

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689  
Tel. No. (415) 554-5184  
Fax No. (415) 554-5163  
TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

## MEMORANDUM

### LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TO: Supervisor Myrna Melgar, Chair, Land Use and Transportation Committee

FROM: Erica Major, Assistant Clerk, Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: July 18, 2022

SUBJECT: **COMMITTEE REPORT, BOARD MEETING**  
Tuesday, July 19, 2022

The following file should be presented as a **COMMITTEE REPORT** at the Board meeting, Tuesday, July 19, 2022. This item was acted upon at the Committee Meeting on Monday, July 18, 2022, at 1:30 p.m., by the votes indicated.

**Item No. 61                      File No. 220504**

Ordinance designating the California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) tree located at 2694 McAllister Street as a landmark tree pursuant to the Public Works Code; making findings supporting the designation; and directing official acts in furtherance of the landmark tree designation, as defined herein.

**RECOMMENDED**

Vote:

Supervisor Myrna Melgar - Aye  
Supervisor Dean Preston - Aye  
Supervisor Aaron Peskin - Aye

**RESCIND PREVIOUS VOTE**

Vote:

Supervisor Myrna Melgar - Aye  
Supervisor Dean Preston - Aye  
Supervisor Aaron Peskin - Aye

**RECOMMENDED AS A COMMITTEE REPORT**

Vote:

Supervisor Myrna Melgar - Aye  
Supervisor Dean Preston - Aye  
Supervisor Aaron Peskin - Aye

c: Board of Supervisors  
Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board  
Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy  
Anne Pearson, Deputy City Attorney

File No. 220504 Committee Item No. 2  
 Board Item No. 61

**COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
 AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: Land Use and Transportation Committee Date July 18, 2022

Board of Supervisors Meeting Date July 19, 2022

**Cmte Board**

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**OTHER (Use back side if additional space is needed)**

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Completed by: Erica Major Date July 14, 2022  
 Completed by: Erica Major Date July 18, 2022

1 [Landmark Tree Designation - California Buckeye - 2694 McAllister Street]

2

3 **Ordinance designating the California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) tree located at**  
4 **2694 McAllister Street as a landmark tree pursuant to the Public Works Code; making**  
5 **findings supporting the designation; and directing official acts in furtherance of the**  
6 **landmark tree designation, as defined herein.**

7

8 Note: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.  
9 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.  
10 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.  
11 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.  
12 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.  
13 **Asterisks (\* \* \* \*)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code  
14 subsections or parts of tables.

12

13 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

14 Section 1. Background and Findings.

15 (a) Public Works Code Section 810 establishes a procedure for the nomination,  
16 designation, and removal of landmark trees.

17 (b) The Board of Supervisors adopted landmark tree designation criteria in Resolution  
18 No. 440-06, codified in Public Works Code Section 810(f)(4), and subsequently amended the  
19 criteria in Resolution No. 63-09. Copies of these Resolutions are on file with the Clerk of the  
20 Board of Supervisors in File No. 100880, and are incorporated herein by reference.

21 (c) On August 1, 2018, the Historic Preservation Commission recommended the  
22 California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) tree, located at 2694 McAllister Street (Assessor’s  
23 Parcel Block No. 1166, Lot No. 045), for landmark tree status.

24 (d) The Urban Forestry Council examined the subject tree based on the adopted  
25 landmark tree designation criteria, including the tree’s (1) rarity, (2) physical attributes, (3)

1 environmental benefits, and (4) cultural value. Based on these designation criteria, the Urban  
2 Forestry Council determined that the subject tree qualified as a landmark tree, and on October  
3 23, 2018 adopted a resolution, Resolution File No. 2018-03-UFC, reflecting this  
4 determination. This resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No.  
5 220504, and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board adopts these findings as its own.  
6

7 Section 2. Landmark Tree Designation. Based on the above-mentioned findings, the  
8 Board of Supervisors designates the California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) tree at 2694  
9 McAllister Street (Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 1166, Lot No. 045), as a landmark tree.  
10

11 Section 3. Recording the Landmark Tree Designation. The Board of Supervisors  
12 directs the Department of Public Works to record the landmark designation of this tree on the  
13 property record of 2694 McAllister Street (Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 1166, Lot No. 045) and  
14 list the tree in the Department’s Official Book of Landmark Trees.  
15

16 Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after  
17 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the  
18 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board  
19 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor’s veto of the ordinance.  
20

21 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
22 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

23 By: /s/ Christina Fletes-Romo  
24 CHRISTINA FLETES-ROMO  
25 Deputy City Attorney



**SF Environment**  
Our home. Our city. Our planet.  
A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

London N. Breed  
Mayor

Deborah O. Raphael  
Director

November 2, 2018

Ms. Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board  
Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**RE: San Francisco Urban Forestry Council vote to inform the Board of Supervisors that the California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), located at 2694 McAllister Street, Assessor's Block 1166, Lot 045 meets the criteria for landmark tree status.**

Dear Ms. Calvillo:

At their meeting on August 1, 2018, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission voted to nominate the California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), located at 2694 McAllister Street, Assessor's Block 1166, Lot 045 for landmark tree status.

