



West of Twin Peaks Central Council

A Resource for Neighborhood Organizations West of Twin Peaks in San Francisco since 1936

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<http://www.westoftwinpeaks.org/>

Resolution Calling for the Removal of Forested Areas from NAP and Implementation of the Maintenance Alternative for the Program

WHEREAS, The Natural Areas Program (NAP) of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department intends to remove existing habitat on one-quarter of the City's parkland and replace it with native plants (arbitrarily defined as those here before European colonization); and

WHEREAS, The proposed Management Plan for NAP has been undergoing an Environmental Impact Review, which is likely to come before the Planning Commission for certification sometime in December 2016 or after the first of the next year; and

WHEREAS, The Recreation and Park Commission intends to hold a session to officially accept the NAP Management Plan on the same day that the Planning Commission certifies the NAP EIR; and

WHEREAS, After hearing presentations by Recreation and Park Department staff supporting NAP and the San Francisco Forest Alliance opposing it at its May 21, 2012 meeting, the West of Twin Peaks Central Council (WTPCC) voted to submit a letter opposing NAP to the Planning Commission on June 4, 2012 as part of public comment on the NAP Draft EIR; and

WHEREAS, That letter expressed WTPCC's concerns about NAP's plans to cut down 18,500 trees in parks controlled by the SF Recreation and Park Department, including removing 1,600 trees on Mt. Davidson, as well as our concerns about NAP's repeated applications of toxic herbicides to keep non-native plants from growing back, as well as our concerns about the loss of access to large areas of our neighborhood parks and the closure of 9.2 miles of trails; and

WHEREAS, That letter also called on the Recreation and Park Commission to rethink its support of NAP; and

WHEREAS, Appendix F of the NAP Management Plan, which gives details of the NAP Management Plan's urban forestry plans, refers to existing trees in parks like Mt. Davidson as "invasive," adding: "The long-term goal of urban forest management in MA-1 and MA-2 areas [which comprise most of NAP's areas] is to slowly convert those areas to native scrub, and grassland habitats or oak woodlands" (p. F-1); and

WHEREAS, The Miraloma Park Improvement Club, a member organization, sent a letter to Mayor Edwin Lee on January 27, 2014, opposing any expansion of NAP on Mt. Davidson, and in particular, calling for management of the forested areas of Mt. Davidson be removed from NAP's control and returned to the control and maintenance of the Recreation and Park Department's Forestry Division; and

WHEREAS, The MPIC letter also opposed implementation of the NAP General Management Plan as written and supported the implementation of the Maintenance Alternative identified in the NAP EIR, an

alternative that allows NAP to continue to manage native habitat that has already been created, but does not support any additional destruction of existing habitat for replacement with native plants; and

WHEREAS, UC Berkeley Professor of Urban Forestry Joe McBride, sent a letter to Recreation and Park General Manager Phil Ginsburg on June 29, 2013, stating that, “I conclude that the Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Plan for the removal and thinning of different portions of the eucalyptus plantation on Mt. Davidson is not justified”; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That, the West of Twin Peaks Central Council urges the Mayor, the General Manager of the SF Recreation and Park Department, the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission, and the Recreation and Park Commission to remove all forested areas such as at those in Sharp Park, and, in particular, the forested areas of Mt. Davidson, from NAP control and give management control of forested areas to the Recreation and Park Department’s Forestry Division’s trained arborists for routine maintenance, and prohibit the removal of any trees in NAP-managed areas except for reasons of hazard abatement or construction of buildings (but not habitat restoration); and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the West of Twin Peaks Central Council urges the Mayor, the General Manager of the SF Recreation and Park Department, the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission, and the Recreation and Park Commission to restrict NAP to implementing only the Maintenance Alternative identified in the EIR; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the West of Twin Peaks Central Council urges the Mayor, the General Manager of the SF Recreation and Park Department, the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission, and the Recreation and Park Commission to prohibit all Tier 1 and Tier 2 [the most toxic] herbicide use by NAP to ensure public safety in all park areas.

This resolution was adopted by the West of Twin Peaks Central Council at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 24, 2016.