



San Francisco Public Works
General – Director’s Office
City Hall, Room 348
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, S.F., CA 94102
(415) 554-6920 www.SFPublicWorks.org

Public Works Order No: 204218

The Director of Public Works held a Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, commencing at 10 a.m. via teleconference to consider several items related to tree removals. In accordance with Gov. Gavin Newsom’s statewide order for all residents to shelter in place and the numerous local and state proclamations, the hearing was held through videoconferencing to allow remote public comment.

The hearing was to consider Order No. 204130, the removal of four (4) hazard street trees at the following two addresses within Supervisor District 7:

46 Cragmont Ave. Tree #1

Without replacement; sidewalk too narrow – no other nearby options

“80” Junipero Serra Blvd (nearest address location) Three (3) trees. Tree #6, 8, 10 (located at curb). These trees will be replaced

Staff approved the removal and the public protested.

Findings:

Public Works, Bureau of Urban Forestry (BUF) staff presented the following:

At 46 Cragmont Avenue, Tree #1 is a Silver Dollar Eucalyptus tree that has lots of dead branches within the canopy and the canopy is not full or vigorous. The tree has been topped or cut as branches have sprouted out from these old injuries due to stress response. Points of attachment from these areas are weak and prone to failure from competing limbs. The tree basin takes up half the sidewalk and would not allow for a 4 feet minimum clearance for ADA. Most plants on the block are planted within the property and not on sidewalk. The concern that this tree could fail at the roots (root failure) as other trees similar with a dying canopy had failure at the roots. The tree was recommended to be removed without replacement. Urban Forestry staff will check if there are any possible replacement tree locations on this block or within the District.

At “80” Junipero Serra Blvd, Tree #6 is experiencing a lot of large stem failure where decay has settled in, the tree is dead at some areas and there is very little live canopy.

Tree #8 is similar and has branch failure from old pruning cuts.

Tree #10 is similar condition to the other two trees. Tree numbering is determined by flow of traffic direction, and match the physical site spacing. The trees were recommended to be removed and replaced.

Mr. Lance Carnes presented and mentioned that at 80 Junipero Serra Blvd, the X and Y Coordinates from the ArborPro census survey do not match up with the locations of the subject trees when plotted on a map and was concerned that the wrong trees will be removed. BUF responded that the inspector or record would generally respond to the tree removal inquiries. BUF uses the data base and uses the tree ID asset,

which includes images of the subject trees to make sure the right tree is removed. Following the hearing BUF staff reached out to Mr. Carnes to clarify his question about the X Y coordinates, and other questions he may have about this site. Staff will follow-up if any outstanding questions remain.

Mr. Josh Klipp commented similarly about making sure the correct trees would be removed and that removed trees should be replaced. BUF responded that postings for tree removal are for the immediate locations and community, the bigger picture is to replace removed trees although it may not be at the immediate location when it is not possible. Mr. John Nulty is also concerned about removal of the correct trees and was concerned with the replacement trees being placed too far away from the removed tree. BUF responded that they understand the concerns and challenges and reassured the public that BUF staff matches the physical trees with the correct assets in the database to be removed.

Recommendation:

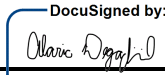
After consideration of correspondence and testimony provided, the recommendation is to approve the removal of the subject trees. It is also recommended that BUF staff look into the feasibility to replace the tree at 46 Cragmont Ave. if possible at other locations nearby on the block or within the district. There is room to plant replacement trees at the sites near "80" Junipero Serra Blvd. Species to be decided by staff.

Appeal:

This Order may be appealed to Board of Appeals within 15 days of January 28, 2021.

Board of Appeals
49 South Van Ness Ave. suite 1475 (14th Floor)
San Francisco, CA 94103
Phone: 628.652.1150 Email: Boardofappeals@sfgov.org
NOTE: Board of Appeals office is closed until further notice, due to COVID-19

Due to COVID-19 social distancing measures, more information about how to file an appeal can be obtained by calling 628-652-1150 or by emailing the Board of Appeals at Boardofappeals@sfgov.org. For additional information on the San Francisco Board of Appeals and to view the Appeal Process Overview, please visit their website at <http://sfgov.org/bdappeal/>

X DocuSigned by:

Degrafinned, Olivia
Acting Director