BOARD OF APPEALS, CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Appeal of			Appeal No. 23-048
WILLIAM TWEEDIE and ROSE SNELL,		_)	
	Appellant(s))	
)	
VS.)	
)	
SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC WORKS)	
BUREAU OF URBAN FORESTRY,)	
	Respondent	_ ,	

NOTICE OF APPEAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT on October 4, 2023, the above named appellant(s) filed an appeal with the Board of Appeals of the City and County of San Francisco from the decision or order of the above named department(s), commission, or officer.

The substance or effect of the decision or order appealed from is the issuance, on September 21, 2023, of a Public Works Order (Denial of the property owners' request to remove one street tree without replacement; the structure of the tree is considered good and the vigor is also healthy) at 22-24 Sargent Street.

APPLICATION NO. 208643

FOR HEARING ON November 15, 2023

Address of Appellant(s):	Address of Other Parties:
William Tweedie and Rose Snell, Appellant(s) 24 Sargent Street San Francisco, CA 94132	N/A



Date Filed: October 4, 2023

CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF APPEALS

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT FOR APPEAL NO. 23-048

I / We, William Tweedie and Rose Snell, hereby appeal the following departmental action: Issuance of Public Works Order No. 208643 (DENIAL of a permit to remove a street tree) which was issued or became effective on: September 21, 2023, to: William Tweedie and Rose Snell, for the property located at: 22-24 Sargent Street.

BRIEFING SCHEDULE:

Appellants' Brief is due on or before: 4:30 p.m. on **October 26, 2023**, **(no later than three Thursdays prior to the hearing date)**. The brief may be up to 12 pages in length with unlimited exhibits. It shall be double-spaced with a minimum 12-point font. An electronic copy shall be emailed to: boardofappeals@sfgov.org, julie.rosenberg@sfgov.org, and chris.buck@sfdpw.org.

Respondent's and Other Parties' Briefs are due on or before: 4:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, November 8, 2023**, (note this is one day earlier than the Board's regular briefing schedule due to the holiday on November 10, 2023). The brief may be up to 12 pages in length with unlimited exhibits. It shall be doubled-spaced with a minimum 12-point font. An electronic copy shall be emailed to: boardofappeals@sfgov.org, julie.rosenberg@sfgov.org, bill.tweedie@gmail.com and rosel948@yahoo.com.

Hard copies of the briefs do NOT need to be submitted to the Board Office or to the other parties.

Hearing Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 5:00 p.m., Room 416 San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place. The parties may also attend remotely via Zoom. Information for access to the hearing will be provided before the hearing date.

All parties to this appeal must adhere to the briefing schedule above, however if the hearing date is changed, the briefing schedule MAY also be changed. Written notice will be provided of any changes to the briefing schedule.

In order to have their documents sent to the Board members prior to hearing, **members of the public** should email all documents of support/opposition no later than one Wednesday prior to hearing date by 4:30 p.m. to boardofappeals@sfgov.org. Please note that names and contact information included in submittals from members of the public will become part of the public record. Submittals from members of the public may be made anonymously.

Please note that in addition to the parties' briefs, any materials that the Board receives relevant to this appeal, including letters of support/opposition from members of the public, are distributed to Board members prior to hearing. All such materials are available for inspection on the Board's website at www.sfgov.org/boa. You may also request a hard copy of the hearing materials that are provided to Board members at a cost of 10 cents per page, per S.F. Admin, Code Ch. 67.28.

The reasons for this appeal are as follows:

See attachment.

Appellants filed this appeal by email.

