and establish 408 street trees, with weekly watering for three years during the establishment period and lifetime maintenance through Public Works' StreetTreeSF program. Program materials indicate that this investment was intended to prioritize Districts 5, 6, and 10 based on tree census data identifying areas with**

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

**the lowest canopy coverage. Planning documents subsequently show that, "SFPW [San Francisco Public Works] preliminarily expect[ed] to focus on planting in District 10 based on tree census data, low canopy coverage, and geographic equity". Can the Department confirm the final locations where these 408 trees were planted and describe the specific criteria and decision-making process that resulted in the final planting strategy?**

Based on the grant agreement with the SFCTA, Public Works allocated tree planting funding proportionally based on contributions from different funding sources. Rather than tracking which specific 408 trees were planted using SFCTA funds, the department reported all tree planting performed with multiple funds, including the SFCTA. Proposition L funds were fully expended at the grant-estimated level of 408 trees. Any trees planted beyond that amount during the reporting period were supported through other funding sources.

With respect to geographic allocation, early program materials anticipated prioritization of Districts 5, 6, and 10 based on tree census data and identified areas with comparatively low canopy coverage. The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) grant provided resources for tree planting in Districts 5 and 6, so the department pivoted SFCTA funds to increase planting in Districts 9, 10, and 11, rather than overlapping with the CNRA funding.

Districts 9, 10, and 11 met universal equity priority metrics and are largely residential in character, with fewer large-scale development projects contributing to street tree planting through entitlement requirements. By contrast, District 6 contains a higher concentration of commercial and office development, as well as substantial infrastructure improvement projects that involve tree planting. Examples include the Folsom and Transbay streetscape projects. As a result, grant resources were directed toward districts where publicly funded planting would address canopy gaps not otherwise being supplemented through development-related installations.

In summary, the final planting locations were determined based on equity metrics, tree census data, residential planting opportunity, development context and the objective of deploying limited grant funds where they would have the greatest incremental impact. Attached please find the tree planting records submitted to the SFCTA. Public Works can provide confirmation of planting locations consistent with grant reporting records.

**b. In December of last year, the San Francisco County Transportation Authority announced a $1.1 million allocation of transportation sales tax funds to support the San Francisco Public Works Tree Planting and Establishment Project, which will plant approximately 407 additional street trees. Planting locations were identified and prioritized based on tree census data showing low canopy coverage and heightened exposure to extreme heat and air pollution, as well as equity indicators including Equity Priority Communities and Environmental Justice Communities. What specific framework, criteria, or scoring methodology did the Department use to translate these data inputs into district level planting decisions, and how did that analysis result in the selection of the final planting locations? Please confirm the final planting locations.**

Proposed tree planting locations funded by this allocation were informed by a combination of canopy, equity data and where we already had grant eligible locations. The Department considered tree census data identifying areas with low existing canopy coverage, along with equity indicators, including

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

the San Francisco County Transportation Authority's (SFCTA) Equity Priority Communities designations and related environmental burden metrics.

As part of the grant application process, Public Works developed and submitted a map identifying potential planting areas based on these combined data inputs. The application, including the mapped project areas, was reviewed and approved by both the SFCTA Community Advisory Committee and San Francisco supervisors through their role as members of the SFCTA Board. The mapped areas reflect concentrations of viable *potential* planting sites derived from census and right-of-way data.

It is important to note that not all identified potential sites are ultimately plantable. A portion of candidate locations are eliminated during implementation due to underground utility conflicts, subsurface infrastructure constraints, driveway clearances, accessibility requirements or other site-specific feasibility issues. Final planting site selection therefore occurs during program implementation and requires field verification by Urban Forestry inspectors, including utility checks and site suitability assessments.

The identified project areas were also selected to complement, rather than duplicate, tree planting efforts being carried out by our grant partners and other programs. This coordination is intended to maximize overall canopy gains within priority geographies.

Final site confirmation is expected to begin in spring 2026. Upon completion of field verification and planting, Public Works will be able to confirm the final planting locations consistent with grant reporting requirements.

**c. In September of 2023, San Francisco was awarded $12 million in federal grant funding to plant and maintain trees. At the time of the announcement, then Mayor London Breed shared that this funding would "strengthen our urban canopy", particularly in neighborhoods like the South of Market, among others. To date, how has the South of Market neighborhood benefited from this funding, including the number and location of trees planted or maintained? Looking ahead, what portion of this funding is planned for investment in SoMa, and what is the anticipated timeline and scope of those future benefits?**

A portion of the South of Market (SoMa) neighborhood has been identified as eligible for tree planting under the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) grant program (see attached map Urban Forestry Grant Funding in District 6 2022-2029). Eligibility was determined based on the grant's recommended geographic and equity criteria.

To date, four (4) trees have been planted in SoMa under the IRA grant. Planting locations for the full scope of the IRA-funded work are still being assessed for feasibility and finalized. The grant performance period extends through June 2029, Throughout the grant duration, the remaining planting locations citywide will be identified, verified, and planted in accordance with the grant agreement. A subset of those locations are likely to fall within SoMa, subject to eligibility parameters, site feasibility and field verification.

As noted above, in addition to the IRA funding, Public Works has received a separate grant from the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) that covers a broader geographic area within SoMa. Under the CNRA grant, twenty five (25) trees have been planted in SoMa to date.

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

**California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Grant Plantings in District 6 (as of 3/24/26)**



CNRA Tree Plantings in D6 (25)
District 6

In addition to the trees mentioned above, Public Works has planted 299 trees in District 6 over the past five years. With funding from San Francisco Public Works, Friends of the Urban Forest is actively planting trees in District 6 that will be watered by Public Works. Public Works has a community-driven tree planting event scheduled in SoMa on Saturday, April 25th, 2026, constituting another nineteen (19) street trees near Columbia Square. Twenty-five (25) additional street trees have been scoped in SoMa with the help of community advocate Joshua Klipp, planting date TBD in 2026. Though these projects are not specifically funded by outside grants, they illustrate the mosaic approach to providing tree planting services and tree canopy expansion in District 6 with a variety of funding sources and programs.

**d. Last year, San Francisco Clean City Coalition was awarded a sole source grant contract in an amount not to exceed $4,931,307.00 to, in part, plant up to 600 replacement trees and water 2,400 street trees. How were neighborhoods prioritized for replacement planting and watering under this contract?**

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

The grant associated with this scope of work was initially awarded through a competitive solicitation process. Following evaluation, the San Francisco Conservation Corps was selected as the lowest-cost responsive bidder, with the Clean City Coalition identified as the second-ranked proposer. After approximately 13 months, the San Francisco Conservation Corps withdrew from the agreement, indicating it was unable to fulfill the contractual requirements. At that point, the Department sought and received authorization to award the grant to the Clean City Coalition.

The grant agreement includes the potential to replace up to 600 street trees and to provide watering services for up to 2,400 trees during their establishment period. Replacement tree planting under this contract is anticipated to occur primarily in Districts 9, 10, and 11. These districts were prioritized based on equity considerations, and logistical concentration to maximize operational efficiency and service delivery.

In parallel with this contract, Public Works continues to provide establishment watering for approximately 3,500 trees using in-house crews. Friends of the Urban Forest, under a separate grant agreement with Public Works, waters approximately 1,000 additional trees located near its facilities. These figures may fluctuate month-to-month, depending on the number of trees within their standard three-year establishment period following planting.

**3. Discretionary Guidelines**

**a. In a document obtained by my constituents via Public Records Request #25-8453, a document titled "Deferral Criteria from FUF (Friends of the Urban Forest) October 2023" appears to describe "criteria for evaluating a resident's tree planting concern and escalating it above the public good, resulting in Friends of the Urban Forest choosing to not plant a basin." Mentioned in the document is an allowance for deferrals when "a shockout or empty basin is in close proximity to a temporary shelter for unhoused people." Is this deferral criterion an active policy or practice for the Department and/or Friends of the Urban Forest today? What is the origin and rationale for this policy? Do our nonprofit partners or grantees rely on or apply it when making tree planting decisions? Please also clarify whether this criterion has been formally adopted, how it is communicated to residents, and how its use is tracked and reviewed to ensure consistency with the City's equity and environmental justice goals.**

It is the Department's understanding, based on consultation with Friends of the Urban Forest, that neither Friends of the Urban Forest nor the Public Works' Bureau of Urban Forestry maintains or applies a policy that allows for permanent deferral of tree planting based solely on the presence of a temporary sidewalk encampment on or near a planting site.

The Bureau of Urban Forestry does not authorize planting deferrals on the basis of encampments. However, the safety of City staff, nonprofit partners and volunteers is a primary operational consideration. In circumstances where an active encampment is present at or immediately adjacent to a proposed planting location, planting activities may be temporarily postponed to ensure that the work can be completed safely and without obstruction.