At their meeting on October 23, 2018, the Urban Forestry Council found that the tree meets the criteria for landmark tree status. Upon a motion by Member Short, with a second by Member Flanagan, the council found that the California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), located at 2694 McAllister Street, Assessor's Block 1166, Lot 045 meets the criteria for landmark status and approved Resolution File No. 2018-03-UFC. (Ayes: Members Flanagan, Crawford, Pierce, Mike Sullivan, Carter, Troxel, Spigelman, Short, Swae and Taylor; Noes: None; Absent: Members Andrew Sullivan, Lacan, Hillan and Lowman)

This letter and the enclosed materials from the October 23, 2018, Urban Forestry Council Meeting serve as written findings and nomination recommendations from the Urban Forestry Council.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information, I can be reached at 415-355-3709 or by email at [anthony.e.valdez@sfgov.org](mailto:anthony.e.valdez@sfgov.org).

Sincerely,

Anthony E. Valdez  
Commission Secretary

Enclosure:  
Urban Forestry Council Hearing Explanatory Documents

1 [Resolution endorsing the California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) tree at 2694  
2 McAllister Street for landmark tree status]

3 **Resolution endorsing the California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) tree at 2694**  
4 **McAllister Street (Assessor’s Block 1166, Lot 045) for Landmark Status, pursuant**  
5 **to Public Works Code Section 810(b).**

6 WHEREAS, Public Works Code, Article 16, Section 810 charges the Urban  
7 Forestry Council to evaluate nominated landmark trees using criteria approved by the  
8 Board of Supervisors; and,

9 WHEREAS, The California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) tree at 2694 McAllister  
10 Street fulfills the Landmark Tree criteria developed by the Urban Forestry Council,  
11 including its rarity, physical attributes, environmental benefits, and cultural support; and,

12 WHEREAS, This tree provides social, environmental and economic benefits to  
13 the property, neighborhood and city; now, therefore be it,

14 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Urban Forestry Council recommends this  
15 tree for landmark status to the Board of Supervisors and urges the Board of Supervisors  
16 to protect this tree as a landmark tree.

17  
18 I hereby certify that this resolution was adopted at the Urban Forestry Council’s  
19 regular meeting on October 23, 2018.

20  
21  
22   
23 \_\_\_\_\_  
24 Anthony Valdez, Commission Secretary

25   
\_\_\_\_\_

Dan Flanagan, Council Chair

25 Vote: 10-0 Approved

1 Ayes: Members Flanagan, Crawford, Pierce, Mike Sullivan, Carter, Troxel,  
2 Spigelman, Short, Swae and Taylor.

3 Noes: None

4 Absent: Members Andrew Sullivan, Lacan, Hillan and Lowman.

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**SF Environment**  
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A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

London N. Breed  
Mayor

Deborah O. Raphael  
Director

City and County of San Francisco  
Department of the Environment  
Urban Forestry Council

**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING AND AGENDA**

**Tuesday, October 23, 2018, 6:00 p.m.**  
**City Hall, Room 416**  
**One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Jr. Place**  
**San Francisco, CA 94102**

Council Members: Dan Flanagan (Chair), Nicholas Crawford (Vice Chair), Malcolm Hillan, Igor Lacan, Meg Lowman, Phillip Pierce, Andrew Sullivan, Mike Sullivan, Tom Carter (San Francisco Port), Blake Troxel (Presidio Trust), Damon Spigelman (San Francisco Public Utilities Commission), Carla Short (Department of Public Works), Jon Swae (San Francisco Planning Department) and Zachary Taylor (San Francisco Recreation and Park Department).

**Order of Business**

Public comment will be taken before the Council takes action on any item.

