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The City of South San Francisco

For Immediate Release

The City of South San Francisco Receives "Best Program Award" from the California Urban Forests Council

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., Oct. 11, 2019 - The City of South San Francisco has received the "Best Program Award" from the [California Urban Forests Council](#) (CAUFC), recognizing its efforts at reforestation following the end of the drought as the best program in California. "During the recent drought, as a City, we paused the planting of trees in areas that were no longer irrigated due to state-mandated water restrictions," said Greg Mediati, South San Francisco Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation. "Since those restrictions have lifted, the City has led significant reforestation efforts citywide and began drafting an Urban Forest Master Plan that will guide future planting and tree care efforts."

The Best Program Award is granted to the municipality, community, or business that has shown the most improvement in the past year or has demonstrated over a period of several years exceptional leadership, innovation, growth, and community involvement in creating a consistent and well-managed urban forest.

Since those state-mandated water restrictions have lifted, the City has led significant reforestation efforts citywide and began drafting an Urban Forest Master Plan that will guide future planting and tree care efforts. An Urban Forest management Plan is a roadmap that creates a shared vision for the future of a tree canopy. It's a tailored plan that guides tree care professionals to proactively and effectively manage and provide for maximum, long-term benefits to the community.

"Since the drought, City staff has planted well over 500 city trees, in addition to 400 trees planted as part of the CAUFC-sponsored Circle 3.0 Tree Planting Program this past Arbor Day," says Mediati. Of the City's roughly 15,000 trees, this equates to six percent of the City's total tree inventory.

"I'm extremely proud of the work our Parks and Recreation Department has done to increase the number of trees in our City as they dealt with the after-

effects of state-mandated restrictions due to the drought," said South San Francisco Mayor Karyl Matsumoto. "We are in a better place now and I cannot stress the importance of having green spaces around us, as trees not only benefit public health and safety, but they provide economic opportunities."

What's the Value of a Tree?

Across the state, the value provided by trees through environmental benefits such as energy savings, air pollution reduction, and runoff reduction is quantified by [research undertaken for the USDA](#).

Other additional benefits include:

- Shade from an urban forest canopy cools our cities and reduces energy use
- Households can save on cooling costs in summer. *"If you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in five years your energy bills should be three percent less. In 15 years, the savings will be nearly 12 percent."* Dr. E. Greg McPherson, Center for Urban Forest Research
- Trees reduce heating costs in winter
- More trees reduces the need for more power stations
- Trees extend the life of our streets
- Trees remove pollutants from the air and sequester carbon, providing value for cities
- Having trees on or near your property increases its value
- Trees are good for retail

About South San Francisco

The City of South San Francisco proudly remains *The Industrial City*, a reflection of its steel mill and ship building past, redefined to reflect the innovative, entrepreneurial and industrious spirit which has made South San Francisco the Biotech Capital of the World, with 217 active biotech companies and growing. A vibrant community of 67,082 residents, South San Francisco enjoys a high quality of life with an extensive public parks system, active library and learning programming and a dynamic, engaged community making South San Francisco a great place to live, learn, work and play.