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

Such postponements are operational decisions based on site-specific safety and access conditions, rather than a formally adopted policy excluding locations from planting. Once conditions allow for safe access, the site may proceed through standard planting review and implementation processes.

**b. Director's Order 187246, adopted in 2018, outlines how the planting, maintenance, or removal of trees and landscape material on public sidewalk areas are regulated. Section V outlines the requirements for new tree basin construction and dimension and specifies that "No street tree planting will be allowed in sidewalks with a width less than 7'-6". Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis, as approved by Public Works". What are the specific criteria for granting an exception under Section V(B)(ii) and, what is the process for residents to apply for an exception? How many exceptions have been granted since the Order was signed in 2018?**

Under Section V(B)(ii) of Public Works Director's Order 187246, street tree planting is generally prohibited where the sidewalk width is less than 7 feet 6 inches (this measurement includes the 6 inch wide curb). Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis, subject to Public Works' approval. This policy is in place to ensure adequate space is available for tree growth and pedestrian clearance, ensure ADA compliance, to reduce conflicts with surrounding infrastructure and vehicles, and limit risks to public safety and tree survival.

Experience in locations, such as Federal Street, demonstrates the challenges associated with planting in constrained sidewalks. In narrow sidewalk environments, tree roots frequently cause pavement uplift, resulting in trip hazards and the need for repeated repairs. Mitigation measures such as root pruning—particularly when exceeding approximately 30 percent of the root structure—can significantly compromise tree health and structural stability, elevating the risk of failure and compromising public safety.




*40 Federal Street*

Additionally, trees planted in narrow sidewalks along narrow roadways are more susceptible to damage from trucks and other large vehicles. In locations such as Stevenson Alley near 6th Street (trees planted

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

in 2011), trees installed in constrained conditions were subsequently damaged or removed, and in later years vehicles were observed encroaching onto sidewalk areas (see comparison photo from 2023). These site conditions illustrate the operational and survivability challenges that inform the Department's cautious approach to granting exceptions.




*Stevenson Alley in 2011 (left) and 2023 (right)*

Residents seeking an exception may contact the Bureau of Urban Forestry to request site evaluation at 628-652-TREE (8733) or urbanforestry@sfdpw.org . Requests are reviewed administratively by Public Works staff as part of a site inspection process. During this evaluation, staff assess existing sidewalk conditions, pedestrian clearances, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements, subsurface utility conflicts, surrounding infrastructure, driveway curb cuts, roadway width, traffic conditions, long-term maintenance feasibility and public safety considerations.

Public Works does not maintain a centralized log of exceptions granted under this provision. Exceptions have been made in District 6 over the past several months due to enthusiastic community demand and buy-in for tree planting in sidewalks less than 7 feet 6 inches. The Department hopes that community support will contribute to long-term tree survivability in the face of constrained site conditions.

c. **My constituents have identified more than 130 empty tree wells on streets with a width less than 7'-6". For locations where an exception is not requested or approved per Director's Order 187246, what is Public Works' standard approach to these empty planting sites?**

Public Works is prepared to review the more than 130 identified locations, as well as any additional empty tree wells, upon receipt of a site list.

Where a location does not meet the minimum sidewalk width requirement under Director's Order 187246 and no exception is requested or approved, the location may still undergo a standard site evaluation process to determine feasibility under current technical and safety standards.

This process includes:

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

- Field verification by Bureau of Urban Forestry staff to assess sidewalk width, pedestrian clearances, ADA compliance and overall site suitability;
- A utility clearance request through 8-1-1 to identify potential conflicts with underground infrastructure;
- Coordination with development records to determine whether the site is associated with an approved or pending private development project that would be responsible for planting;
- Cross-referencing with current grant programs and partner-led initiatives (e.g., Friends of the Urban Forest) to determine funding eligibility or if they are already scheduled for planting through an existing grant program; and
- Successful sidewalk demolition and excavation that does not reveal any unexpected or unmarked buried infrastructure that would prohibit tree planting (e.g., abandoned pipes, vaults)

Only after these steps are completed can the Department determine whether a location is feasible for planting and identify the appropriate funding or delivery mechanism.

Public Works also considers community interest and stewardship when prioritizing plantable locations. Community support and engagement are important factors influencing tree stewardship, long-term health and survivability. The Department welcomes collaboration and input regarding potential planting sites and is committed to working with community partners to identify locations that meet technical standards and advance canopy goals.

**Is the default outcome to fill the basin with concrete, or are there alternative treatments or interim solutions available to preserve future planting opportunities?**

Filling a tree basin with concrete is not the default outcome. The standard approach is to inspect the site and evaluate planting feasibility in accordance with Director's Order 187246.

In many instances, planting is determined to be infeasible due to underground utility conflicts, proximity to driveways or building infrastructure, ADA clearance requirements or other public safety considerations. In addition, for trees to provide meaningful long-term canopy and environmental benefits, they must be able to grow to maturity. In highly constrained environments, such as narrow alleys, limited soil volume and repeated pruning or root disturbance can adversely affect tree health and increase long-term maintenance needs.

Where tree planting is not feasible due to existing site constraints, the Department does not treat concrete infill as an automatic or preferred solution. Alternative or interim treatments may be considered to preserve future planting opportunities rather than permanently eliminating them through hardscape conversion.

In some cases, Public Works has worked with adjacent property owners and Community Benefit Districts (CBDs) to install alternative landscaping treatments where feasible. Such arrangements are evaluated on a case-by-case basis and require an identified party, such as a CBD or adjacent property owner, willing and able to assume watering for the first three years after planting.

More durable, long-term solutions—such as those implemented through Living Alley projects—may include widening sidewalks, adding bulb-outs, modifying roadway configurations, or otherwise redesigning the public realm to create sufficient space for healthy tree growth. These approaches require broader capital planning, funding, and approval through established City processes.

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

**d. Was an impact analysis conducted prior to the adoption of Director's Order 187246 to assess how many existing street trees or planting sites would become ineligible for replacement? If so, what were the findings of that analysis? If known, how many planting sites in District 6 were identified as ineligible for replanting following enactment of the Order?**

Director's Order 187246 superseded several prior Director's Orders that provided guidance on street tree planting standards and basin dimensions.

No formal impact analysis was conducted prior to adoption of Director's Order 187246 to quantify how many existing street trees or planting sites would become ineligible for replacement, either citywide or by district. The Department did not prepare a district-level inventory of potentially affected sites, nor did it conduct a quantified assessment of potential canopy impacts associated with the updated standards.

However, the Order was informed by longstanding operational experience and arboricultural considerations. Many street trees — including small-stature species —ultimately outgrow 2-foot tree wells and require substantially greater soil volume and lateral root space to reach maturity. Even small-stature trees typically develop canopy spreads of approximately 15 feet, with root systems extending significantly beyond the drip line.

In sidewalks narrower than 7 feet 6 inches, root growth frequently exceeds the available space, resulting in sidewalk uplift, recurring repair cycles, root pruning and, in some cases, premature tree removal. Repeated structural root pruning — particularly when extensive — can compromise tree health and stability, shorten lifespan and increase long-term maintenance costs. From a lifecycle perspective, premature removal and replacement also carries a carbon cost that can offset a portion of the tree's long-term sequestration benefits.

The dimensional standards established in Director's Order 187246 were therefore intended to improve long-term survivability, reduce infrastructure conflicts, and support the establishment of a more sustainable urban forest.

**4. Empty Tree Well Backlog**

**a. A document obtained by my constituents through Public Records Request No. 25-8280 indicates that Public Works was aware of more than 500 existing empty tree wells in the South of Market neighborhood. Is this figure still accurate? If not, please provide the current number. What specific plan and timeline does the Department have to address and fill these empty tree wells?**

Public Works is actively working, within available resources, to expand and sustain the City's street tree population. The Urban Forest Master Plan establishes a long-term goal of approximately 155,000 street trees citywide. To achieve and maintain that target, the Plan recommends replacing approximately 1,500 trees annually and planting approximately 2,500 new trees per year, for a total of roughly 4,000 plantings annually. Developing and funding a strategy to meet this scale of annual planting and establishment watering remains a central objective of the Bureau of Urban Forestry.

Current funding for planting and establishment activities relies heavily on time-limited grant awards and development-related fees. These sources are not permanent or consistent, which present ongoing implementation challenges.

With respect to the referenced figure of more than 500 empty tree wells in the South of Market, a review of current records does not confirm that number. Based on the Department's most recent data, approximately 135 empty basins are identified in the neighborhood. Citywide, there are approximately 9,034 known empty basins. Based on these figures, District 6 accounts for 1.5 percent of currently identified empty basins citywide.