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call.**
- 2. Adoption of Minutes of the August 28, 2018 Urban Forestry Council Regular Meeting.** (Explanatory Document: August 28, 2018 Draft Minutes) (Discussion and Action)
- 3. General Public Comment:** Members of the public may address the Council on matters that are within the Council's jurisdiction and are not on today's agenda.
- 4. Review and vote on approval of Resolution File No. 2018-01-UFC StreetTreeSF.** Speaker: Dan Flanagan, Chair, Urban Forestry Council (Explanatory Document: Resolution File No. 2018-01-UFC StreetTreeSF) (Discussion and Action)
- 5. Hearing on nomination for Landmark Tree Status of the Northern rata (*Metrosideros robusta*), located at 1776 Vallejo Street, Assessor's Block 0552, Lot 031.** The Council will hold a hearing to determine whether the tree nominated at the above location meets the criteria for designation as a landmark tree to forward findings to the Board of Supervisors. (Explanatory Documents: Resolution File No. 2018-02-UFC, Nomination Form, Staff Evaluation, Swae Evaluation, Hillan Evaluation, Short Evaluation, Spigelman Evaluation, Sullivan Evaluation, October 15, 2018 Landmark Tree Committee Meeting Draft Minutes) (Discussion and Action)
- 6. Hearing on nomination for Landmark Tree Status of the California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), located at 2694 McAllister Street, Assessor's Block 1166, Lot 045.** The Council will hold a hearing to determine whether the tree nominated at the above location meets the criteria for designation as a landmark tree to forward findings to the Board of Supervisors. (Explanatory Documents:



Resolution File No. 2018-03-UFC, Nomination Form, Staff Evaluation, Landmark Tree Committee Chair's Report, Swae Evaluation, Hillan Evaluation, Short Evaluation, Spigelman Evaluation, Sullivan Evaluation, October 15, 2018 Landmark Tree Committee Meeting Draft Minutes) (Discussion and Action)

7. **Review and vote on approving the draft 2018 Annual Urban Forest Report.** Speaker: Gordon Matassa, Urban Forestry Coordinator, San Francisco Department of the Environment (Explanatory Document: Draft 2018 Annual Urban Forest Report) (Discussion and Action)
8. **Review and vote on approving Resolution File No. 2018-04-UFC 2018 Street Tree List.** Speaker: Gordon Matassa, Urban Forestry Coordinator, San Francisco Department of the Environment (Explanatory Document: Memorandum on Proposed Changes, Draft 2018 Recommended Street Tree List and Resolution File No. 2018-04-UFC 2018 Street Tree List) (Discussion and Action)
9. **Overview of the Global Climate Action Summit Affiliate Event, "Urban Forests for Climate Solutions."** Speaker: Gordon Matassa, Urban Forestry Coordinator, San Francisco Department of the Environment (Discussion)
10. **Committee Reports:** (Discussion)  
**Planning & Funding Committee.** Igor Lacan, Committee Chair.  
**Landmark Tree Ad Hoc Committee.** Jon Swae, Committee Chair.
11. **Staff Report.** Gordon Matassa, Urban Forestry Coordinator, San Francisco Department of the Environment (Discussion)
12. **Chair's Announcements.** Dan Flanagan, Chair, Urban Forestry Council (Discussion)
13. **Urban Forestry Council Member Announcements.** (Discussion)
14. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Discussion)
15. **Adjournment.**

**The next meeting of the Urban Forestry Council is scheduled for Friday, December 14, 2018 at 8:30 a.m., City Hall, Room 400, San Francisco, CA 94102.**

Copies of explanatory documents are available at (1) the Department of the Environment office, 1455 Market Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, California, 94103 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Photo identification is required for entry to the building. (2) on the Urban Forestry Council's website <http://sfenvironment.org/ufc>; (3) upon request to the Commission Secretary, at telephone number 415-355-3709, or via e-mail at [anthony.e.valdez@sfgov.org](mailto:anthony.e.valdez@sfgov.org) within three business days of a meeting. If any materials related to an item on this agenda have been distributed to the Council after distribution of the agenda packet, those materials are available for public inspection at the Department of the Environment, 1455 Market Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, CA 94103 during normal office hours or will be made available on the Commission's website <http://sfenvironment.org/ufc> as attachments to the agenda or meeting minutes. Written public comment received by the Council will be posted as an attachment to the minutes.

### **Public Comment**

At this time, members of the public may address the Committee on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee but are not on today's agenda. Public comment will be taken following each agenda item. Each member of the public may address the Committee for up to three minutes, unless otherwise announced by the Chair. If it is demonstrated that the

comments by the public will exceed 15 minutes, the Chair may continue Public Comment to another time during the meeting.

The Brown Act forbids the Committee from taking action or discussing any item or issue not appearing on the posted agenda. This rule applies to issues raised in public comment as well. In response to public comment, not on an agenda item, the Committee is limited to:

1. Briefly responding to statements made or questions posed by members of the public, or
2. Request staff to report back on a matter at a subsequent meeting, or
3. Directing staff to place the item or issue on a future agenda (Government Code Section 54954.2(a).)

### **Disability Access**

The Urban Forestry Council meetings will be held in City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA. The Committee meeting rooms are wheelchair accessible. The closest accessible BART station is the Civic Center Station at United Nations Plaza and Market Street. Accessible MUNI lines serving this location are: #42 Downtown Loop, and #71 Haight/Noriega and the F Line to Market and Van Ness and the Metro Stations at Van Ness and Market and at Civic Center. For information about MUNI accessible services call (415) 923-6142. There is accessible curbside parking adjacent to City Hall on Grove Street and Van Ness Avenue and in the vicinity of the Veterans Building at 401 Van Ness Avenue adjacent to Davies Hall and the War Memorial Complex.

