

IN THE WORKS

A Digital Journal: San Francisco Public Works



September 2020

Smoke from California's raging wildfires shrouded the sun, casting an eerie orange glow over San Francisco on Sept. 9. Johnnie Walker, who works on our street cleaning crew, power washed an Excelsior District sidewalk just past 12 noon on that strange day. "It's never really gotten any lighter," he said. "It's been dark all day. Never seen it like this."





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Swimming Along
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I got you covered

I protect you. You protect me.

Covering your face is now required to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



City & County of San Francisco
Department of Public Health
sf.gov/coronavirus

The Making of a New Animal Shelter



Rendering of the new Animal Care & Control facility courtyard.

Construction progress continues on San Francisco's new state-of-the-art animal shelter, which is on schedule to open early next year.

Want to learn more about the project? Watch a [Snapshots Live! webinar](#) that takes you behind-the-scenes with insights from Public Works project manager Tim Kempf, Public Works architect Patty Solis and Animal Care & Control executive director Virginia Donohue.

Located at 1419 Bryant St. in the Mission District, the [facility](#) will

provide a safe and humane shelter for the City's population of lost, abandoned, sick and injured animals. The new home for San Francisco Animal Care & Control, at 65,000 square feet, will be nearly double the size of its current headquarters.

The project includes a modernized veterinary suite, adoption center, separate areas for predators and prey, expanded play and training

areas for all animals and larger education spaces to serve the public, animal care staff and volunteers. It also will be seismically safe and equipped to continue emergency operations for up to 72 hours after a major earthquake or other disaster.



Rendering of the new Animal Care & Control facility building facade.

Snapshots LIVE! is a live webinar occurring every third Thursday that gives us an opportunity to hear from our colleagues about one of our department's many impressive projects. Join us!

**snapshots:
LIVE!**

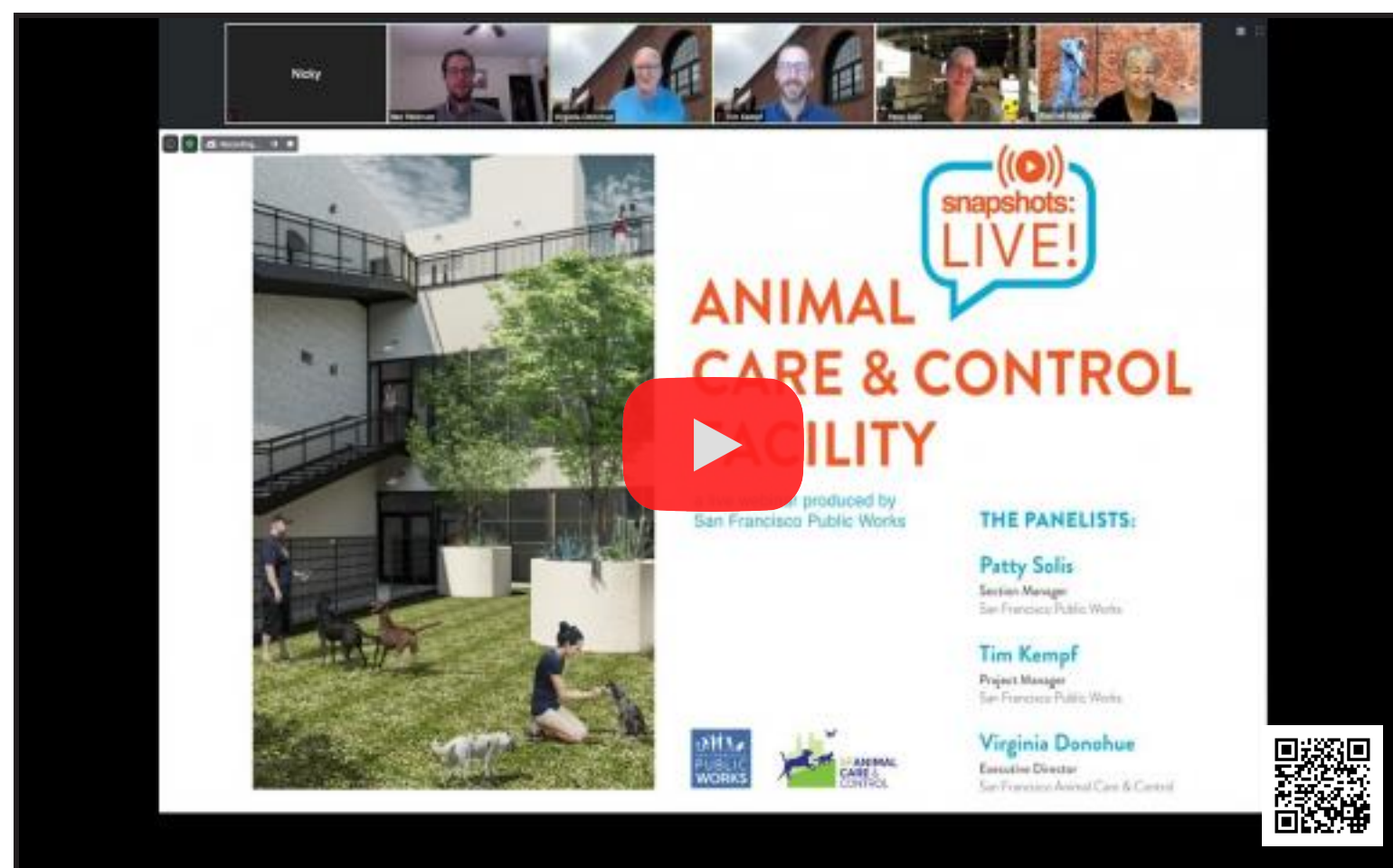
webinars produced by
San Francisco Public Works