**Empty Basins in SOMA**



Empty Basins in SOMA Census Tracts (135)
SOMA Census Tracts

The Department does not maintain a district-specific planting schedule exclusively dedicated to addressing empty basins. Rather, as discussed, basin infill is incorporated into ongoing planting efforts funded through grants, development requirements, partner programs, and available operational capacity. Sites are evaluated for feasibility, utility conflicts, and funding eligibility before being scheduled for planting. Continued progress in reducing empty basins will depend on available funding, staffing capacity, and site feasibility determinations.

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

**b. My constituents have informed me that more than 900 empty tree well requests were closed by the Department on December 4 and 5, 2025, with the closure reason cited as "Planned Maintenance." Please elaborate on what this means and provide the specific capital project codes and funding sources assigned to these locations. If no funded project exists for these sites, please explain the rationale for removing these public reports from the active request queue.**

In late fall, the Bureau of Urban Forestry's Planting and Young Tree Care Supervisor conducted a detailed review of empty basin and backfill-related service requests. This review determined that several hundred requests in the system were duplicative or miscategorized. For example, some basins containing recently planted trees were reported as "empty," when the actual issue involved minor maintenance needs, such as adding decomposed granite to level the basin surface with the adjacent sidewalk.

Each request was reviewed individually, and closures were made on a case-by-case basis to reconcile duplicates, correct misclassifications and more accurately reflect the true backlog of actionable empty basin locations. The intent of this effort was to improve data integrity and ensure that the active queue more accurately represents sites requiring planting or maintenance intervention, reducing staff time spent responding to inaccurate reports.

The Department's service order management system provides a limited set of standardized closure codes from which supervisors must select. In many of these cases, "Planned Maintenance" was used because it was the closest available option within the system. The Department acknowledges that this designation may not accurately describe the underlying reason for closure in all instances.

The closure of these requests was not tied to a capital project, nor were specific capital project codes or dedicated funding sources assigned to each of the affected service requests. Rather, the action reflected a data reconciliation effort within the work order system.

Public Works works closely with San Francisco 311 to improve request accuracy and integration with the Department's asset management database. We are also evaluating the closure categories available to field supervisors. There may be structural limitations within the current reporting framework that contribute to misreporting and data quality challenges — for example, instances where a loose tree grate repair is reported by the public as "backfill," or a maintenance adjustment is logged as an "empty basin." Addressing these issues is an ongoing effort that requires coordination across departments to improve transparency, categorization accuracy and public-facing reporting.

**c. Please provide the number of 311 requests for tree planting by district over the last 12 months. How many of these requests were approved, and what were the primary barriers to approval?**

Over the past 12 months, the Department received a total of 1,185 311 requests related to tree planting. The distribution of requests by Supervisorial District is as follows:

District 1: 19

District 2: 123

District 3: 229

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

District 4: 38

District 5: 155

District 6: 150

District 7: 62

District 8: 217

District 9: 112

District 10: 64

District 11: 16

Public Works prioritizes planting efficiency through block-based or corridor-based planting strategies. This approach maximizes limited staffing and funding resources by clustering plantings geographically, reducing mobilization costs and aligning establishment watering operations. As a result, individual one-off planting requests are not typically scheduled independently unless they align with an existing planting project, grant-funded initiative or development-related requirement.

As previously noted, requests are reviewed for site feasibility and funding eligibility. Approval is contingent upon a variety of factors, including, utility clearance results, ADA and pedestrian clearance requirements, driveway and infrastructure conflicts, sidewalk width and compliance with Director's Order 187246, availability of funding for planting and the required three-year establishment watering period.

The Department does not maintain a single approval metric tied directly to 311 requests, as many requests are incorporated into broader planting initiatives rather than processed as standalone approvals or denials. And, as in the case described above, when our young tree care supervisor closed many requests, we receive many 311 requests that may not, in fact, be requests for a new tree, but rather requests for other work through the wrong category.

**5. Deferred Tree Replacements and Legal Compliance**

**a. In January 2022, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance 001 22, amending Public Works Code Article 16 Section 806(a)(6)(c) to require tree replacements within 120 days or inclusion on a Delayed Tree Replacement Report. Please provide the most recent Delayed Tree Replacement Report. If such a report does not exist, please explain.**

Public Works maintains records of tree removals and stump removals within its asset management database. However, the current system does not automatically link removal or stump service orders to subsequent replacement planting work orders. As a result, replacement activity is not systematically tracked in a manner that readily produces a consolidated "Delayed Tree Replacement Report" as contemplated by Ordinance 001-22 (Public Works Code Article 16, Section 806(a)(6)(c)).

Creating such a report currently requires a labor-intensive, manual process. The most recent report was created by extracting and reconciling separate datasets —matching tree assets on removal lists to corresponding planting records, linking multiple spreadsheets, and performing date calculations to determine whether replacement occurred within the 120-day timeframe specified in the ordinance.

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

While attempts have been made to compile this information, the ongoing need for manual data upkeep and case-by-case review means that any such report can become outdated or inaccurate relatively quickly.

Accordingly, the Department has not maintained a standing, automatically generated Delayed Tree Replacement Report in the format contemplated by the ordinance. However, our performance team is working with our IT team to determine how we can automate this tracking, reducing the burden on staff time, and providing more accurate reporting.

The Department also recognizes that timely replacement of street trees following removal provides clear community benefits and aligns with the Department's broader urban forestry and equity goals.

While the administrative and data management processes described above present structural challenges, current staffing capacity is an additional limiting factor. The Urban Forestry inspection team responsible for tree data management, planting site verification, and coordination of replacement planting, as well as all tree permitting, is currently operating at approximately 50 percent of authorized staffing levels. This staffing shortfall, driven in large part by the citywide hiring freeze, directly affects the Department's ability to conduct field verification, reconcile records, and advance replacement scheduling within the 120-day timeframe. The Department is actively evaluating strategies to increase staffing capacity and restore operational bandwidth necessary to improve replacement tracking, compliance reporting, and timely replanting outcomes.

**b. How does the Department track the replacement of dead or removed trees?**

The Department tracks the replacement of dead or removed trees through multiple, complementary mechanisms.

First, Public Works maintains an asset management database of street tree assets and associated work orders. Trees that have been removed are reflected either as completed removal service orders or as stump assets within the system, which are used as records of locations requiring future replacement planting, subject to feasibility and funding.

Contractors performing grid-based pruning operations identify and report stumps or dead trees encountered within their assigned areas. These reports are incorporated into the Department's work records for follow-up.

In addition, Urban Forestry inspectors proactively identify dead or hazardous trees during routine field inspections and initiate removal service orders as needed. Inspectors also update asset records in the field to ensure that the database reflects current site conditions.

Finally, partner organizations, including Friends of the Urban Forest, provide updated planting data following installation of new trees. These records are incorporated into the Department's asset management system to document replacements and newly established plantings.

Through these combined processes — asset tracking, public reporting, contractor input, inspector-initiated actions and partner data integration — the Department maintains an evolving record of removals and replacements.

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

6. **Public Works Code Article 16: Enforcement and Compliance**

    a. **Public Works Code Article 16 establishes permitting, replacement, and enforcement requirements for the planting and removal of street trees by parties other than the Department, including obligations tied to development projects. With that framework in mind, after completion of a qualifying development project, what processes does Public Works use to verify compliance with required street tree planting permits, including confirmation that permitted trees have been planted within the required timeframe and in accordance with approved species and locations?**

Public Works' compliance verification processes for development-related street tree requirements are integrated into the City's broader permitting and final inspection framework pursuant to Public Works Code Article 16, including Section 806(d).

As part of the development review process, proposed street trees, including species, quantity and planting locations. must be reflected in approved site plans and are tracked through the Department of Building Inspection (DBI) permit system. A development project cannot receive approval of its building plans without demonstrating compliance with applicable street tree requirements.

At project completion, Public Works staff will not sign the job card or authorize issuance of a Certificate of Final Completion and Occupancy (CFC) unless the required street trees have been planted in accordance with the approved plans. This includes verification by a site visit by an urban forestry inspector, of planting location, species consistency and general conformance with permit conditions.

Following installation, Public Works issues a tree planting permit documenting completion of the planting requirement. Developers are responsible for establishment of the required trees until such time as maintenance responsibility is formally transferred to the City. The permit and job card sign-off clearly communicate that the property owner must contact Public Works to initiate transfer of maintenance once establishment conditions are met.

Through this coordinated permitting, inspection, certification and enforcement framework, Public Works verifies that development-related street tree obligations are satisfied prior to project close-out and maintains mechanisms for post-installation compliance.

    b. **If required trees cannot be planted as permitted due to infrastructure conflicts, site constraints, or other conditions, what is the Department's protocol for modifying permit requirements, approving alternative planting locations, or assessing in lieu fees, and what written findings are required to support such determinations?**

Public Works seeks to prevent post-permit conflicts by integrating Urban Forestry review early in the project intake process. During plan review, staff require applicants to clearly show on their site plans proposed tree locations, species and adjacent infrastructure , including utilities, driveways and streetscape elements. Plans are not stamped or approved unless required street trees are adequately reflected and appear feasible based on available information. If there are no feasible planting locations, in-lieu fees are assessed and recorded in the DBI permit tracking system, ensuring that they must be paid before the building permit will be issued.

