



February 10, 2022

Amandeep Jawa, Chair, and Committee Members  
San Francisco Sales Tax Expenditure Plan Advisory Committee  
[expenditureplan@sfcta.org](mailto:expenditureplan@sfcta.org)

Re: San Francisco Sales Tax Expenditure Plan – BART Programming

Dear Mr. Jawa and Committee Members,

AFSCME Local 3993, ATU Local 1555 and SEIU Local 1021, BART Chapter would like to express our strong support for increased funding for the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) in the San Francisco Transportation Sales Tax (SF Sales Tax) Expenditure Plan. We understand that the Expenditure Plan Advisory Committee (EPAC) will be considering alternative expenditure plan scenarios at its February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Our combined Union Locals jointly represent over three thousand Unionized workers at BART. Many of our members live and work in San Francisco and are proud to provide the labor to keep the San Francisco Bay Area moving. Our members have continued working throughout the pandemic as essential workers providing the lifeline service to support San Francisco and the Bay Area economic recovery.

San Franciscans and displaced San Franciscans, including essential workers, depend on BART to get to work and access critical services. BART's 2020 Customer Satisfaction Survey showed that more than 50% of BART riders live in households earning less than \$50,000 and 50% of riders do not have a vehicle. BART's Transbay service carries nearly twice the capacity of the Bay Bridge<sup>1</sup> and, with the implementation of their Core Capacity Program, their Transbay service is projected to increase by 30-40%. Given the high cost of commuting by car and the fixed capacity constraint of the San Francisco Bay Bridge, BART is vital to enable equitable access to downtown San Francisco, a core regional job center and driver of San Francisco's economy.

As the Bay Area's transit backbone, BART demonstrated its dedication to supporting San Francisco's economic rejuvenation by returning to near pre-pandemic service in August – one month earlier than planned – in response to requests from the restaurant and tourism associations.

BART is also a critical Bay Area jobs provider. Today, BART directly employs nearly 4,000 employees, providing good union jobs with excellent benefits for a diverse workforce. Specifically, 27% of BART's workforce identifies as Black or African American, 16% as Latinx and 25% as Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. BART also supports and creates jobs for tens of thousands more through BART's capital investment projects. For example, Alstom, a BART contractor, opened a manufacturing/assembly facility in the Bay Area for BART's Fleet of the Future Rail Car Procurement.

The package of investments BART proposes to fund with SF Sales Tax programming, including its Core Capacity Program and critical station renovations, will significantly leverage federal, State, regional and BART funds to support San Francisco's revitalization by enabling diverse workers to return to work and providing good local jobs.

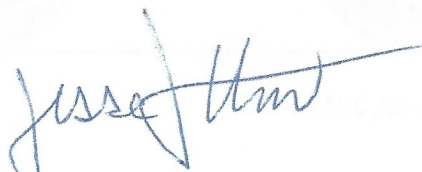
Our Unions jointly request that the EPAC include at least \$240 million of Priority 1 funding in the Expenditure Plan it recommends to the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) Board, including \$100 million for BART's Core Capacity Program and \$140 million for BART Maintenance, Rehabilitation and Replacement. We appreciate the

hard work the EPAC has put into developing an Expenditure Plan that will meet the needs of San Francisco now and into the future and thank you for considering our request.

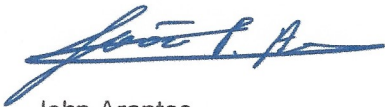
Best regards,



Sal Cruz  
President  
AFSCME 3993



Jesse J. Hunt  
President/Business Agent  
ATU Local 1555



John Arantes  
BART Chapter President  
SEIU Local 1021

CC: SFCTA Board  
Rafael Mandelman, Chair, [rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org](mailto:rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org)  
Aaron Peskin, Vice Chair, [Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org](mailto:Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org)  
Connie Chan, [chanstaff@sfgov.org](mailto:chanstaff@sfgov.org)  
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San Francisco  
County Transportation  
Authority

Angela Tsao <angela.tsao@sfcta.org>

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## Please Do NOT Chop Funding for Tree Planting!

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**Judy Irving** <films@pelicanmedia.org>

Thu, Feb 10, 2022 at 4:31 PM

To: clerk@sfcta.org

Cc: aaron.peskin@sfgov.org

Dear San Francisco County Transportation Authority,

We are in the midst of a climate crisis; we need more trees (for oxygen, for shade, for traffic calming, for birds and insects, for our own mental health amidst all this concrete), and there is no other source of funding for tree planting in San Francisco, other than yours. We already have one of the most pathetically small canopies of any major city in the country.

Please do not turn SF into a tree desert. Maintain or increase funding for tree planting and watering at current levels. This may help offset the many tree removals happening citywide right now, and which will happen in the future when other transportation infrastructure projects get the go-ahead.

Thank you,

Judy Irving  
Producer/Director  
"The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill"

(Birds need trees!!)

