



SF Environment

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Urban Forestry Council Landmark Tree Committee Report

Submitted by Landmark Tree Committee Chair, Mike Sullivan on September 25, 2020

Committee members present at the September 03, 2020 Landmark Tree Ad Hoc Committee meeting: Jillian Keller, Pam Nagle, Morgan Vaisset-Fauvel and Michael Sullivan

Street address of nominated tree: 2251 Filbert Street

Common name: Canary Island pine OR Ponderosa pine

Scientific name: *Pinus sp.*

Summary

The Landmark Tree Committee recommends that the Urban Forestry Council approve this nomination and make the determination that this tree qualifies for landmark tree status. The nomination was supported by a Committee vote of 4-0. The Committee supported this nomination based on the tree's physical attributes and environmental benefits. The report below summarizes the Committee's discussion and criteria used in its decision.

Rarity

The question of the rarity of the tree is complicated by the lack of resolution of its identification to the species level. Some Landmark Tree Committee members have identified the tree as a Ponderosa pine and others as a Canary Island pine. Originally, the tree was nominated as an Aleppo pine. A ponderosa pine would be rare indeed for San Francisco, and also a California native that grows in several counties in the Bay Area, though not in the fog belt. Canary Island pines are more commonly planted in the city - over 200 individuals of Canary Island pine are in the street tree network.

Physical Attributes

The characteristics that committee members stressed were the large size of the pine, its age (at least 100 years old), its aesthetically and structurally sound form, and its overall vigor and health. "Majestic" is the word that one committee member used to describe the tree.

Historical

The nomination included information about the tree being a community feature before fences and other newer houses in the neighborhood. The house itself was built in the very early 1900s, so the property has an overall historic feel.

Environmental

Given the size of the tree, birds and squirrels, reportedly nest there. There is currently at least one squirrel nest in the tree. A coast live oak tree is also present on the property, and thus creates a kind of little private conservation habitat area for insects and birds.

Cultural

Enthusiastic declarations from an elder neighbor and a tenant of the building indicate some level of neighborhood support and appreciation.