



San Francisco Urban Forestry Council

January 25, 2013

Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The Landmark Tree Ordinance (Public Works Code Article 16, Section 802-810) was codified in July 2005 to increase opportunities to protect and enhance San Francisco's urban forest, through creation of an open and comprehensive designation process.

In an effort to further strengthen the Landmark Tree program, the Urban Forestry Council proposes amendments to the current code that would allow inclusion of landmark groves, defined as groups of three or more trees that function together ecologically, culturally, or aesthetically. We urge the Board of Supervisors to adopt these recommendations.

The Urban Forestry Council recognizes the value in extending landmark protection to groves of trees, due to their potential to provide greater environmental, economic, aesthetic, and social/cultural benefits than single trees alone may supply.

Additionally, there is precedence for landmark groves in San Francisco. The city currently recognizes and protects several groves of landmark trees, which were elected by DPW prior to the current designation process. Some examples of these groves are the Guadalupe palm trees (*Brahea edulis*) in the Dolores Street median, the six blue gum trees (*Eucalyptus globulus*) adjacent to 1801 Bush Street, and the stand of thirteen Canary Island palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) on Quesada Street. These groves were recognized as neighborhood treasures that provide greater community and environmental benefits than a single specimen alone would be able to provide.

Adoption of these enclosed revisions will strengthen the Urban Forest Ordinance (Article 16 of the PWC) by providing a practical means of enhancing and protecting the urban forest within existing management and review programming.

We thank the Board for their previous support of all recommended changes to the landmark tree code and urge the Board to adopt these amendments in continuing support of San Francisco's ecology in general and urban forest in particular.

Respectfully,

San Francisco Urban Forestry Council

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