The following services are available on request 48 hours prior to the meeting; except for Monday meetings, for which the deadline shall be 4:00 p.m. of the last business day of the preceding week: For American sign language interpreters or the use of a reader during a meeting, a sound enhancement system, and/or alternative formats of the agenda and minutes, please contact Anthony Valdez at (415) 355-3709 to make arrangements for the accommodation. Late requests will be honored, if possible.

In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illnesses, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical based products. Please help the City accommodate these individuals. Individuals with chemical sensitivity or related disabilities should call the Mayor's Office on Disability at (415) 554-6789 or (415) 554-6799 (TTY) for additional information.

### **Language Access**

Per the Language Access Ordinance (Chapter 91 of the San Francisco Administrative Code), Chinese, Spanish and or Filipino (Tagalog) interpreters will be available upon requests. Meeting Minutes may be translated, if requested, after they have been adopted by the Commission. Assistance in additional languages may be honored whenever possible. To request assistance with these services please contact the Commission Affairs Manager at 415-355-3709, or [anthony.e.valdez@sfgov.org](mailto:anthony.e.valdez@sfgov.org) at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing. Late requests will be honored if possible.

### **語言服務**

根據語言服務條例(三藩市行政法典第91章)，中文、西班牙語和/或菲律賓語(泰加洛語)傳譯人員在收到要求後將會提供傳譯服務。翻譯版本的會議記錄可在委員會通過後透過要求而提供。其他語言協助在可能的情況下也將可提供。上述的要求

- 請於會議前最少48小時致電 415-355-3709或電郵至[anthony.e.valdez@sfgov.org](mailto:anthony.e.valdez@sfgov.org)向委員會秘書提出。逾期提出的請求
- 若可能的話，亦會被考慮接納。

### **Acceso A Idioma**

De acuerdo con la Ordenanza de Acceso a Idiomas "Language Access Ordinance" (Capítulo 91 del Código Administrativo de San Francisco "Chapter 91 of the San Francisco Administrative Code") intérpretes de chino,

español y/o filipino (tagalo) estarán disponibles de ser requeridos. Las minutas podrán ser traducidas, de ser requeridas, luego de ser aprobadas por la Comisión. La asistencia en idiomas adicionales se tomará en cuenta siempre que sea posible. Para solicitar asistencia con estos servicios favor comunicarse con el Secretario de la Comisión al 415-355-3709, o [anthony.e.valdez@sfgov.org](mailto:anthony.e.valdez@sfgov.org) por lo menos 48 horas antes de la reunión. Las solicitudes tardías serán consideradas de ser posible.

#### **Access Sa Wika**

Ayon sa Language Access Ordinance (Chapter 91 ng San Francisco Administrative Code), maaaring mag-request ng mga tagapagsalin sa wikang Tsino, Espanyol, at/o Filipino (Tagalog). Kapag hiniling, ang mga kaganapan ng miting ay maaring isalin sa ibang wika matapos ito ay aprobahan ng komisyon. Maari din magkaroon ng tulong sa ibang wika. Sa mga ganitong uri ng kahilingan, mangyaring tumawag sa Clerk ng Commission sa 415-355-3709, o [anthony.e.valdez@sfgov.org](mailto:anthony.e.valdez@sfgov.org) sa hindi bababa sa 48 oras bago mag miting. Kung maari, ang mga late na hiling ay posibleng pagbibigyan.

#### **Know Your Rights Under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code)**

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils, and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, City Hall, Room 244, One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102-4683 at Phone No.: (415) 554-7724; Fax No.: (415) 554-5163; E-mail: [sotf@sfgov.org](mailto:sotf@sfgov.org). Copies of the Sunshine Ordinance can be obtained from the Clerk of the Sunshine Task Force, the San Francisco Public Library and on the City's website at [www.sfgov.org](http://www.sfgov.org).

#### **Lobbyist Registration and Reporting Requirements**

Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [SF Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code §2.100, et. seq] to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the Ethics Commission at: 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220, San Francisco, CA 94102; telephone (415) 252-3100, fax (415) 252-3112; web site at [www.sfgov.org/ethics](http://www.sfgov.org/ethics).

#### **Other Important Information**

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers and similar sound-producing electronic devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound-producing electronic devices.