Joint Appeal Statement for Public Works Oder No: 208643

The Owners/Residents of 22 and 24 Sargent St appeal the decision of denial by the Public Works Hearing on August 28, 2023 (Permit No. 794226) to remove the Italian Stone Pine on our joint property line at the sidewalk on Sargent St. After the hearing, a PG&E crew came out and further pruned the stone pine on 13 September, and on 14 September PG&E installed a "second" power pole with a high voltage transformer immediately adjacent to the existing power pole. These poles are 6' 6" from the stone pine at the base. This second power pole is a new condition since the hearing. The pruning by PG&E was significant to accommodate the new pole/transformer. We were already concerned about the fire hazard before due to a car fire that ignited on the old power pole which was brought under control by the Fire Department. We were fortunate for the quick response because the stone pine's two trunks bend toward our residences and the tree's limbs are 1ft from 22 Sargent and 5ft from 24 Sargent. The new transformer significantly increases our risk. If there is a transformer fire or explosion our homes (and lives) would be at great risk. In our hearing, the Public Works staff admitted that this tree should not have been planted so close to the power pole(s) and under the power/utility lines in the first place and does not recommend planting any other tree in this location if the stone pine removal was approved. The stone is now essentially a nuisance. The stone pine is restricting the proper growth of the strawberry trees that the appellants planted in June 2001. This obvious, and ongoing, negative impact on the strawberry trees from the stone pine was given no weight by the Public Works staff. We further do not believe the hearing officer gave sufficient weight to the impact that the stone pine has on our views and direct sunshine to our living rooms.

Why is this so difficult? The stone pine is on our property, it has grown with a bifurcated trunk immediately adjacent to, and under, now two power poles with a new transformer presenting a significant fire hazard, limiting views the appellants want to regain, and also limiting direct sunshine to both houses.



San Francisco Public Works General – Director's Office 49 South Van Ness Ave., Suite 1600 San Francisco, CA 94103 (628) 271-3160 www.SFPublicWorks.org

Public Works Order No: 208643

The Director of Public Works held a Public Hearing on Monday, August 28, 2023, commencing at 5:30 PM via teleconference to consider items related to tree removals. The hearing was held through videoconferencing to allow remote public comment.

The hearing was to consider Order No. 208479 (tree removal permit application no. 794226) regarding the removal of one (1) street tree without replacement adjacent to 22 and 24 Sargent St. The subject tree is an Italian stone pine located at the back of the sidewalk, within the 14' wide public right of-way. The property owner of 24 Sargent applied to remove the tree. Staff denied the removal and the applicant appealed.

Findings:

Public Works staff reviewed the condition of the tree and its placement within the public right-of-way, located at the back of the sidewalk. The structure of the tree is considered good and the vigor is also healthy. Staff stated that the tree is in a confined position beneath the powerlines, and due to the proximity to the street light pole as well, if approved for removal, the tree cannot be replaced in the same location. This species of pine is not susceptible to disease or bark beetle activity and is expected to continue to get larger. The Public Works staff stated that there is no property damage or damage to the public right-of-way.

Representatives' testimony:

- Owner of 24 Sargent, Bill Tweedie, acknowledged the tree is healthy
- Both owners concerned of fire hazard and growth into utility line
- PG&E cut portion of tree to prevent power outage
- Tree canopy blocks picturesque views from windows of both 22 and 24 Sargent
- Both owners planted 2 street trees voluntarily years ago, which would serve as the potential replacement trees, if tree is approved for removal
- Owner of 22 Sargent, Rose Snell, provided photos of front windows completely obstructed with the canopy of this tree.

Public Comment:

One member of the public spoke during public comment opposed to the proposed removal and suggested that the tree was there first, and would prefer that the remain, and be pruned.

The Public Works street tree maintenance program (Street Tree SF) pruned the tree last fall, in 2022. Public Works has the maintenance responsibility for the tree since July 1, 2017, due to the passage of Proposition E in November, 2016.

Excessively pruning protected street trees within the public right-of-way or Significant trees on private property is not allowed because there are best management practices for tree pruning and maintenance which do not recommend that trees are pruned in that manner, due to the damage it would cause to the tree(s). Public Works has adopted these tree pruning guidelines, and there is no recommendation that Public Works can provide, that would allow the property owner to regain their view. Any tree pruning requests in the future should be called into 3-1-1. PG&E prunes the tree when necessary, away from high voltage, and low voltage powerlines.

Recommendation:

After consideration of correspondence and testimony provided, the recommendation is to deny the property owner's request to remove the tree.

Appeal: This Order and permit no. 794226 may be appealed to the Board of Appeals within 15 days of September 21, 2023.

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: Office visits by appointment only.

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/

Some Robertson

Short, Carla 63398308AB81447... Interim Director

BRIEF SUBMITTED BY THE APPELLANT(S)

The Owners/Residents of 22 and 24 Sargent St in the Ingleside Heights district appeal the decision of denial from the Public Works Hearing on August 28, 2023 (Permit No. 794226) to remove the Italian Stone Pine on our joint property line at the sidewalk on Sargent St.