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

If, after permit approval, a required tree cannot be planted as originally permitted due to newly identified infrastructure conflicts, subsurface utility constraints, or other site conditions, the Department evaluates the situation on a case-by-case basis. The protocol may include:

- Field verification by Urban Forestry staff;
- Coordination with the project sponsor to identify feasible alternative planting locations within the project frontage or nearby area, where consistent with Article 16 requirements;
- Review of revised plans reflecting proposed modifications; and
- Documentation of the basis for the modification within the permit record.

Where on-site planting is determined to be infeasible and no reasonable alternative location can satisfy the frontage requirement, the Department may consider alternative compliance mechanisms consistent with Public Works Code Article 16, which may include in-lieu fee assessments where authorized. Such determinations are supported by written documentation in the permit file describing the site constraints, feasibility analysis and rationale for the approved alternative.

Public Works continues to coordinate with partner agencies to strengthen interdepartmental review processes and reduce late-stage conflicts. The current intake and routing procedures — implemented and refined since 2020 — have improved early identification of infrastructure conflicts and reduced the frequency of post-approval modifications.

**c. Once trees are planted pursuant to a development related permit, how does Public Works ensure that those trees are maintained through establishment, including monitoring survival, enforcing replacement obligations if trees are stolen or fatally damaged, and determining when maintenance responsibility transfers to the Department?**

When a tree is planted pursuant to a development-related permit, Public Works issues a tree planting permit documenting the installation and outlining establishment responsibilities. Under Article 16, the property owner is responsible for maintaining the tree through its establishment period, including watering, basic care and ensuring survival.

Maintenance responsibility remains with the property owner until they formally request transfer to the City. To initiate transfer, the owner must contact Public Works and demonstrate that the tree is healthy and successfully established. Upon verification by Urban Forestry staff, maintenance responsibility may then transfer to the Department consistent with StreetTreeSF program procedures.

If a tree planted under permit is reported missing, dead and maintenance responsibility has not been formally transferred, the property owner remains responsible for replacement. In such cases, Public Works issues written notice requiring the owner to replant the required tree(s). If the owner fails to comply after notice, the Department may assess a failure-to-plant penalty consistent with Public Works Code Article 16 to compel compliance.

Through this permit, inspection, notification, and enforcement framework, Public Works monitors establishment and ensures that required development-related trees are either successfully transferred to City maintenance or replaced at the property owner's expense if they do not survive.

**d. Once trees are planted pursuant to a development related permit, how does Public Works ensure that those trees are maintained through establishment, including monitoring survival,**

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

**enforcing replacement obligations if trees are stolen or fatally damaged, and determining when maintenance responsibility transfers to the Department?**

Public Works monitors and enforces compliance with tree protection requirements under Public Works Code Article 16, Section 808, through multiple stages of the construction lifecycle: permitting, active construction and project close-out.

During Permitting:
Projects subject to review are routed to Urban Forestry staff as part of the intake and interdepartmental plan review process. Applicants are required to show tree protection measures on their construction plans, including protection zones, fencing, and other safeguards consistent with Article 16 requirements. Public Works does not authorize release of the building permit unless an acceptable tree protection diagram is incorporated into the approved plan set.

In addition, a condition placeholder is added within the Development and Impacts requirement tab of the building permit record. This condition prevents final job card sign-off unless required tree protection inspections are completed.

During Active Construction:
Urban Forestry inspectors conduct intermittent field inspections to verify that required tree protection measures are properly installed and maintained. If damage to a street tree or failure to maintain approved protection measures is observed, enforcement action may be initiated. This can include issuance of fines consistent with Article 16 and documentation of required corrective measures.

At Project Close-Out:
The Department will not sign off on the job card or allow closure of the associated DBI permit if outstanding tree protection violations remain unresolved. If damage has occurred, fines must be paid and any required mitigation—such as replacement planting —must be completed or formally resolved prior to permit closure.

Through this integrated review, inspection, and enforcement framework, Public Works seeks to ensure that street trees are protected throughout construction and that violations are addressed before a project is finalized.

e. **When a violation of Section 808 occurs, how does the Department determine whether the injury or damage resulted from intentional, malicious, or grossly negligent conduct, and what penalties, replacement obligations, or corrective actions are assessed as a result?**

When a potential violation of Public Works Code Article 16, Section 808 is identified, Urban Forestry staff evaluate the condition of the tree using industry standards, including International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Best Management Practices. Inspectors assess visible structural damage, root disturbance, canopy injury, soil compaction, unauthorized pruning or removal of required tree protection measures.

Section 808 requires affirmative protection of street trees during construction. Where required protections were not installed, were improperly maintained or where construction activity results in injury to a protected tree, the damage is generally treated as noncompliance with the code. Because the

Docusign Envelope ID: 95BBFE3E-0045-44FF-A5C1-DD4EFF107B1C

ordinance mandates protection measures, injury occurring within an active construction context is typically presumed to result from gross negligence if not intentional or malicious conduct.

Penalties are assessed based on the extent and severity of the damage. Enforcement actions may include monetary fines, replacement planting requirements, mitigation measures or a combination thereof, consistent with the penalty provisions of Article 16. The valuation of damage and associated penalties is determined administratively, taking into account the degree of injury and impact to the tree.

Property owners or responsible parties are provided notice of the violation and have the opportunity to appeal the assessed fine if they believe mitigating circumstances exist. Permit closure may be withheld until fines are resolved and any required corrective actions are completed.

**f. How does the Department track violations, assess replacement costs, fines, and penalties associated with tree damage during construction, and does the Department maintain an accounting of these amounts by project or district? How are those funds used?**

When a violation is identified, inspection staff issue a notice of violation and assess a fine consistent with Public Works Code Article 16. A corresponding fine record is created within the Department's permit and enforcement database, which tracks the project, responsible party and assessed amount.

If a street tree has been unlawfully removed or damaged to the point that removal is required, the responsible party is typically required to replace the tree in addition to paying any applicable penalties. Replacement obligations are documented through the permit record and must be satisfied prior to project close-out, where applicable.

Collected fines are deposited into the Adopt-A-Tree Fund, as specified in the Public Works Code. By statute, monies in the Adopt-A-Tree Fund may be used only for street tree planting and maintenance activities. These funds support tree planting projects administered by the Department directly and may also support planting or maintenance activities carried out by partner organizations through grant agreements.

The Department tracks violations and associated fines at the project level within its permit database. However, it does not maintain a standing accounting of violation-related revenue aggregated by Supervisorial District.

Best Regards,

DocuSigned by:
073CF73A4EA6486...

Carla Short
Director
San Francisco Public Works

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Katherine Mendonca <kmendonca@mac.com>
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2026 2:13 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live at 1 Federal Street in South Beach, SOMA. My block has 9 street trees and 6 empty tree wells. This is an historic brick street in a designated historic district. The street used to be lined with beautiful trees, however those on the north side of the street were not maintained and this have fallen down or removed for safety over the past 3 yrs. These trees provided shade from the direct sun, provided a barrier to the pollution from the I-80 bridge black dust that covers our region. We really miss having these features that the trees provided. I have submitted 311 tickets re the empty tree wells.

Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list." Please treat the locations above as that list.





## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Katherine Mendonca <kmendonca@mac.com>
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2026 2:14 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live at 1 Federal Street in South Beach, SOMA. My block has 9 street trees and 6 empty tree wells. This is an historic brick street in a designated historic district. The street used to be lined with beautiful trees, however those on the north side of the street were not maintained and this have fallen down or removed for safety over the past 3 yrs. These trees provided shade from the direct sun, provided a barrier to the pollution from the I-80 bridge black dust that covers our region. We really miss having these features that the trees provided. I have submitted 311 tickets re the empty tree wells.

Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list." Please treat the locations above as that list.





## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Sylvia Wu <sylvia3u@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2026 2:18 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello Monique,

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live on 1216 Folsom street in SOMA. What I notice most walking my block is the empty tree wells at 8th and Folsom, next to the taqueria. The empty space has become a place for trash and vomit.

Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list." Please treat the location above as that list.

I am asking for two answers:

1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them.

2. Public Works: when will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met. The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

Thank you,

Kebin Wu
1216 Folsom street

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Dan Moran <dinny80@icloud.com>
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2026 6:58 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live on Langton Steet between Folsom and Harrison in SoMa west. My block has [13] street trees and [10] empty tree wells.

Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list." Please treat the locations above as that list.