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Anthony Valdez, Commission Secretary  
TEL: (415) 355-3709; FAX: 415-554-6393

Posted: October 20, 2018



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. 965 HEARING DATE AUGUST 1, 2018

1650 Mission St.  
Suite 400  
San Francisco,  
CA 94103-2479

Reception:  
415.558.6378

Fax:  
415.558.6409

Planning  
Information:  
415.558.6377

*Case No.* 2018-011413CRV  
*Project:* California Buckeye Tree (Aesculus California),  
2694 McAllister Street  
Recommendation to the Urban Forestry Council  
*Staff Contact:* Jonathan Vimr (415) 575-9109  
jonathan.vimr@sfgov.org  
*Reviewed By:* Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822  
tim.frye@sfgov.org

### **RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL DESIGNATION OF THE CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE TREE (AESCULUS CALIFORNIA) AT 2694 MCALLISTER STREET, ASSESSOR'S BLOCK NO. 1166, LOT 045, AS A LANDMARK TREE UNDERS SECTION 810, ARTICLE 16 OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC WORKS CODE**

WHEREAS, Section 810, Article 16 of the San Francisco Public Works Code establishes criteria for the designation of landmark trees, which includes consideration of the age, size, shape, species, location, historical association, visual quality, and other contributions to the City's character; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Forestry Council is charged with overseeing the nomination process and making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission may nominate a tree for landmark tree designation through the passing of a nominating resolution to the Urban Forestry Council; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the nomination of the California buckeye tree (Aesculus California) at 2694 McAllister Street in Assessor's Block No. 1166, Lot 045, as a landmark tree is in the form prescribed by the Urban Forestry Council and contains supporting location, description, historical, environmental, and/or cultural documentation; and

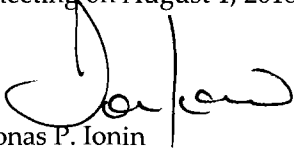
WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the subject tree is exceptional in its size, form, and beauty while occupying a highly visible intersection; and

WHEREAS, the proposed designation is consistent with the General Plan priority policies pursuant to Planning Code, Section 101.1 and furthers Priority Policy No. 2, which states that existing neighborhood character will be conserved and protected; and

WHEREAS, the Department has determined that the proposal is not a project under CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 and 15060(c)(2) as there will be no physical change to the environment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends to the Urban Forestry Council nomination of landmark tree designation of the California buckeye tree (Aesculus California) at 2694 McAllister Street.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission at its meeting on August 1, 2018.



Jonas P. Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES: Wolfram, Black, Johnck, Johns, Matsuda, Pearlman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Hyland

ADOPTED: August 1, 2018



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. XXX

HEARING DATE AUGUST 1, 2018

*Case No.* N/A  
*Project:* California Buckeye Tree (Aesculus California),  
2694 McAllister  
Recommendation to the Urban Forestry Council  
*Staff Contact:* Jonathan Vimr (415) 575-9109  
jonathan.vimr@sfgov.org  
*Reviewed By:* Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822  
tim.frye@sfgov.org

1650 Mission St.  
Suite 400  
San Francisco,  
CA 94103-2479

Reception:  
**415.558.6378**

Fax:  
**415.558.6409**

Planning  
Information:  
**415.558.6377**

### **RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL DESIGNATION OF THE CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE TREE (AESCULUS CALIFORNIA) AT 2694 MCALLISTER STREET, ASSESSOR'S BLOCK NO. 1166, LOT 045, AS A LANDMARK TREE UNDERS SECTION 810, ARTICLE 16 OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC WORKS CODE**

WHEREAS, Section 810, Article 16 of the San Francisco Public Works Code establishes criteria for the designation of landmark trees, which includes consideration of the age, size, shape, species, location, historical association, visual quality, and other contributions to the City's character; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Forestry Council is charged with overseeing the nomination process and making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission may nominate a tree for landmark tree designation through the passing of a nominating resolution to the Urban Forestry Council; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the nomination of the California buckeye tree (Aesculus California) at 2694 McAllister Street in Assessor's Block No. 1166, Lot 045, as a landmark tree is in the form prescribed by the Urban Forestry Council and contains supporting location, description, historical, environmental, and/or cultural documentation; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the subject tree is exceptional in its size, form, and beauty while occupying a highly visible intersection; and

WHEREAS, the proposed designation is consistent with the General Plan priority policies pursuant to Planning Code, Section 101.1 and furthers Priority Policy No. 2, which states that existing neighborhood character will be conserved and protected; and

WHEREAS, the Department has determined that the proposal is not a project under CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 and 15060(c)(2) as there will be no physical change to the environment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends to the Urban Forestry Council nomination of landmark tree designation of the California buckeye tree (Aesculus California) at 2694 McAllister Street.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission at its meeting on August 1, 2018.

Jonas P. Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES: X

NAYS: X

ABSENT: X

ADOPTED: August 1, 2018

# Landmark Tree Nomination Form

**Disclaimer:** Any information you include on this form will be part of the public record. Anyone may request to see the information you submit for a landmark tree nomination. For more legal information, see the last page of this form.