We are requesting that the Board of Appeals reverse the denial and allow us to remove the Stone Pine.

We believe the denial was deficient in several respects and that there are new conditions, since the hearing, that warrant reversing the denial:

- Since the hearing PG&E has significantly limbed the middle of the Stone Pine
- Since the hearing PG&E has installed a "second" power pole with a high voltage transformer immediately adjacent to the existing power pole and the Stone Pine
- In the hearing findings, insufficient weight was given to the fire risk that the Stone
 Pine presents to appellants
- In the hearing findings, NO apparent weight was given to the obvious negative impact of the Stone Pine on the adjacent Strawberry street trees
- In the hearing findings, insufficient weight was given to the impact of the Stone Pine on the appellant's views and ability to receive direct sunshine

To establish the current situation, Pictures 1 and 2 show the Stone Pine and our two houses from across Sargent Street (looking north). You can see 1) the Stone Pine in question with its two

trunks growing toward 22 and 24 Sargent St houses, 2) our two Strawberry trees on either side of the Stone Pine, and 3) the old and new utility poles.

<u>Hearing Findings</u>: The way we interpret the Public Works hearing results is that the denial was based ONLY on the fact that the Stone Pine is healthy. The appellant's arguments for removal of the Stone Pine apparently did not outweigh that determination. We hope that an assessment of new conditions and a better explanation of concerns by the appellants will result in the BOA reversing the denial ruling.

Summary of Appellant's Arguments for Removal of the Stone Pine: 1) the very real fire safety concerns of the appellants, 2) the tree has grown very awkwardly with two trunks leaning toward residences, 3) recent significant limbing in the middle of the Stone Pine by PG&E has resulted in a very ugly tree, 4) the fact that the Stone Pine shouldn't have been allowed to be planted in its location in the first place, and wouldn't be approved to be replaced there, 5) the obvious and ongoing stunting of the Strawberry street trees by the Stone Pine, 6) the near total blocking of views from the resident's living rooms and the blocking of very scarce sunlight, and 7) the fact that Stone Pine is negatively impacting utility cabling lines.

<u>Background</u>: Our homes were constructed at the same time and finished in 1987. Mrs Rose Snell bought 22 Sargent St and moved in then, and has lived there ever since. The Stone Pine in question was planted by the developer (of 20, 22, and 24 Sargent St) as a part of the original landscaping. Rose cared for this tree in its very early years. William Tweedie moved in to 24 Sargent in 2000. Because the Stone Pine is on our property line, Rose and William have taken

joint care of it since 2000. Before the City took over responsibility for its care, Rose and William split all the major contracted pruning bills. We had contracted pruning done in Nov 2013 and April 2015. We mention all this to show that we have cared for this tree for a long time, well before the City took over.

William has been a member of Friends of the Urban Forest since 2009. And both Rose and William helped FOTUF plant street trees (mostly Strawberrys) in front of our houses in June 2001. I have included photos of the day William's wife organized the FOTUF planting on our street and adjacent Orizaba Ave. Picture 3 shows the new trees ready to be planted as well as our two houses and the Stone Pine as it was in 2001. Look how small the Stone Pine is in 2001 after 14 years of growth! Picture 4 shows the FOTUF tree planting pot luck in front of Rose's house. New trees were planted on both sides of Sargent St and nearby on Orizaba Ave. Picture 5 shows the new Strawberry tree (24 Sargent St), with the Stone Pine in the background. Again, this is 2001. Obviously, the Stone Pine was not a problem then, it was more of a bush. But it has grown vigorously in the last 22 years, and is now a big problem. Picture 6 shows a current (Oct 2023) picture of the Strawberry trees on Sargent St planted at that time (2001). They are all doing quite well, except for ours which have been impacted by the Stone Pine. We would like to mention that Rose for decades has selflessly cared for the community space at the foot of Sargent St where it abuts Orizaba Ave. In fact, she applied for, and was awarded, a Challenge Grant from the City's Neighborhood Beautification Fund in September 2009 for this

street park (Picture 7 is part of the documentation available on this volunteer work). Rose has

lived in OMI for 55 years!