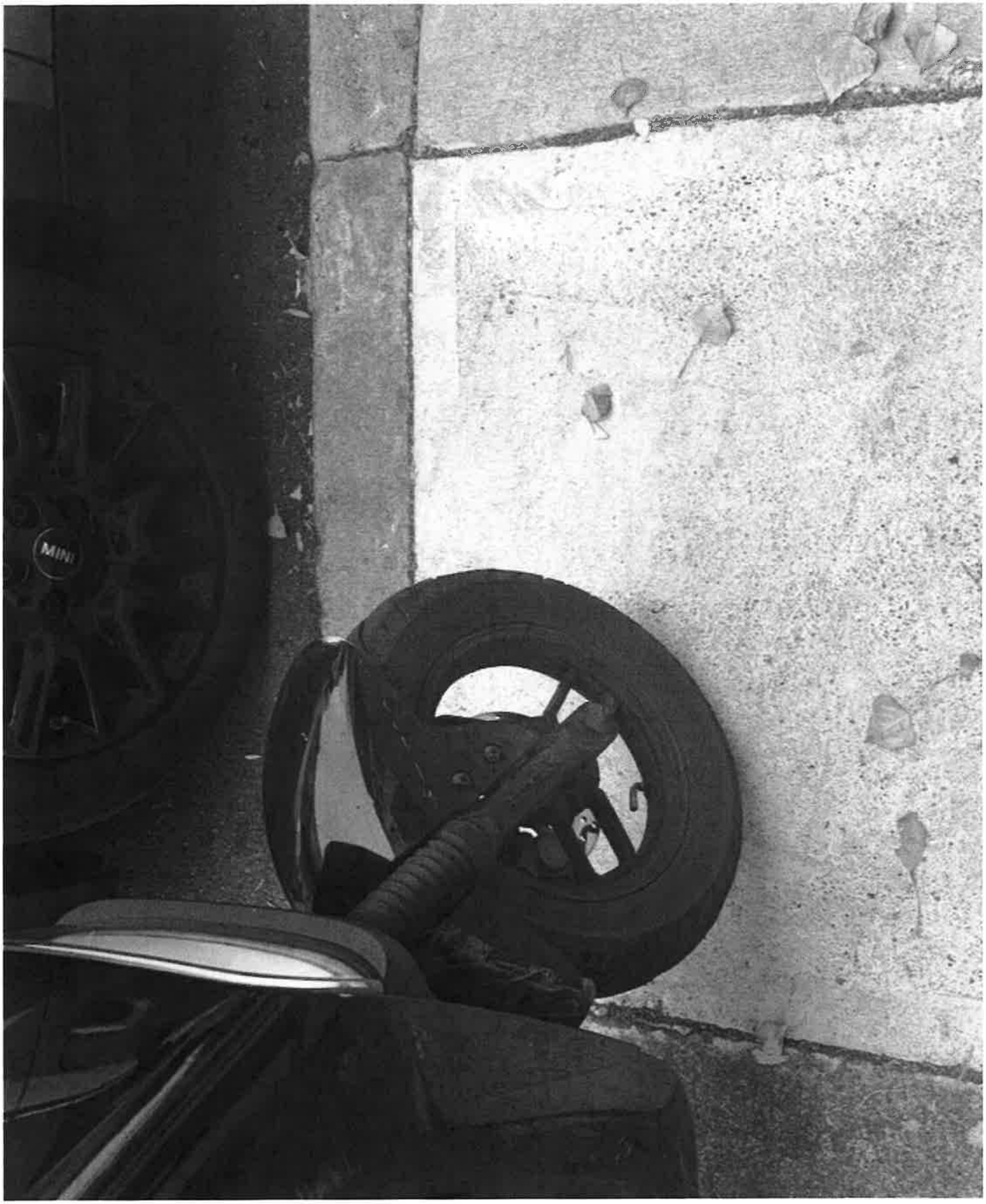
I am asking for two answers:

1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them.

2. Public Works: when will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met. The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

Thank you,

Daniel Moran
158 Langton Street


MINI







## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Donna Soohoo <donnasoohoo@yahoo.com>
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2026 8:02 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Jue, Tyrone (ENV); Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433. I live on 1 Federal Street in South Beach. Federal Street has at least 4 empty tree wells. What I notice most walking my block is the bare tree wells where mushrooms bloomed over the winter rainy season. Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list." Please treat the locations in the attached photos as a site list. Will these trees NOT be replaced because of impending construction? So we'll have to wait years before we see trees again on the block?






I am asking for two answers: 1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them. 2. Public Works: when will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met. The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

Thank you,
Donna Soohoo
1 Federal Street
SF, CA 94107

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Donna Soohoo <donnasoohoo@yahoo.com>
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2026 8:02 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Jue, Tyrone (ENV); Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433. I live on 1 Federal Street in South Beach. Federal Street has at least 4 empty tree wells. What I notice most walking my block is the bare tree wells where mushrooms bloomed over the winter rainy season. Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list." Please treat the locations in the attached photos as a site list. Will these trees NOT be replaced because of impending construction? So we'll have to wait years before we see trees again on the block?






I am asking for two answers: 1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them. 2. Public Works: when will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met. The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

Thank you,
Donna Soohoo
1 Federal Street
SF, CA 94107

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Smeed, Philip <philip.smeed@sap.com>
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2026 9:19 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live on Tehama in SOMA. My neighborhood far too many empty tree wells. What I notice most walking my block is the hope that some newly planted trees has brought.

Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list."

I am asking for two answers:

1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them.

2. Public Works: when will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met. The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

Thank you,
Philip Smeed
761 Tehama. SF. 94103.

Sent from my iPhone

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** J. Alexander Cain <johnalexandercain@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2026 9:58 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6
**Attachments:** 1000029392.jpg; 1000029391.jpg

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Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live on Hallam in SoMa West. My block has only 6 street trees. Langton, one block over has 5 empty wells. Why is there nothing planted in these and four tree wells with stumps. We live in a modern city, which I thought was environmentally minded. Evidence proves otherwise.

Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list." Please treat the locations above as that list.

I am asking for two answers:

1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them.

2. Public Works: when will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met. The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

Thank you,
Alex Cain
5 Hallam St. Apt. 5

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Jasmine Gardiner <jegardin@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2026 10:05 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live on Hallam St in lovely West Soma and am saddened by empty tree wells all over my neighborhood and the lack of adjustments to DPW Director's Order 187246

I am asking for two answers:

1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them.

2. Public Works: when will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met. The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

Thank you,
[NAME]
[ADDRESS OR CROSS STREETS]

SOMA WEST
Neighborhood Association

September 21, 2026

The Hon. Danny Sauter, Chair
Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA

Re: Hearing File 260433: A Call for Tree Equity for SOMA West and the City's Environmental Justice Communities

Chair Sauter,

We first sent this letter on September 14, 2025, and now resubmit it for the record of Hearing File 260433. Unfortunately, a year later, none of its requests has been met. In March, Public Works confirmed in writing that no canopy targets exist for South of Market or any other low canopy neighborhood, and that there is no timeline to create them. Meanwhile, property owners here pay a Community Benefit District assessment to water street trees that the City waters itself in Districts 9, 10 and 11, under a $4.9 million contract.

—

The SOMA West Neighborhood Association applauds the new direction in local governance that uses a data-driven approach to correct long standing neighborhood inequities. We believe the time has come to similarly extend this principle of restorative justice to our City's urban forest.

Recent legislation has established a clear and most welcome precedent. Supervisor Mahmood's One City Shelter Act acknowledges that a few neighborhoods, including SOMA, have shouldered a disproportionate share of the city's homelessness crisis.[1] Additionally, your own office's Family Zoning Plan recognizes that new housing has been concentrated in eastern neighborhoods while well-resourced areas have been insulated from growth.[2] Both initiatives seek to create a more balanced and equitable system.

This new political consensus finally concedes as unjust the treatment of neighborhoods like ours as "containment zones" for the city's challenges. Further, state legislation like Senate Bill 1000, which mandates that cities redress neighborhood environmental inequities, and Assembly Bill

2251, which calls for a 10% expansion of the urban canopy, adds legal weight to this moral imperative. This commitment to fairness must now also extend to the fundamental right to a healthy environment and the benefits of a robust urban tree canopy.

**SOMA West's Canopy Deficit: A Public Health Emergency**

While our neighborhood absorbed a 39% population increase in the last decade, we have been starved of the environmental infrastructure to support this density. The lack of tree canopy in SOMA West is an environmental and public health emergency.

Trees are critical public health infrastructure. They filter harmful air pollutants like PM2.5, which are linked to asthma and heart attacks, and they cool surface temperatures during heat waves. We endorse the findings of Shaun Aukland's August 2025 report, *Concrete Over Canopy: How San Francisco is Failing Its Environmental Justice Communities* The report provides irrefutable evidence that the City has failed to prioritize communities in need and is not assigning funding and resources with equity in mind for what is needed to close the gap on tree canopies throughout the City.