**Who can nominate a landmark tree?**

- The Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board may nominate a tree.
- The head of a City department or agency may nominate a tree on property under their jurisdiction. City departments and agencies should conduct an internal approval process before nominating a tree.
- A property owner may nominate a tree on his or her property.
- A member of the public may ask an authorized nominator to nominate a tree.

**Please note that a permit will be required for any future removal of a landmark tree.**

Pursuant to Ordinance 0017-06 and Public Works Code 810, the Urban Forestry Council requests the following information.

I am one of the following authorized nominators

- Property owner
- Board of Supervisor member
- Head of a city department or agency
- Planning Commission member
- Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board member **(HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION)**

Authorized nominator (Supervisor, Planning Commission, Landmarks Advisory Board, Head of City Department, Property Owner):

ANDREW WOLFRAM

Name

TEF DESIGN

Address

1420 SUTTER SF 94109

Address

415-901-4912

Phone (day)

Fax #

andrew@tefarch.com

Email

Member of the public who initiated nomination (if applicable):

Name

Address

Address

Phone (day)

Fax #

Email

I am an authorized nominator and I support this nomination.

Andrew Wolfram

Signature

12/7/16

Date

I am the property owner and I grant permission for city staff to evaluate the nominated tree on the property with advance notice.

Signature

Date



The Urban Forestry Council will use the following criteria to evaluate each potential landmark tree. If you need more space to describe the tree, please attach additional sheets.

TREE DESCRIPTION

Tree name (species and common name): AESCULUS CALIFORNICA (CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE)

Number of trees: 1

Street address: 2964 McALLISTER (CORNER OF WILLARD)

- Location of Tree:  Front yard  Rear yard  Side yard  Corner-side yard  
 Public right-of-way  Public lands  Not sure  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

If the tree which extends beyond multiple properties:

- Which part of the tree does so?  
 Trunk  Canopy  
 Where in the neighboring area?  
 Front yard  Rear yard  Side yard  Corner-side yard

GPS units (OPTIONAL): \_\_\_\_\_

Height +/- 30 feet

Average canopy width +/- 40 feet  
Distance from one edge to opposite edge of tree canopy

Circumference at chest level UNKNOWN inches  
Distance around trunk at 4.5 ft off the ground. <http://www.isa-arbor.com/publications/tree-ord/heritage.aspx>

Circumference at ground level UNKNOWN inches  
Distance around trunk on the ground where the trunk meets the soil.

**Rarity**

**Rarity:** \_\_\_ Rare  Uncommon \_\_\_ Common \_\_\_ Other  
 Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: UNUSUAL FOR ITS SIZE AND  
LOCATION IN SAN FRANCISCO

**Physical**

**Size:**  Large \_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_ Small  
 Notable size compared to other trees of the same species in San Francisco.

Comment: VERY LARGE AND BEAUTIFUL AND  
STRIKING SHAPE

**Age:** Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: APPEARS OLD.

**Distinguished form:**  Yes \_\_\_ No

Tree is an example of good form for its species, has a majestic quality or otherwise unique structure.

Describe: EXTRAORDINARY FORM

**Tree condition:** \_\_\_ Good  Poor \_\_\_ Hazard

Consider overall tree health and structure, and whether or not tree poses a hazard

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historical**

**Historical Association:** \_\_\_ Yes  None apparent

Related to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.

Describe nature of appreciation: RELATED TO 2694 McALLISTER,  
A 1900 FARMHOUSE

**Profiled in a publication or other media:** \_\_\_ Yes  Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage: \_\_\_\_\_

LISTED IN "SAN FRANCISCO TREES" WEBSITE, LANDMARK SECTION

**Environmental**

**Prominent landscape feature:**  Yes  No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Low tree density:**  Low  Moderate  High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Interdependent group of trees:**  Yes  No

This tree is an integral member of a group of trees and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.

Describe: BEAUTIFUL CALIFORNIA BAY RIGHT  
BEHIND IT

**Visible or Accessible from public right-of-way:**  Yes  No

High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
HIGHLY VISIBLE INTERSECTION

**High traffic area:**  Yes  No

Tree is located in an area that has a high volume of vehicle, pedestrian or bike traffic and has a potential traffic calming effect.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Important wildlife habitat:**  Yes  No

Species has a known relationship with a particular local wildlife species or it provides food, shelter, or nesting to specific known wildlife individuals.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Erosion control:**  Yes  No

Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Wind or sound barrier:**  Yes  No

Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural**

**Neighborhood appreciation:** \_\_\_ Yes  None apparent

Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition, outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to tree, etc. Attach documentation:

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural appreciation:** \_\_\_ Yes  None apparent

Particular value to certain cultural or ethnic groups in the city.