We mention this history to demonstrate that we are responsible tree lovers and caring members of the community. Perhaps we get no credit for being good citizens but we HOPE it amounts to something.

PG&E Actions Since the Hearing: After the Public Works hearing on 28 August, a PG&E crew came out on 13 September and removed numerous major limbs from the middle of the Stone Pine, and on 14 September PG&E came out and installed a "second" power pole with a high voltage transformer immediately adjacent to the existing power pole. We didn't get much notification of this action and certainly didn't get a vote. Refer to Pictures 1 and 2. Picture 8 shows the base of the two power poles 6' 6" from the base of the Stone Pine. The Stone Pine with its two trunks is now truly ugly (Picture 9). This second power pole with its high voltage transformer is a significant concern and new condition since the hearing. We were already concerned about the fire hazard presented by the Stone Pine. If there is a transformer fire or explosion our homes (and lives) would be at great risk. In our hearing, the Public Works staff admitted that the Stone Pine should not have been planted so close to the power pole(s) and under the power/utility lines in the first place and does not recommend planting any other tree in this location if the Stone Pine removal was approved.

<u>Fire Safety:</u> There are many jurisdictions in the state that take fire safety seriously. A very common requirement is that "Limbs and branches must be removed from within 10 feet of the chimney, roof and eaves." Our situation with the Stone Pine is such that we wouldn't be able to get insurance in many other locations in the state. The Stone Pine's two trunks bend toward our

residences and the tree's limbs are 1ft from 22 Sargent (Picture 10) and about 6ft from 24 Sargent (Picture 11).

There was a car fire on Sargent St in 2004 that set the old power pole on fire. We were fortunate for a quick response from the Fire Department. The Fire Department was very close to evacuating both our houses because they were afraid the Stone Pine would go up in flames and jump to our houses. Thankfully this did not happen but it is now a continuing cause of concern. See the utility pole charring from this fire in Picture 8.

The new transformer just increases our fire risk. Picture 12 shows the new transformer from the bedroom level of 24 Sargent, essentially right above the Stone Pine.

Come out on the 4th of July or New Years Eve and see the amount of illegal fireworks that are set off in this area. Rockets have literally bounced off our roofs. In 2017 a row of juniper bushes adjacent to our common driveway was set on fire from fireworks, which the Fire Department responded to. Picture 13 shows the junipers along the edge of our driveway (off Orizaba Ave) before the fire. The fire destroyed the junipers (see Picture 14) but luckily nothing else. We can't emphasize enough our concern about fire safety now posed by this tree.

Stunting of the Strawberry Trees: A factor which was given NO apparent weight in the denial findings concerns our Strawberry street trees. As mentioned, we planted the Strawberrys in front of our houses in 2001 and watered and had them pruned before the City took over. These Strawberrys, as they grew up, were seriously impacted by the limbs of the Stone Pine as it also grew. The Stone Pine still greatly impacts these trees. Picture 2 shows the proximity of the trees. Picture 15 shows the Strawberry tree in front of 22 Sargent. I think you can see from its shape that it has really struggled because of the Stone Pine. It is NOT doing well. Picture 16

shows the Strawberry tree in front of 24 Sargent. Despite repeated pruning of both trees, it is still impacted by the Stone Pine. The long-term growth and health of these Strawberry trees was apparently not a factor that concerned Public Works when they recommended denying our request to remove the Stone Pine.

Views and Sunshine Blocked by the Stone Pine: The Stone Pine is now just too big for its location and has grown towards the residences. It is now blocking some 75+% of the big views from our living rooms three stories up from the street. The big views are the part of OMI, the Outer Mission, San Bruno Mountain, and even glimpses of the ocean. Appellants agree that great views were one of the main attractions of our houses. Maybe ten years ago, the Stone Pine was only partially blocking the views. But now the Stone Pine is floor to ceiling obstructing the view at our living room levels. We have lived with this for many years, and have explored options for removing and pruning the tree. City pruning and PG&E hacking have not made a difference. Pictures 17 shows the view from Rose's living room (22 Sargent) looking directly south. Picture 18 shows the view from William's living room (24 Sargent) looking directly south. Please note we are looking directly into branches of the Stone Pine right up against our windows. Reminder: the Stone Pine branches are 1ft from Rose's living room windows and about 6ft from William's living room windows.