Upcoming topics include Floating Fire Station No. 35, Jefferson Streetscape and emergency storm response. Let us know what project you'd like to hear more about by e-mailing us at hello@sfdpw.org.

THIRD THURSDAYS



Hear more about the City's only open-door animal shelter:



What is San Francisco Animal Care & Control?

Historical facts about the site

Architectural and design elements

Followed by questions and answers

THE PRESENTERS:

Patty Solis

Section Manager
San Francisco Public Works

Tim Kempf

Project Manager
San Francisco Public Works

Virginia Donohue

Executive Director
San Francisco Animal Care & Control

Reimagining a Better Market Street



Renderings of the updated Better Market Street streetscape design concept.

The Better Market Street project team unveiled an updated design for the proposed revitalization of the prominent San Francisco corridor to reflect changing demands.

The planned changes come after the directors of the five government agencies involved in Better Market Street directed the project team to reassess the design and implementation of the overall project.

The [Better Market Street](#) project, managed by San Francisco Public Works, aims to deliver transformative transportation, streetscape and safety improvements along 2.2 miles of Market Street between Octavia Boulevard and Steuart Street.

The re-evaluation took into account the success of the ban on private automobiles east of Van Ness Avenue implemented this past January that resulted in an increase in cycling along the corridor. It also looked at ways to minimize construction impacts on residents and businesses recovering from the COVID-19 public health emergency, as well as how to reduce construction costs, given the economic fallout from the ongoing pandemic.

A few notable changes to the Better Market Street design:

- To accommodate more cyclists, we removed the 8-foot sidewalk-level bikeway in favor of a wider shared curb lane that is prioritized

for bicyclists. This lane will be shared with taxis, paratransit and delivery vehicles.

- By utilizing the curb lane design option, we no longer will need to move the curb line or relocate utilities, significantly reducing costs.
- To reduce the impacts of construction activity to businesses and residents along the corridor, we will not be replacing the brick sidewalks as part of the first phase of construction.

The revised design still embodies the Better Market Street project goals to enhance safety and mobility for everyone who utilizes Market Street, improve transit performance and revitalize the public realm.

The multi-agency project involves Public Works, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, San Francisco Planning and the San Francisco County Transportation Authority.