Describe nature of appreciation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Planting contributes to neighborhood character:**  Yes \_\_\_ No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Profiled in a publication or other media:**  Yes \_\_\_ Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage: \_\_\_\_\_

"SAN FRANCISCO TREES" WEBSITE

**Prominent landscape feature:**  Yes \_\_\_ No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**If you have any questions about this form, tree terms or tree concepts, please contact the Urban Forestry Council staff (below). It is acceptable if you cannot provide some of the information requested on this form.**

**A photograph of the tree must be submitted with this form.**

Please attach **optional** supporting documents such as letters, arborist report, etc.

**Send to:** Urban Forestry Council, c/o Mei Ling Hui, 1455 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102  
OR meiling.hui@sfgov.org

**Any information you submit will be part of the public record.**

The Public Records Act defines a "public record" broadly to include "any writing containing information relating to the conduct of the public's business prepared, owned, used or retained by any state or local agency, regardless of the physical form or characteristics." Govt. Code § 6252(e). The Sunshine Ordinance defines "public information" as the content of "public records" as defined in the Public Records Act. Admin Code § 67.20(b). Pursuant to the Public Records Act and Sunshine Ordinance, this document is a public record and will be available to the public upon request, at the hearing site, at the San Francisco Main Library, and on the Urban Forestry Council's website. Admin Code §§ 8.16, 67.7 (b), and 67.21(a).

Application received date _____	Received by _____
Tree evaluation form _____	UFC recommendation date _____
Board of Supervisors Decision _____	
Landmark Tree # _____	Title recorded date _____



CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE AT  
2694 MCALISTER @ WILLARD



CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE A7  
2694 MCALLISTER @ WILLARD



CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE AT  
2694 MCALLISTER AT WILLARD



# Urban Forestry Council Landmark Tree Committee Report

Submitted by Landmark Tree Committee Chair, Jon Swae on October 23, 2018

## Committee members present at the October 15, 2018 Landmark Tree Ad Hoc Committee meeting:

Malcolm Hillan, Carla Short, Damon Spigelman, Michael Sullivan, and Jon Swae

**Street address:** 2694 McAllister Street

**Common name:** California buckeye

**Scientific name:** *Aesculus californica*

## Summary:

***The Landmark Tree Committee recommends that the Urban Forestry Council support the nomination of this tree for Landmark Tree Status.*** The nomination was supported by a Committee vote of 5-0. The Committee supported this nomination based on the tree's rarity, physical attributes, and environmental benefits. The report below summarizes the Committee's discussion and criteria used in its decision.

## Rarity

The Committee found the California buckeye specimen to be uncommon because of its large size and prominent location in a front yard. The Committee noted that while the species itself is not exactly rare, it is very rare to find such a large and visually striking specimen of this California native species in a highly visible urban street setting.

## Physical Attributes

The tree is a significantly prominent landscape feature in the neighborhood that is clearly visible from multiple locations on both McAllister Street and North Willard Street. The Committee agreed that this tree, with its large trunk and expansive canopy, may perhaps be the largest California buckeye in the city of San Francisco. While the tree's exact age is unknown, the tree appears to be of significant age. It may likely have been planted around the time the house was built in 1900. The canopy is large and well-shaped with striking seasonal displays of green leaves and cone-like flowers. Some Committee members shared observations on the tree's structure such as included bark, lateral cracks in at least one branch, and the presence of rot from previous pruning wounds.

## Historical

The tree grows in front of an old farmhouse built in 1900. The Historic Preservation Commission representative present at the meeting indicated that the house itself would likely be eligible for "historic resource" designation. The house has a unique architectural style unlike other buildings in the area. The Committee discussed the possibility that this California buckeye and the bay tree on the same property may be remnant plantings from when this area was farm land. The tree's setting, age and nearby home give a strong feeling of pre-urban San Francisco's pastoral history.

## Environmental

Being a California native species, the tree provides habitat and sustenance to a variety of native bees and butterflies. It grows closely to another native tree, a large California bay (*Umbellularia californica*)

on the same property. This proximity is likely to create a larger area of habitat for many native species. At least one Committee member observed wildlife present in the tree at the time of site visit.

### **Cultural**

The tree is featured in several publications, including Michael Sullivan's book *The Trees of San Francisco*, where it is highlighted as a significant tree in San Francisco and part of a walking tour. The tree is also featured and recognized by local native plant and habitat restoration community organizations in online materials (Sutro Stewards and Yerba Buena Chapter of the California Native Plant Society). Committee members discussed how a construction proposal in the 1990s spurred a large neighborhood outpouring of support to save this California buckeye. The construction did not proceed and a tree protection easement was put into place that is still in effect today.