The Stone Pine is also obscuring the sun and its psychological and warming affect. As you might know, this address is a VERY foggy and VERY windy location. We don't say this lightly. We are often in thick fog and the wind funnels through here. The front of our houses on Sargent St are south facing so we want to get as much light and sun as there is. We would like to show you the views from the bedrooms on the floor above our living rooms. Picture 19 is a panorama

from William's upper bedroom window. You can see that these views are substantial and we had them from the living room until the last seven years or so. But, because of the Stone Pine, we get very limited light and sun on the living room level. The fog is problem enough. But the Stone Pine adds significantly to the problem. That's not right, it means the living room and adjacent dining area are much darker and gloomier than they would otherwise be if the Stone Pine was gone. And we end up using more energy for heat because of the Stone Pine presence.

Stone Pine Impact on Utility Lines: PG&E's recent significant limbing of the middle of the Stone Pine has eliminated the impact on our home's power lines, but the lower telephone and various cable lines are still engaged with the tree. There is a lot of contact with various wires, and a lot or rubbing in the frequent wind. See Picture 20. You can expand many of the other photos and see other contact points.

Impact on Appellants: The original denial of our request to remove the Stone Pine was accompanied by the comment that it is "not a candidate for removal at this time." William is 73 years old; Rose is 75. The Stone Pine is healthy. We will not live to see it die naturally. Rose and William are both retired, thus we are around our houses during the day. Our houses are on a steep slope, so our living rooms are well above street level meaning that we don't have privacy concerns and can leave the front windows open to the view, and what light there is. Why shouldn't we be able to enjoy the views, and light, and sun from our living rooms in the last decade or so of our lives?

<u>Summary:</u> We are long-term owners/residents of OMI and are constructive members of the community. The Stone Pine is on our properties. It has grown with unfortunate, bifurcated trunks leaning towards our houses, and immediately adjacent to, and under, now two power poles with a new transformer presenting a significant fire hazard. It is significantly limiting views the appellants want to regain, and also limiting direct sunshine to both houses. And it has an obvious, and on-going, negative impact on the growth and health of our street Strawberry trees.

The appellants request the Board overturn the denial of a permit to remove the Italian Stone Pine.

(Signed) (Signed)

Rose Snell William (Bill) Tweedie

22 Sargent St 24 Sargent St













Picture 7

City and County of San Francisco



Gavin Newsom, Mayor Edward D. Reiskin, Director (415) 695-2003 FAX (415) 695-2001 http://www.sfdpw.org

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Office of the Deputy Director for Operations
2323 Cesar Chavez Street
San Francisco, CA 94124-1091
Mohammed Nuru, Deputy Director

September 29, 2009

Lanita M. Henriquez, Program Manager Neighborhood Beautification Fund 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place City Hall, Room 348 San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Ms. Henriquez:

The Department of Public Works is writing in support of the Challenge Grant Application for the Street Park at Sargent and Orizaba Streets. Ms. Rose Snell and Mr. Dan Weaver are members of the Street Parks program and has been working with neighbors to clean and develop the site located at Sargent and Orizaba Streets for several years. Rose, Dan and neighbors have made many improvements to clean and maintain this site by building a small fence and keeping shrubs and trees pruned. We appreciate Ms. Snell and Mr. Weaver's initiative, because without assistance from the neighbors, this site remains vulnerable to illegal dumping and other adverse activities.

Although Rose, Dan and their neighbors have made progress, this site still needs a water source to help sustain the plants and trees that were planted over the years. Should Rose and Dan receive funding for the water meter, Public Works will pay for the water billed to his new account. With sufficient support, we are confident that Ms. Snell, water billed to his new account. With sufficient support, we are confident that Ms. Snell, Mr. Weaver and his neighbors will sustain a beautiful garden.

I recommend you support the application to further develop the Sargent and Orizaba Street Park and am certain you will be pleased with the outcome. Should you have any questions regarding my recommendation, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Sandra Zuniga/ Community Laison

Department of Public Works



























BRIEF(S) SUBMITTED BY RESPONDENT DEPARTMENT(S)



Urban Forestry

urbanforestry@sfdpw.org | T. 628.652.8733 | 49 South Van Ness Ave. Suite 1000, San Francisco, CA 94103

November 10, 2023

Appeal No. 23-048 Tweedie & Snell vs. SFPW-BUF (22 and 24 Sargent St.)