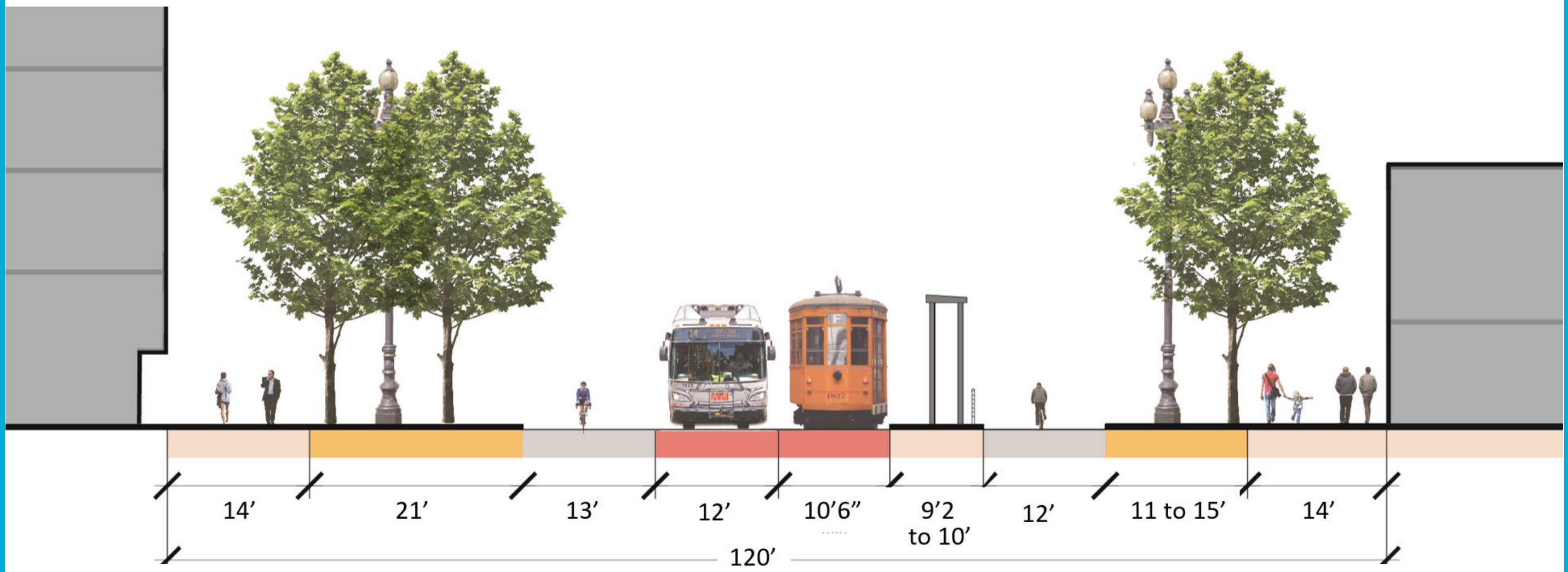
The Better Market Street project received federal environmental clearance in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) this month and has obligated \$18.4 million in federal funding for the first phase of construction in the Mid-Market neighborhood. The project team

plans to advertise the construction contract in February 2021.

For the first phase of construction on Market Street from Fifth to Eighth streets:

- Transit will be relegated to the two center traffic lanes.
- The curb lane will be shared by bicyclists, taxis, delivery vehicles and paratransit. These changes mean we will be able to keep the existing curb line, except where we have the new center boarding islands, and eliminate the need to relocate most of the existing utilities.
- Loading zones will remain at street level.
- New curb ramps will be constructed at all of the street crossings and the sidewalk will be replaced at the corners. However, most of the existing brick sidewalks will not be fully replaced at this time.
- Some of the previously planned state-of-good-repair scope of work, such as replacing the Path of Gold, will be deferred.

There will be upcoming opportunities for community members to learn more about the planned changes. Details coming soon. Learn more about Better Market Street on the project [website](#).



Cross-section of the updated Better Market Street streetscape design concept.

Redesigning San Francisco's Public Trash Cans



Public Works, in collaboration with the industrial designers at the Institute for Creative Integration (ICI), has narrowed the design of the City's new public trash cans to three final concepts.