SOMA West has a tree canopy cover of a mere 2.7%, a fraction of the 12.8% average citywide.[3] This is not an aesthetic concern; it is a direct threat to our community's health. As the data below shows, SOMA West is an officially designated Environmental Justice Community (EJC) facing severe, overlapping environmental and health risks.

| Metric | SOMA West Status | City/State Benchmark | Source |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tree Canopy | 2.7% (Very Low) | 12.8% (SF Average) | US Forestry Lidar Scan |
| 10-Year Population Growth | +39% | +2.3% (SF Average) | US Census |
| Pollution Burden | Top 10% | City Percentile | CalEPA |
| EnviroScreen Score | Top 7% | City Percentile | CalEnviroScreen 4.0 |
| Air Pollutant Zone | Included in APEZ | N/A | SFDPH |
| Health Vulnerability | High | City-wide Index | SFDPH HVI |
| Planning Designation | Designated EJC | N/A | SF Planning |

While SOMA is one of the communities facing tree inequity, we are far from the only one. Much of the eastern part of San Francisco faces similar challenges with low canopy cover and are designated as *Environmental Justice Communities (EJC)*.[6] We seek not just to address the wrongs in SOMA, but in all underserved communities in San Francisco. Without policy guidance, municipal departments often focus tree resources on neighborhoods where it is easy to plant, rather than where it's most needed. While understandable given limited resources, this strategy can lead to a profound canopy equity gap such as what we are currently experiencing in San Francisco.

**The Solution: A San Francisco Tree Equity Ordinance**

Existing policies and departmental discretion are insufficient. The best way to guarantee the just and equitable distribution of our urban forest is through new, legally binding legislation. We urge you to champion a San Francisco Tree Equity Ordinance. This ordinance must be a permanent, structural solution that includes the following principles:

1. **Equity-Driven:** Legally mandate that a disproportionate percentage of the City's annual tree budget and resources be directed to designated EJC's until canopy gaps are demonstrably closed.
2. **Outcome-Based:** Establish clear, neighborhood specific canopy targets and timelines, such as reducing the canopy gap between each EJC and the citywide average by 50% within ten years. Mandate resources are increased for EJC's that continue to fall below their target canopy.
3. **Funded and Sustainable:** Create a permanent, dedicated funding stream for planting and maintaining trees in EJC's, making this a core service of the City.

Our SOMA West community is not asking for anything more than seeking fairness for our neighborhood's residents, small businesses, hoteliers, tech innovators, artists, non-profits, and multi-generational families that is consistent with the policy changes soundly emanating from your administration. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this proposal further and stand ready to partner in building a healthier, more equitable San Francisco for all.

Sincerely,

SOMA West Neighborhood Association

cc: Supervisor Matt Dorsey
Supervisor Bilal Mahmood
Supervisor Alan Wong
Supervisor Jackie Fielder
Alicia John-Baptiste, Chief of Infrastructure, Climate and Mobility, Office of the Mayor
Carla Short, Director of San Francisco Public Works

Sources


1. *SF advances 'One City Shelter Act' ordinance* - Local News Matters, July 31, 2025, https://localnewsmatters.org/2025/07/31/sf-advances-one-city-shelter-act-ordinance/
2. San Francisco Family Zoning Plan | SF Planning, accessed September 7, 2025, https://sfplanning.org/sf-family-zoning-plan
3. Concrete Over Canopy - How San Francisco Is Failing Its Environmental Justice Communities - Shaun Aukland, August 17, 2025, sftrees.short.gy/equity
4. Air Pollutant Exposure Zone | DataSF, accessed September 7, 2025, https://data.sfgov.org/Geographic-Locations-and-Boundaries/Air-Pollutant-Exposure-Zone/t65d-x6p8
5. *6 Ways Urban Trees Benefit Our Climate and Health* - Conservation Law Foundation, August 4, 2023, https://www.clf.org/blog/urban-trees-benefit-our-climate-and-health/
6. SF Environmental Justice Communities Map: Technical Documentation | SF Planning, March 2023, https://www.sf.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/exhibitg_23_03_10_ejc_map_technical_documentation_transmittal_w_app.pdf

**Crayton, Monique (BOS)**

**From:** Kelly Flynn <kelly.s.flynn@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2026 9:23 AM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

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Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live on Natoma & Russ in SOMA West. My block has several empty tree wells - some already paved over - and very little greenery overall. As we walk our dog, you can see a very sad-looking concrete jungle with no shade for him.

Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list." Please treat the locations above as that list.

I am asking for two answers:

1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them.

2. Public Works: when will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met. The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

Thank you,
Kelly Flynn & Adam Hong and Miles
Natoma & Russ

## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Carla <correoccarla@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2026 11:45 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live on 7th Street in SOMA. My block has every month fewer street trees and more empty tree wells. What I notice most walking my block is trash, badly maintained sidewalks, feces, and the children walking through it all on their way to their elementary school and preschool.

When I leave my home through the back door of the building, on Langton Street, I see equal amount of trees and empty tree wells, dying trees, drug dealers, addicts, and again trash and feces. Many of the empty tree wells have trash in them, and some have been paved instead of having the dead tree replaced.

Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list." Please treat the locations above as that list:
On 7th street between Harrison and Folsom:



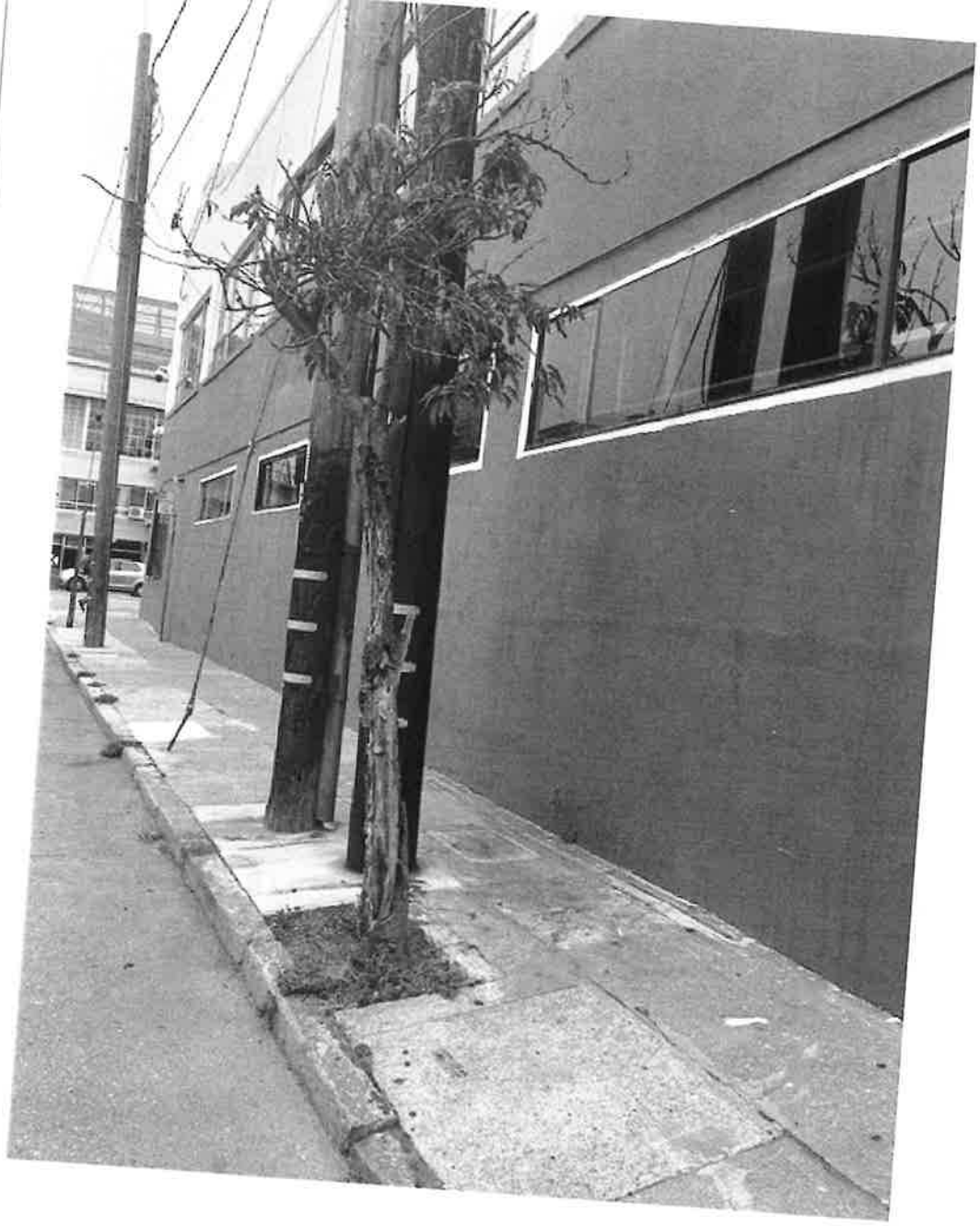
On Langton St, between Folsom and Howard:













## Crayton, Monique (BOS)

**From:** Davina Small <davinasvisuals@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2026 2:42 PM
**To:** Crayton, Monique (BOS)
**Cc:** Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV)
**Subject:** Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6
**Attachments:** treewell.jpeg

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live on Sumner in SOMA-West. I am emailing as there is an empty well at the end of the block, at Howard and Sumner.