Department's Brief

Tree Removal Permit Application No. 794226 (Public Works Order No. 208643)

RE: Removal of one (1) Italian stone pine tree (*Pinus pinea*) without replacement

President Swig and Commissioners:

After reviewing the appellants' brief which appealed our decision to deny their request to remove one (1) street tree from the public right of way, Public Works no longer contests the proposed removal and supports approving their appeal on the basis that the recent utility pole replacement by PG&E more clearly demonstrates that the tree and its site is no longer sustainable for the subject tree to remain.

The subject tree, an Italian stone pine (*Pinus pinea*), was planted at the back of the sidewalk within the 12' ft. public right-of-way, without the benefit of a permit and the tree is located at the base of a retaining wall, directly adjacent to a street light and a power pole. Between the time of our Public Works hearing in August, and the date of this appeal, PG&E replaced the pole. The canopy of the tree needed to be pruned, and while the utility pole was replaced, a transformer "can" was also added to the pole, with a drop-down connection that required additional clearance between this energized conductor and the tree branches.

After receiving the appellants' brief and learning of this pole replacement, Urban

Forestry staff visited the site to re-evaluate the site conditions and the condition of the tree.

Our Department now agrees that the tree and its placement in this site is no longer

sustainable.

This week our Department informed both William Tweedie (24 Sargent St.) and

Rose Snell (22 Sargent St.) that we are in agreement about the narrative provided in their brief

and that the tree and site conditions are no longer sustainable. We spoke on the phone

together on November 7th.

Our Department supports the appeal on the basis that the tree and site

conditions have changed since our resulting tree removal decision was issued (Order no.

208643). Both parties will attend the hearing to affirm our positions and jointly state that

there is no additional business to discuss. We are in agreement. The site is not large enough

to require that a replacement tree be planted; there are two existing street trees placed

at the curb, at more suitable distances away from the street light and utility pole.

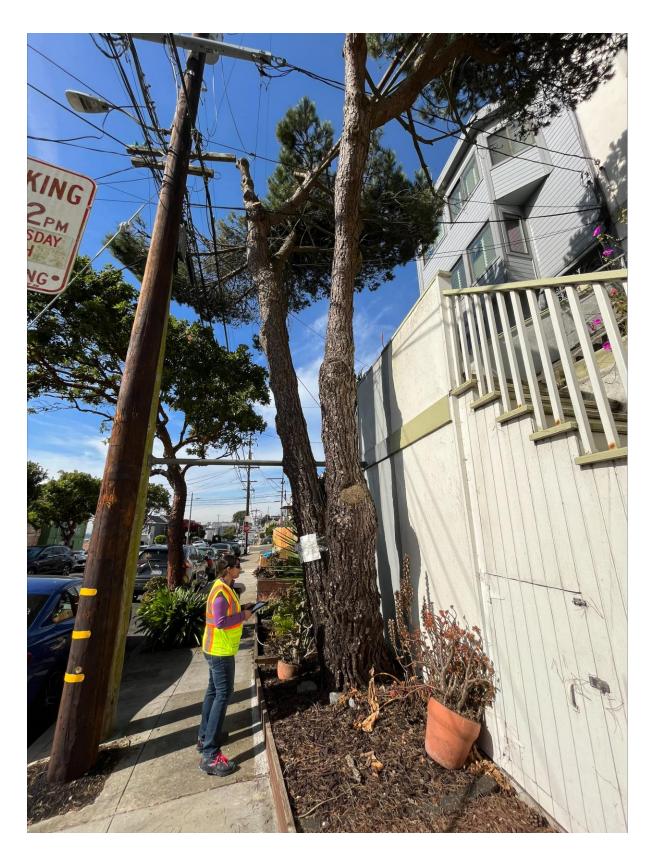
We appreciate your time in reviewing this matter.

