



SF Environment

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A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

London Breed
Mayor

Deborah O. Raphael
Director

Wednesday, June 10, 2021

Dear Board of Directors, Northwest Potrero Hill and Dogpatch Green Benefit District

San Francisco has a long history of establishing policies in support of the city's natural environment and biodiversity. In 2018, the City honored this legacy when the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a "resolution establishing local biodiversity as a citywide priority, with a framework for interagency collaboration for nature-based initiatives," which articulated a fresh vision that "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."

Multiple City departments are currently collaborating on projects to fulfill San Francisco's Biodiverse City Vision, including the Healthy Ecosystems Chapter of the forthcoming Climate Action Plan as well as a set of biodiversity design guidelines for incorporating nature and habitat into the built environment. The Biodiversity Guidelines translate various City policies into concrete actions that projects, both public and private, can take in order to directly support the conservation and restoration of San Francisco's indigenous natural heritage. To create harmony between the built environment and what remains of the city's natural environment, all projects can be viewed as resources for creating natural habitat, to enhance and increase ecological connectivity, and to generate climate resilience for local nature and local people. A central feature of the biodiversity guidelines is direction to plant all projects with local native plants, sourced from local native plant nurseries, since local native plants are what actually support local wildlife, and thus help to restore the Franciscan ecosystem and its unique biodiversity.

Over the years, many projects around the city have already been incorporating local native plants in their landscaping efforts, using local nurseries that grow plants whose evolutionary origin is the San Francisco peninsula. Among those projects is the Scott School Sidewalk Gardens in the Dogpatch Northwest Potrero Hill Green Benefit District. Projects like these are a model both for the use of local native plants to provide local wildlife habitat, and also of local people collaborating to improve their neighborhood. The City will continue to promote these projects and is always looking forward to helping in whatever way possible to make projects happen, including for example, promoting the San Francisco Plant Finder website, sfplantfinder.org.

Thank you for everything you do to support San Francisco's vision of a truly biodiverse city.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Brastow
Senior Biodiversity Coordinator