Resolution establishing local biodiversity as a citywide priority, with a framework for interagency collaboration for nature-based initiatives.

WHEREAS, Biodiversity is defined as the variability among living organisms and the ecological complexes of which they are a part, including ecosystem diversity and within and between species; and

WHEREAS, According to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, biodiversity is essential for thriving and resilient ecosystems, upon which we all depend for food, health and well-being, clean air, and clean water; and

WHEREAS, According to Conservation International, our planet’s biodiversity is in a state of crisis as species are going extinct at the fastest rate since the dinosaurs; habitat loss is the top driver of extinction, and California is the only one of the world’s 35 biological diversity hotspots (high concentrations of endemic species under threat from humans) located in the United States; and

WHEREAS, 95% of San Francisco’s land area has been developed and its remaining natural heritage is in a precarious state due to the ongoing challenges of invasive species, urban growth, pollutants, the effects of climate change, and other human impacts; and

WHEREAS, Our local ecosystems include a dozen distinct ecological communities, hundreds of species of native plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects, and ten federally listed endangered species; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has a rich history of wildland and natural resources management and stewardship in our park, watershed and public trust lands, including our local National and State parks, the City’s own Recreation and Parks Department, as well as
the many other City Departments that collaborate with communities and non-profit
organizations to conserve local biodiversity, connect San Franciscans to nature in the city,
and actively create a socially and ecologically resilient city; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco’s Climate Action Goals of 0-50-100-ROOTS identify city
and community greening as integral to local climate mitigation and adaptation, and San
Francisco has proven that strong action on climate change is good for the planet and the
economy; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco is a founding and committed member of the international
Wild Cities and Biophilic Cities networks, and the national Cities Connecting Children to
Nature project, which all encourage conservation of and connection to nature in cities; and

WHEREAS, Over time, the City has built a policy foundation to support local
biodiversity, including the General Plan, the Biodiversity Chapter of the Sustainability Plan,
and the San Francisco Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, Several San Francisco City Departments have created internal policies
that pertain to the conservation of natural resources and support biodiversity, including but not
limited, to the Recreation and Park Department’s Natural Resources Management Plan, the
Public Utilities Water Enterprise Environmental Stewardship Policy, and the Port of San
Francisco's Waterfront Land Use Plan; and

WHEREAS, An inter-agency biodiversity working group helped identify the need to
strengthen and coordinate citywide policy and planning on behalf of local nature conservation,
and co-created a citywide biodiversity vision with five supportive goals; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Commission on the Environment passed Resolution
No. 003-17-COE in May 2017, which committed the Department of the Environment to initiate
a broad discussion with fellow departments and the public around the following five citywide
goals: (1) Biologically Rich Ecosystems: Restore, maintain, and monitor robust and
interconnected indigenous habitats, natural areas, open spaces, watersheds, marine ecosystems, and urban forests so that they support a diverse web of life, and mitigate climate change impacts to rare species and communities; (2) Equitable Access, Awareness, and Experience of Nature: Connect all residents, workers, and visitors with nature every day in neighborhood green spaces, parks, and natural habitats; (3) Community and Ecological Stewardship: Empower people and partnerships to promote, cultivate, enjoy, and restore nature in every neighborhood; (4) Ecological Planning and Design: Incorporate biodiverse, purposeful greening into all building and open space development, with a priority on creating diverse habitats for many species of wildlife; (5) Resilience in a Living City: Leverage local natural ecosystems to sequester carbon, conserve water, manage flooding, control pests, and improve air quality to support San Francisco’s adaptation into a climate-protected and ecological city; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That in order to further elevate conservation and stewardship of local native species and habitats, the City and County of San Francisco hereby adopts the following citywide biodiversity vision to guide its current and future initiatives, programs, and projects: San Francisco is a place where our local biodiversity thrives in climate-resilient ecosystems that integrate healthy native wildlife and plant habitats throughout our city’s physical environment, connecting ALL San Franciscans to nature daily and inspiring stewardship of our unique natural heritage in every neighborhood; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That relevant City Departments (including San Francisco Airport, Animal Care and Control, Children Youth and Families, Municipal Transportation Agency, Planning Department, Port, Public Health Department, Public Library, Public Utilities Commission, Public Works Department, Real Estate Department, and Recreation and Park Department; Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure; and Treasure Island Development Authority) should attend and participate in a regular inter-agency biodiversity
working group to collaborate on important ongoing and future initiatives to support biodiversity in San Francisco, including:

- Vetting of final citywide biodiversity goals that each department supports through its own operations;
- Integration and implementation of City policies, plans, and tools that promote habitat-supportive greening in the built environment, such as Green Connections and the San Francisco Plant Finder and many more;
- Pursuit of opportunities to enhance native biodiversity on City-owned lands unless those lands are dedicated to another mandated City use;
- Promotion of equitable experience and awareness, and responsible access and stewardship of nature; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That within six months of adoption of Resolution No. 107-18, the departments listed above should each complete a biodiversity survey, per templates provided by the Department of the Environment, which:

- Acknowledges and celebrates programs and initiatives that support biodiversity;
- Describes how the department will help realize San Francisco’s Biodiversity Vision through departmental planning and operations, and potential conflicts or limitations;
- Outlines collaborative strategies and actions to best integrate and enhance local biodiversity through everyday work; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That within twelve months of adoption of Resolution No. 107-18, the agencies listed above should each articulate a commitment to San Francisco’s Biodiversity Vision, via one of the following methods:

- A biodiversity resolution to its respective commission for adoption;
- A presentation to its respective commission on the survey results, including key biodiversity strategies and initiatives identified therein;
- A memo or other official communication to the Department of the Environment (and the Mayor's Office/BOS), reflecting the department's survey results, and biodiversity strategies and initiatives identified therein; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That to support its fellow City Departments, the San Francisco Department of the Environment should:

- Within 30 days of adoption of Resolution No. 107-18, supply the departments with information on each agency's existing biodiversity programs already catalogued and customizable templates for the biodiversity survey, commission resolution, etc.; and,

- Within 30 days of adoption of Resolution No. 107-18, convene the departments to discuss practices and programs that support local biodiversity and review and assist with the process for completing the biodiversity survey; and,

- Regularly convene the departments to review progress, share best management practices, provide training, and help identify additional policies and actions as needed; and,

- Document, consolidate, and provide a process for regular reporting on inter-departmental progress, opportunities, and resources implications associated with supporting the City's biodiversity vision; and,

- Report back to the Board of Supervisors on implementation progress one year after date of adoption of Resolution No. 107-18; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this Resolution should be transmitted to the Directors of all named City Departments, all members of the Board of the Supervisors and the Mayor.
Resolution establishing local biodiversity as a citywide priority, with a framework for interagency collaboration for nature-based initiatives.

April 09, 2018 Land Use and Transportation Committee - AMENDED

April 09, 2018 Land Use and Transportation Committee - RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED

April 17, 2018 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Breed, Cohen, Fewer, Kim, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Sheehy, Stefani, Tang and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/17/2018 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Mark E. Farrell
Mayor

Date Approved