Respectfully

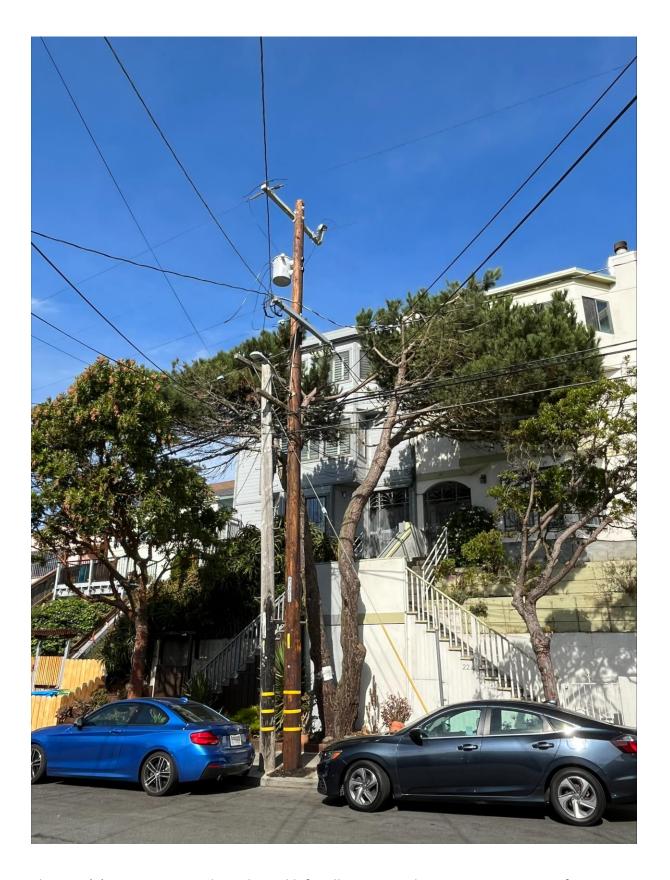
Chris Buck

Chris Buck

Urban Forester



The subject tree, November 2, 2023



The two (2) street trees to the right and left will remain. Subject tree is in center of image.



PUBLIC COMMENT

From: <u>Joshua Klipp</u>

To:Longaway, Alec (BOA)Cc:Rosenberg, Julie (BOA)

Subject: Public Comment in Opposition to Appeal No. 23-048

Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:10:45 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources

Dear Board of Appeals,

I respectfully submit this public comment in opposition to Agenda Item 4, Appeal No. 23-048 at 22-24 Sargent Street.

PG&E

Appellant's primary (new) argument seems to be that the tree is a fire hazard because of a new transformer / utility pole installed after the initial administrative hearing. Anyone who is familiar with PG&E's tree pruning standards and practices knows that PG&E will cut a tree to the bone in this City to avoid the possibility of PG&E being responsible for yet another fire. PG&E's practices tend to far exceed even its own standards for safe pruning around low voltage, high voltage, and transformer boxes. Accordingly, any fear of fire is irrational and misplaced. If the Board is unfamiliar with PG&E's tree pruning standards, please see here:

https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/gos/GO95/go_95_rule_35.html; additionally, the Department of Public Works' Bureau of Urban Forestry is all too familiar with PG&E's tree butchery as DPWBUF frequently receive calls/complaints from SF residents who's trees have been practically ground to stumps by PG&E contractors and crews.

Views & Sunshine

Additionally, Appellant's appeal of the denial of this permit was never about PG&E to begin with. Appellant's brief belies that seeking the removal of this eco-system critical tree is and always has been about sunshine and views. And the brief demonstrates a sense of entitlement to do so because this tree is on Appellant's property.

This appeal precisely demonstrates the need for protection of our City's pathetically small 13.7% tree canopy: because without such protection, we would routinely lose even more trees to the whim of people who want a better view.

Our City has lost thousands of trees since 2017 alone. We are years behind on our 2014 Urban Forest Plan. And we have no dedicated funding in our City budget to replace these trees, despite the 2021 Climate Action Plan's desperate call for protection and growth of our urban forest as a critical matter of climate resilience. We cannot afford to cut down life-support trees such as an Italian Stone Pine simply for views and/or our aesthetic preferences.

For the above reasons I respectfully oppose this appeal, and ask the Board to sustain Public Works' denial of this tree removal permit.

--

Josh Klipp, Esq.

Certified Access Specialist with the California Division of the State Architect (CASp-812) Accessibility for Built and Virtual Environments. <u>made-welcome.com</u>

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