There are more than 3,000 public trash cans on City sidewalks and in public plazas that serve a vital role in combatting litter. Unfortunately, many have become easy targets of scavengers, who rummage through them and leave behind a mess.

Finding the right public trash can to serve our needs at a reasonable cost has driven this design process. All [three contending designs](#) meet our requirements conceptually: They are durable, hard to tamper with, easy to service and aesthetically pleasing.

The look of the new cans will complement the design of the new JCDecaux public toilets, now in production, the BART canopies on Market Street and the café on Civic Center Plaza. The smart cans also will be outfitted with sensors that send alerts when they're nearing capacity so they can be emptied before they overflow.

During September, Public Works solicited public comment on the three design concepts through an online survey, receiving more than 350 responses from City residents.

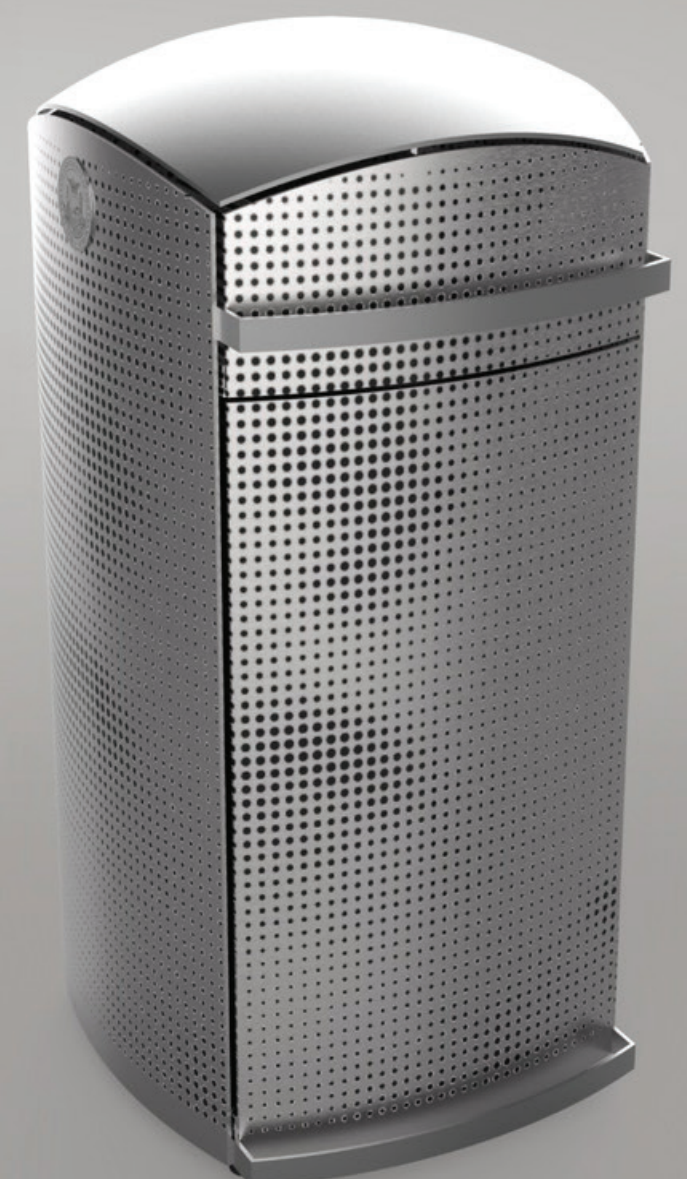
In addition, the Arts Commission Civic Design Review just gave us the OK to start the next phase in the process: fabricating 15 prototype cans – five of each design – to be installed throughout the City for real-life testing. Comments will be solicited about the prototypes from residents, nonprofit partners, Recology, neighborhood merchants and Public Works crews. Their collective input will inform the final design.



Salt & Pepper



Slim Silhouette



Soft Square

One, Two, Tree New Waterfront Palms



Planted in the mid-1990s, the palms lining The Embarcadero create an iconic image. The trees went in after the earthquake-damaged elevated Embarcadero Freeway came down, giving new

life to San Francisco's central waterfront and creating a more welcoming promenade.