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## **BUDGET FOR TREE PLANTING**

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**Albert Wald** <[albertwald@gmail.com](mailto:albertwald@gmail.com)>  
To: [clerk@sfcta.org](mailto:clerk@sfcta.org)

Thu, Feb 10, 2022 at 5:04 PM

As a longtime member and participant in Friends of the Urban Forest, I urge you to INCREASE the budget for tree PLANTING.

The reasons are well stated by this note from FUF.

- There is currently no other source of dedicated funding for tree planting in SF. While we work to remedy that, there are no guarantees, and reducing this allocation would have a devastating impact on SF's ability to grow its urban forest and meet its climate goals.
- Trees are necessary green infrastructure that have been demonstrated to slow vehicle speeds, improve the health and wellbeing of people walking and biking, and provide crucial habitat for birds and insects. They will also be the first line of defense for our most vulnerable residents during future extreme heat events.
- This funding will offset some of the impacts of the mature street tree removal that will occur when other larger transportation infrastructure projects move forward.
- Please maintain funding for the tree planting and establishment program at current levels.

This is important to making this increasingly trash strewn and ugly city beautiful and livable again.

**Albert Wald**

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Albert Wald  
[albertwald@gmail.com](mailto:albertwald@gmail.com)  
415-387-8109  
cell: 415-259-9916





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## Allocating Money for Purchasing Trees - SFCTA 2023 Budget

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Laura K Kerr, PhD <laurakkerr@comcast.net>  
To: clerk@sfcta.org

Thu, Feb 10, 2022 at 5:26 PM

Hello,

I am a home owner in San Francisco. I understand the expense of maintaining trees, which is often much more than planting a new one.

However, I think it's short-sighted to remove the \$2million from the SFCTA budget allocated for planting new trees.

Especially given climate change, we have no idea how well our current trees will do, and there are so many places in the future we citizens will be glad to have shade.

It's a win-win to keep the \$2 million allocated to new trees. We'll cool down the city, improve air quality, and provide homes for our fellow creatures. What could be better?

We owe it to ourselves to keep planting trees.

Sincerely,  
Laura Kerr  
41 Merced Ave



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## Public comment for 2/10/22 SFCTA Meeting

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'Linda Lau' via Clerk <clerk@sfcta.org>  
Reply-To: Linda Lau <linda0702@yahoo.com>  
To: "clerk@sfcta.org" <clerk@sfcta.org>

Thu, Feb 10, 2022 at 5:51 PM

Hello SFCTA,

I live in San Francisco for 50+ years. With the ever growing climate change crisis, trees are an important part of the solution to help our city to fight against this problem. **I urge SFCTA to maintain at current levels or increase funding for the tree planting and establishment program.**

I understand that there is currently no other source of dedicated funding for tree planting in SF. While we work to remedy that, there are no guarantees, and reducing this allocation would have a devastating impact on SF's ability to grow its urban forest and meet its climate goals.

Other important reason to maintain the funding:

- Trees are necessary green infrastructure that have been demonstrated to slow vehicle speeds, improve the health and wellbeing of people walking and biking, and provide crucial habitat for birds and insects. They will also be the first line of defense for our most vulnerable residents during future extreme heat events.
- This funding will offset some of the impacts of the mature street tree removal that will occur when other larger transportation infrastructure projects move forward.

Thank you for helping to keep our community better! I look forward to hearing out the decision on this from SFCTA.

Sincerely,  
Linda Lau  
SF Resident, zip code 94110  
email: [Linda0702@yahoo.com](mailto:Linda0702@yahoo.com)



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## We need trees

1 message

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**Maria Luisa Boden** <mlboden@pacbell.net>  
Reply-To: Maria Luisa Boden <mlboden@pacbell.net>  
To: "clerk@sfcta.org" <clerk@sfcta.org>

Thu, Feb 10, 2022 at 8:25 PM

Please reconsider any thoughts of cutting the already paltry funds allocated to planting trees in San Francisco. The city desperately needs them as a barrier to climate change and habitat to birds and insects as well as for so many other reasons including aesthetic. It is outrageous to see how a supposedly civilized city like San Francisco keeps losing and removing trees without replacing them with other trees.

Please think about how many years it takes for a tree to grow, once it is felled how long will it take for new ones to mature? We have to do this now.

Thank you for considering a change of priorities.  
Maria Boden  
[130 Judah Street](#)

+ 1 415 564 5822



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## Trees in SF

1 message

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**Mary Rose LeBaron** <maryroselebaron@gmail.com>  
To: clerk@sfcta.org

Fri, Feb 11, 2022 at 1:27 PM

Hello there,

I am writing in support of increasing budget for planting and preserving trees in SF. Our urban forest is seriously suffering and when the trees are sparse, we humans feel it.

I think it is also obvious that we are in a climate emergency and reduced budgets for trees makes no sense at all knowing all the benefits that trees produce for people in a warming world.

Bottom line? Please increase your tree planting budget.

Warm regards,  
Mary Rose