Public Works told Supervisor Dorsey it will review empty tree wells "upon receipt of a site list." Please treat the locations above as that list, along with the attached photo.

I am asking for two answers:

1. Supervisor Dorsey: will you introduce legislation for binding, neighborhood-specific canopy targets, and when? Public Works has confirmed in writing that none exist for South of Market, South Beach, Mission Bay, or Treasure Island, and that there is no timeline to create them.

2. Public Works: when will Director's Order 187246 be revised so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met. The order was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis.

Thank you,
Shauna Davina
Sumner and Clementina/Howard

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Leah Edwards |
| **To:** | Crayton, Monique (BOS) |
| **Cc:** | Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV) |
| **Subject:** | Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6 |
| **Date:** | Wednesday, September 23, 2026 4:09:12 PM |

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please enter this correspondence into the record for Hearing 260433.

I live on Rausch Street in SOMA West. Unlike most of SOMA, my block has trees, and I know how much they change a street. That is why I am asking this Board to require Public Works to (1) revise Director's Order 187246 so trees can be replanted on sidewalks narrower than 7'6" where ADA clearance is met, and (2) plant SOMA's empty tree wells to start reversing our dwindling green space.

Director's Order 187246 was adopted in 2018 with no impact analysis. Public Works confirmed to Supervisor Dorsey that it never inventoried how many planting sites the rule would take out of service, and that it keeps no log of the exceptions it grants. Residents have identified more than 130 empty tree wells in SOMA West on streets the order blocks. A rule adopted with no analysis and applied with no record should not decide which blocks get trees. Public Works has had eight years to fix it on its own. It has not, so the Board should require it.

The empty wells are the other half. Public Works' own count puts 135 empty basins in SOMA, and it told Supervisor Dorsey it has no district-specific schedule to fill them. Each one is a planting site that already exists and needs no new sidewalk.

The same March 27, 2026 letter shows why this Board should not wait for the Department to act voluntarily:

- Public Works admits it has not maintained the Delayed Tree Replacement Report required by Ordinance 001-22 (Public Works Code Section 806(a)(6)(c)), and that its systems do not link removals to replacements. It cannot tell this Board whether removed trees are replaced within the 120 days the law requires.
- A $12 million federal grant announced as benefiting South of Market has planted four trees here.
- Proposition L funds meant to prioritize District 6 were redirected to Districts 9, 10, and 11.
- On December 4 and 5, 2025, more than 900 empty tree well requests were closed under a code the Department concedes "may not accurately describe" the reason, with no funded project behind them.

This is a department that is out of compliance with the tree replacement law the Board adopted in 2022 and is not delivering the grant money it accepted for our neighborhood. Revising the sidewalk width order costs nothing and immediately puts more than 130 SOMA West wells back in play. Filling the wells that are already legal to plant is the low-hanging fruit, and it would start rebuilding a canopy that has dwindled on Public Works' watch.

Please direct Public Works to revise Director's Order 187246, commit to a planting schedule for SOMA's empty tree wells, and report back to the Board with dates for both.

Best,

Leah Edwards

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Shaun Aukland |
| **To:** | Crayton, Monique (BOS) |
| **Cc:** | Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV); John-Baptiste, Alicia (MYR); Lurie, Daniel (MYR); Donovan, Dominica (BOS); Jones, Ej (MYR); Mendoza, Nubia (MYR); SherrillStaff; Sherrill, Stephen (BOS); Bettina Cohen; Alice Rogers; committee-govt-relations@somawestneighbors.org |
| **Subject:** | Re: Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6 |
| **Date:** | Tuesday, September 29, 2026 2:50:26 PM |
| **Attachments:** | PW_311_Closures_2026-09-29.xlsx |

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Chair Sauter and Supervisors,

Today, five days after your tree equity hearing, Public Works closed 84 of the 85 empty tree well requests in the exhibit we gave you, along with about 200 more, each with the same note: "**Case Cancelled. Planned Maintenance.**" Please add this to File 260433.

From the City's own 311 data:

- Public Works closed 284 tree requests in one hour, between 10-11:30am, 282 were empty tree well requests — more than half of the 527 open citywide the night before.
- The closures fell almost entirely on two districts. **District 6** lost 159 requests, including 157 of its 169 open empty tree well requests (93%). **District 2** lost 101 of 118 (86%), and **District 5** lost 22 of 58. Districts 1, 4, 7, 9, 10 and 11 lost none.
- By neighborhood: South of Market 108, Western Addition 53, Pacific Heights 36, and 25 in the Tenderloin, the lowest-canopy neighborhood in the city, across Districts 5, 6 and 3.
- The median request had been open 139 days. All had been filed after last December's mass closures, the oldest on December 19, 2025. Fifty were filed this month, and six since the day of your hearing.
- The closing note says each case was cancelled. None says a tree was planted.

A spreadsheet of every closed case, with its ticket #, address, date opened and district, is attached. Each row links to the City's own case page, where you can see the resident's photo and the closing note. You can also see them on a map, with photos, at https://fairtrees.org/tracker/?s=closed&since=548&sort=newest (this will be reflected in the dashboard tomorrow, after the City's 311 database updates overnight).

At the hearing, Superintendent Moore told you last year's mass closures were an administrative clean-up of duplicate and miscategorized requests. Vice Chair Mahmood said constituents' requests are often closed with a note that just says planned maintenance: *"It's kind of generic and it's hard for them to know what to do next."* Superintendent Moore answered, *"I think there's room to improve."* Today, Public Works closed requests at 216 addresses with that same note, including the tree wells in our exhibit.

Public Works may intend to plant some of these wells through the new nonprofit contract Superintendent Moore described, 2,000 empty tree wells over two years starting in December. If so, that is welcome. A 311 request is how the City counts work that still needs doing. If a

department can close a request because it plans to get to it someday, every department can: a report of a pothole, broken glass on a bus stop, graffiti or sidewalk waste could be closed as "planned" and disappear from the backlog without anything being fixed. If Public Works will plant these wells through a grant or contract, it should keep the requests open until it does, and close each one when the tree is in the ground.

Closing them now makes the record say the backlog is gone when it is not, while this hearing file on exactly this issue is still open, and the Department admitted they are not complying with their legal requirement to maintain a "Delayed Tree Replacement Report".

Residents take time out of their day to walk their blocks, photograph empty wells and file these reports. Superintendent Moore told Supervisor Dorsey the department would "benefit from community feedback" because "our databases are also imperfect." 311 requests are that feedback. Vice Chair Mahmood said last month that constituents often find their 311 reports closed without explanation, and that this undermines their trust in 311 and their willingness to report (San Francisco Standard, August 21, 2026).

I ask the committee to:

- Ask Public Works to reopen the requests closed on September 29, and to close requests only when the work is done.
- Ask Public Works to explain, when the hearing is called back, how these closures were decided, why they fell almost entirely on Districts 6 and 2, and how "Planned Maintenance" is defined.
- Ask Public Works to publish the list of sites in the new 2,000-tree contract, so residents can see whether their reported wells are on it.

Thank you for continuing this hearing. I'm glad to walk through the data with your offices.