The palm trees knit together The Embarcadero from the ballpark to Fisherman's Wharf. Unfortunately, fusarium wilt, a fatal disease, attacked some of the palms in recent years, necessitating their replacement.

This month, we hired a contractor, The Professional Tree Care Co., to

replace three of the 162 palms along the corridor. Two had been attacked by the virus; a third had structural damage that couldn't be fixed.

The trees that were removed were Canary Island Date Palm Trees, which are particularly susceptible to the virus. They were replaced with more resilient True Date Palm trees. The new trees, about 26 feet tall, were grown in Southern California on a nursery not far from the borders of Arizona and Mexico.

The tree-replacement operation was no small task, involving a large flatbed truck, a watering truck, a crane and more than a half-dozen workers. They performed the work under dark skies after 10 p.m. to minimize traffic impacts and allow Muni to de-energize its overhead wires on The Embarcadero.

Learn more about street trees in San Francisco [here](#).



A crew member with The Professional Tree Care Co. prepares a tree basin for the incoming palm tree.

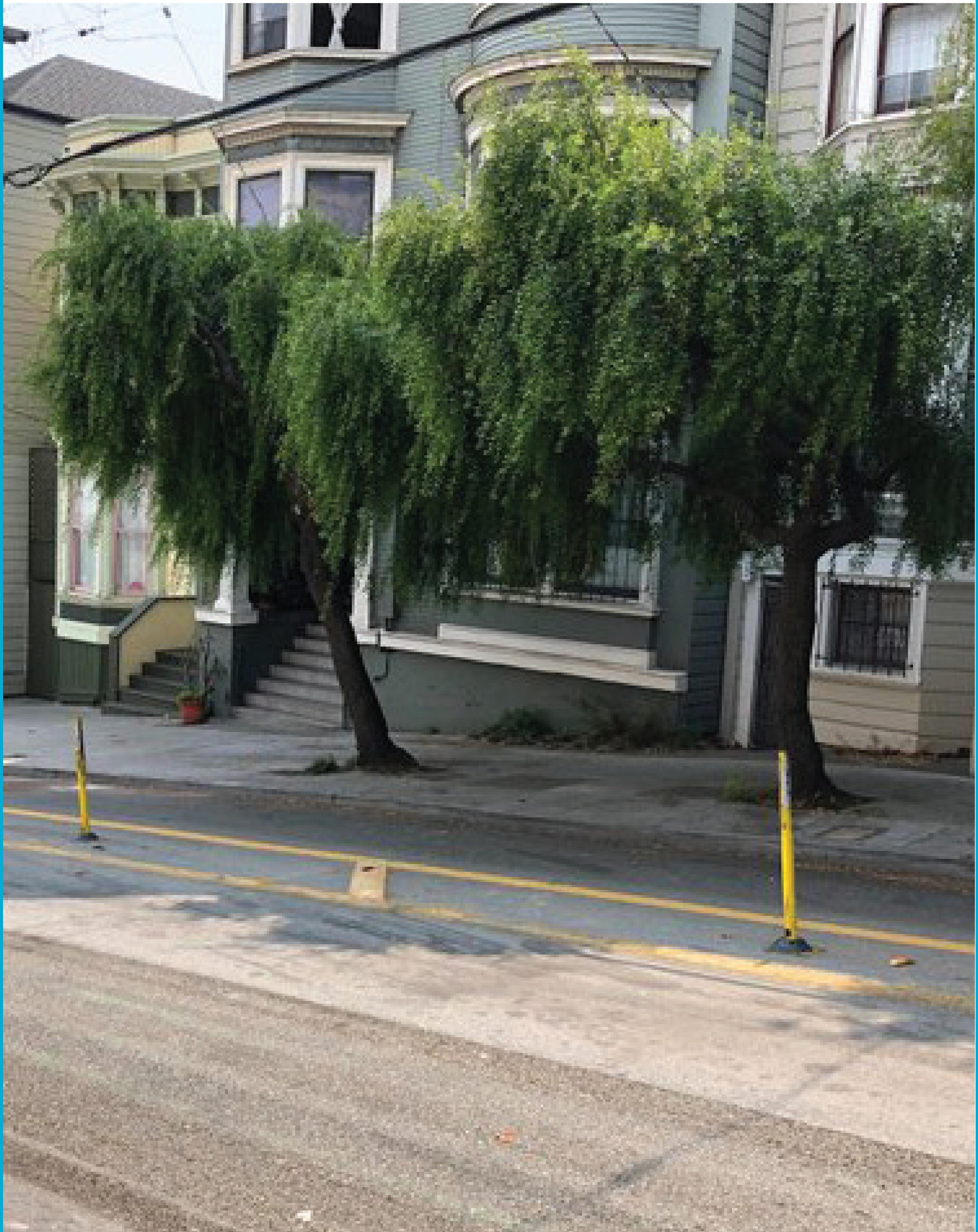


Crews used a crane to help place the towering palm tree in its new home on The Embarcadero.

Don't Let Our Neighborhoods Go to Waste



This is the jaw-dropping mess our street cleaners came upon when they arrived to remove abandoned waste on the 200 block of Page Street.



It took a lot of hard work, but our dedicated street cleaners tackled the illegal dumping mess and left the 200 block of Page Street looking good.

Illegal dumping remains a problem in San Francisco. Public Works and Recology, our partner in the cleanup of abandoned waste, fielded more than 90,000 service requests each of the last

two years to remove furniture, mattresses, appliances, construction debris, household garbage and large piles of trash from City sidewalks, alleyways and other shared public spaces. That's on top of the twice-weekly proactive cleanup operations we run with Recology in known hot spots.

In all, crews haul away tens of thousands of pounds of unwanted items annually, costing millions of dollars a year. But money isn't the only downside. Abandoned waste blights neighborhoods, attracts vermin, causes environmental risks, creates fire hazards and puts pedestrians and bicyclists at risk when the rubbish blocks the sidewalk and street.

The problem is not a San Francisco phenomenon. Cities and states across the United States, and countries throughout the world, grapple with abandoned waste. And the thing is, it can be prevented. There are plenty of ways to jettison junk without hurting our neighborhoods.