Shaun Aukland
FairTrees.org

(see attachment for the list of closed tickets)

On Mon, Sep 21, 2026 at 8:32 AM Shaun Aukland <shaun.aukland@gmail.com> wrote:

> Dear Ms. Crayton,
>
> Please enter the attached into the record for Hearing File 260433, "Tree Canopy Equity and Resource Allocation in District 6", before the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee on September 24.
>
> It includes our letter, photographs of 151 open empty tree well reports in District 6 that illustrate the depth of the challenge, our petition with 883 San Francisco resident signatures and their open ended comments, and supporting documents.
>
> Thank you,
>
> Shaun Aukland
> FairTrees.org

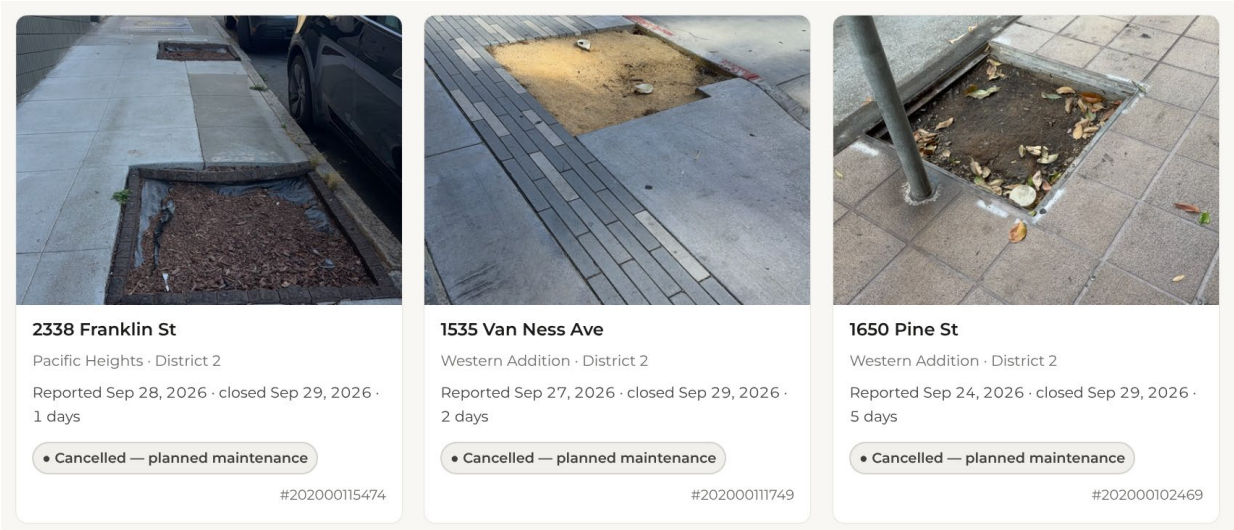
| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Shaun Aukland |
| **To:** | SBRMB NA |
| **Cc:** | Crayton, Monique (BOS); Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV); John-Baptiste, Alicia (MYR); Lurie, Daniel (MYR); Donovan, Dominica (BOS); Jones, Ej (MYR); Mendoza, Nubia (MYR); SherrillStaff; Sherrill, Stephen (BOS); Bettina Cohen; committee-govt-relations@somawestneighbors.org; Gary Pegueros; Bruce Agid; Mike Linksvayer; Sarah Bertram; Sarah Davis; smlmccrmck@gmail.com |
| **Subject:** | Re: Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6 |
| **Date:** | Wednesday, September 30, 2026 10:44:48 AM |
| **Attachments:** | image.png |

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Chair Sauter and Supervisors,

The city's database updated overnight, so you can now see the hundreds of closed empty tree well tickets **here**. Each tile has a clickable 311 ticket number, which brings you directly to the city's system, so you don't need to trust the site alone.

Many of these are also deep, obvious trip-and-fall hazards that pose a risk to pedestrians. They have neither been leveled off with soil nor had a tree planted before they were closed as "Planned".




Shaun Aukland

On Tue, Sep 29, 2026 at 9:22 PM SBRMB NA <sbrmbna@gmail.com> wrote:

> Chair Sauter, Supervisors, and all City staff copied on Shaun Aukland's email,
>
> Please know that Shaun Aukland does not stand alone in this pursuit for tree equity and transparent operations reporting. Along with the 1000+ residents who signed the FairTrees petition, the South Beach | Rincon | Mission Bay NA stands with this effort, renews the asks in our prior letter as filed under this hearing, and joins the related requests as enumerated here:
>
> I ask the committee to:
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decided, why they fell almost entirely on Districts 6 and 2, and how "Planned Maintenance" is defined.
- Ask Public Works to publish the list of sites in the new 2,000-tree contract, so residents can see whether their reported wells are on it.

Respectfully,

Alice Rogers

.....
Alice Rogers
President, South Beach|Rincon|Mission Bay NA
sbrmbna@gmail.com

Follow us on Instagram for neighborhood updates, events, and alerts: @SBRMBNA

On Sep 29, 2026, at 2:49 PM, Shaun Aukland <shaun.aukland@gmail.com> wrote:

Chair Sauter and Supervisors,

Today, five days after your tree equity hearing, Public Works closed 84 of the 85 empty tree well requests in the exhibit we gave you, along with about 200 more, each with the same note: "**Case Cancelled. Planned Maintenance.**" Please add this to File 260433.

From the City's own 311 data:

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Public Works may intend to plant some of these wells through the new nonprofit contract Superintendent Moore described, 2,000 empty tree wells over two years starting in December. If so, that is welcome. A 311 request is how the City counts work that still needs doing. If a department can close a request because it plans to get to it someday, every department can: a report of a pothole, broken glass on a bus stop, graffiti or sidewalk waste could be closed as "planned" and disappear from the backlog without anything being fixed. If Public Works will plant these wells through a grant or contract, it should keep the requests open until it does, and close each one when the tree is in the ground.

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Residents take time out of their day to walk their blocks, photograph empty wells and file these reports. Superintendent Moore told Supervisor Dorsey the department would "benefit from community feedback" because "our databases are also imperfect." 311 requests are that feedback. Vice Chair Mahmood said last month that constituents often find their 311 reports closed without explanation, and that this undermines their trust in 311 and their willingness to report (San Francisco Standard, August 21, 2026).

I ask the committee to:

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- Ask Public Works to publish the list of sites in the new 2,000-tree contract, so residents can see whether their reported wells are on it.

Thank you for continuing this hearing. I'm glad to walk through the data with your offices.

Shaun Aukland
FairTrees.org

(see attachment for the list of closed tickets)

On Mon, Sep 21, 2026 at 8:32 AM Shaun Aukland <shaun.aukland@gmail.com> wrote:

> Dear Ms. Crayton,
>
> Please enter the attached into the record for Hearing File 260433, "Tree Canopy Equity and Resource Allocation in District 6", before the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee on September 24.
>
> It includes our letter, photographs of 151 open empty tree well reports in District 6 that illustrate the depth of the challenge, our petition with 883 San Francisco resident signatures and their open ended comments, and supporting documents.
>
> Thank you,
>
> Shaun Aukland

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Bettina Cohen |
| **To:** | Crayton, Monique (BOS) |
| **Cc:** | Dorsey, Matt (BOS); Sauter, Danny (BOS); Mahmood, Bilal (BOS); Wong, Alan (BOS); DorseyStaff (BOS); SauterStaff; MahmoodStaff; WongStaff (BOS); Short, Carla (DPW); Shaun Aukland; Moore, David (DPW); Lozano, Jesus (ENV); Jue, Tyrone (ENV); John-Baptiste, Alicia (MYR); Lurie, Daniel (MYR); Donovan, Dominica (BOS); Jones, Ej (MYR); Mendoza, Nubia (MYR); SherrillStaff; Sherrill, Stephen (BOS); committee-govt-relations@somawestneighbors.org; Gary Pegueros; Bruce Agid; Mike Linksvayer; Sarah Bertram; Sarah Davis; sbrmbna@gmail.com; Ina B; Christine Ericksen; Yann Kaiser; A-Jay Nicolas; Prodan Statev; Antoine Justin; Kallie Ford |
| **Subject:** | Re: Hearing 260433 - Tree Canopy Equity in District 6 |
| **Date:** | Thursday, October 1, 2026 10:39:05 AM |

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Oct. 1, 2026

Chair Sauter, Supervisors, and all City staff copied on Shaun Aukland's email,

On behalf of the new Mission Bay Neighborhood Association, I am writing to add our voice to the request for District 6 tree equity and transparent operations reporting as expressed by Shaun Aukland. We stand with the 1000+ residents who signed the FairTrees petition, and with South Beach | Rincon | Mission Bay NA in the request for transparent operations reporting,

Mission Bay NA joins in asking the committee to:

- Ask Public Works to reopen the requests closed on September 29, and to close requests only when the work is done.
- Ask Public Works to explain, when the hearing is called back, how these closures were decided, why they fell almost entirely on Districts 6 and 2, and how "Planned Maintenance" is defined.
- Ask Public Works to publish the list of sites in the new 2,000-tree contract, so residents can see whether their reported wells are on it.

Respectfully,

Bettina Cohen President, Mission Bay Neighborhood Association
president@missionbayna.org

On 9/29/2026 9:22 PM, SBRMB NA wrote:

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> Please know that Shaun Aukland does not stand alone in this pursuit for tree equity and transparent operations reporting. Along with the 1000+ residents who signed the FairTrees petition, the South Beach | Rincon | Mission Bay NA stands with this effort, renews the asks in our prior letter as filed under this hearing, and joins the related requests as enumerated here:
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>
> Respectfully,
>
> Alice Rogers
> .....
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> President, South Beach|Rincon|Mission Bay NA
> sbrmbna@gmail.com
>
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>
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Shaun Aukland
FairTrees.org

(see attachment for the list of closed tickets)

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