How can you get rid of unwanted items? Recology offers free bulky item curbside pickups for its residential customers. More details can be found [here](#) or by calling 415-330-1300. Another option is to take unwanted items to the dump. For goods in usable condition, you can recycle, sell or donate them. The San Francisco Department of Environment's [Recycle Where](#) online

tool is a great resource to find out how to discard just about anything.

Last month, the Board of Supervisors approved Supervisor Shamann Walton's legislation to expand enforcement of illegal dumping by giving Public Works employees the authority to issue fines of up to \$1,000 for each offense. The definition of abandoned waste also was clarified to capture more electronic and hazardous waste. Details on the law can be found [here](#).

Our goal, however, remains to move beyond cleanups and enforcement. We want to get to a place where people don't dump their junk in the first place.



There's no magic wand to clean up trash. Public Works crews are on the job every day getting the job done.

Recycle **?** *Where*

Serving the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco, and the City of Palo Alto.

What would you like to get rid of?

Search

Find out where



Garfield Pool Project Swimming Along



Plasterers work on Garfield Pool. The tricky part? To keep the water from seeping out, there can be no seams nor cracks. Photo by Jim Watkins

Water now fills the newly renovated Garfield Pool, signaling that the nearly two-year improvement project is wrapping up.

The overhaul includes a makeover of the existing pool structure and demolition and construction of the adjacent clubhouse. Also, in order to create the feel of a more unified recreation center, a new lobby now connects the two buildings. A welcoming multi-use courtyard, replete

with a kid-friendly splash pad, and fresh landscaping add to the transformation of the Recreation and Park Department facility at 26th and Treat streets in the Mission District.

Public Works is providing construction management,

landscape design and geotechnical engineering services.

Funding for the \$19.7 million project comes from the voter-backed 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Park Bond and development impact fees.





Once the plastering is complete, crews fill the newly lined pool with water. Photos by Jim Watkins

Thanks for reading!

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Produced by the
Office of Communications and Public Affairs
at San Francisco Public Works