# Urban Forestry Council Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria

Pursuant to Ordinance 0017-06 and Public Works Code Section 810, the UFC has developed these criteria for evaluating potential landmark trees in San Francisco. When evaluating or considering potential landmark trees, please consider the context of the tree within its site location. For example, a tree on PUC land may not have the same community importance that a street or park tree would. Use comment sections, as appropriate, to explain or support evaluation. Attach sheets if more space is needed.

Evaluator's name: Gordon Matassa

Date of evaluation: 10/1/18

Scientific name: *Aesculus californica*

Common name: California buckeye

Street address: 2694 McAllister Street

Cross streets: Willard Street

**Rarity**    \_\_\_ Yes     Partially    \_\_\_ No

**Rarity:** \_\_\_ Rare     Uncommon    \_\_\_ Common    \_\_\_ Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: California native – rarely, if ever, this large in residential setting in San Francisco

**Physical Attributes**    \_\_\_ Yes     Partially    \_\_\_ No

**Size:**     Large    \_\_\_ Medium    \_\_\_ Small

Notable size compared to other trees of the same species in San Francisco.

Comment: Contextually, this is a very big tree.

**Age:**  Yes    \_\_\_ No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: Advanced age, in early stages of senescence.

**Distinguished form:**     Yes    \_\_\_ No

Tree is an example of good form for its species, has a majestic quality or otherwise unique structure.

Describe: well-distributed and large canopy

**Tree condition:**    \_\_\_ Good     Poor    \_\_\_ Hazard

Consider overall tree health and structure, and whether or not tree poses a hazard

Describe: Structure of the stem concerns me; some visible rot in the main stem (visual inspection only).

**Urban Forestry Council**  
**Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria**

**Historical**     Yes     Partially     No

**Historical Association:**             Yes             None apparent  
Related to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.  
Describe nature of appreciation: Historic farmhouse property

**Profiled in a publication or other media:**             Yes             Unknown  
Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.  
Describe coverage: featured in Michael Sullivan's *The Trees of San Francisco*.

**Environmental**     Yes     Partially     No

**Prominent landscape feature:**  Yes             No  
A striking and outstanding natural feature.  
Describe, attach photo if possible: Largest tree on the block, other than CA bay tree on same property, and nearby London plane.

**Low tree density:**             Low             Moderate             High  
Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.  
Describe: Good number of street trees on this side of the block.

**Interdependent group of trees:**             Yes             No  
This tree in an integral member of a group of trees and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.  
Describe: If removed, could negatively affect bay tree on same property by increasing wind burden. Bays are known to fall over (and keep growing).

**Visible or Accessible from public right-of-way:**             Yes             No  
High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.  
Describe: Very visible; encroaching onto sidewalk (so it's a "significant tree").

**High traffic area:**             Yes             No  
Tree is located in an area that has a high volume of vehicle, pedestrian or bike traffic and has a potential traffic calming effect.  
Describe: 10 people in 15 minutes; very few cars.

**Important wildlife habitat:**             Yes             No  
Species has a known relationship with a particular local wildlife species or it provides food, shelter, or nesting to specific known wildlife individuals.  
Important for native bees and butterflies, as well as other wildlife. Flowers are toxic to non-native bees. Fruit is toxic to everyone.

**Erosion control:**             Yes             No  
Tree prevents soil erosion.  
Describe:

**Wind or sound barrier:**             Yes             No  
Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.  
Describe: Wind protection for bay tree and nearby buildings (when in leaf).

**Cultural**     Yes     Partially     No

**Neighborhood appreciation:**                     Yes                     None apparent

Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition, outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to tree, etc. Attach documentation:

Describe:

**Cultural appreciation:**                     Yes                     None apparent

Particular value to certain cultural or ethnic groups in the city.

Describe nature of appreciation:

**Planting contributes to neighborhood character:**     Yes                     No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: Definitely stands out; unique; not many front yards in SF let alone front yards with trees of this size.

**Profiled in a publication or other media:**     Yes                     Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage: Michael Sullivan's book.


**Prominent landscape feature:**  Yes                     No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: Can't miss it.

**Additional comments**

Growing into sidewalk. Structural issues are concerning. May need cabling in the future. Wood is rated as medium strength, so rot may cause branch or stem failure. Species is estimated to live between 50-100 years.

A large, gnarled California buckeye tree with thick, twisted branches and sparse green and yellowing leaves. The tree is situated in front of a house with light-colored siding and dark window frames. A white picket fence runs along the base of the tree and the house. The sky is overcast.

2694 McAllister Street  
California buckeye  
(*Aesculus californica*)



Map

Google

2D

+

-

Person icon







STOP

NO PARKING  
9:00 - 10:00  
FRIDAY  
2 HOUR PARKING  
8:00 - 6:00  
MON - FRI

FOR SALE

STOP



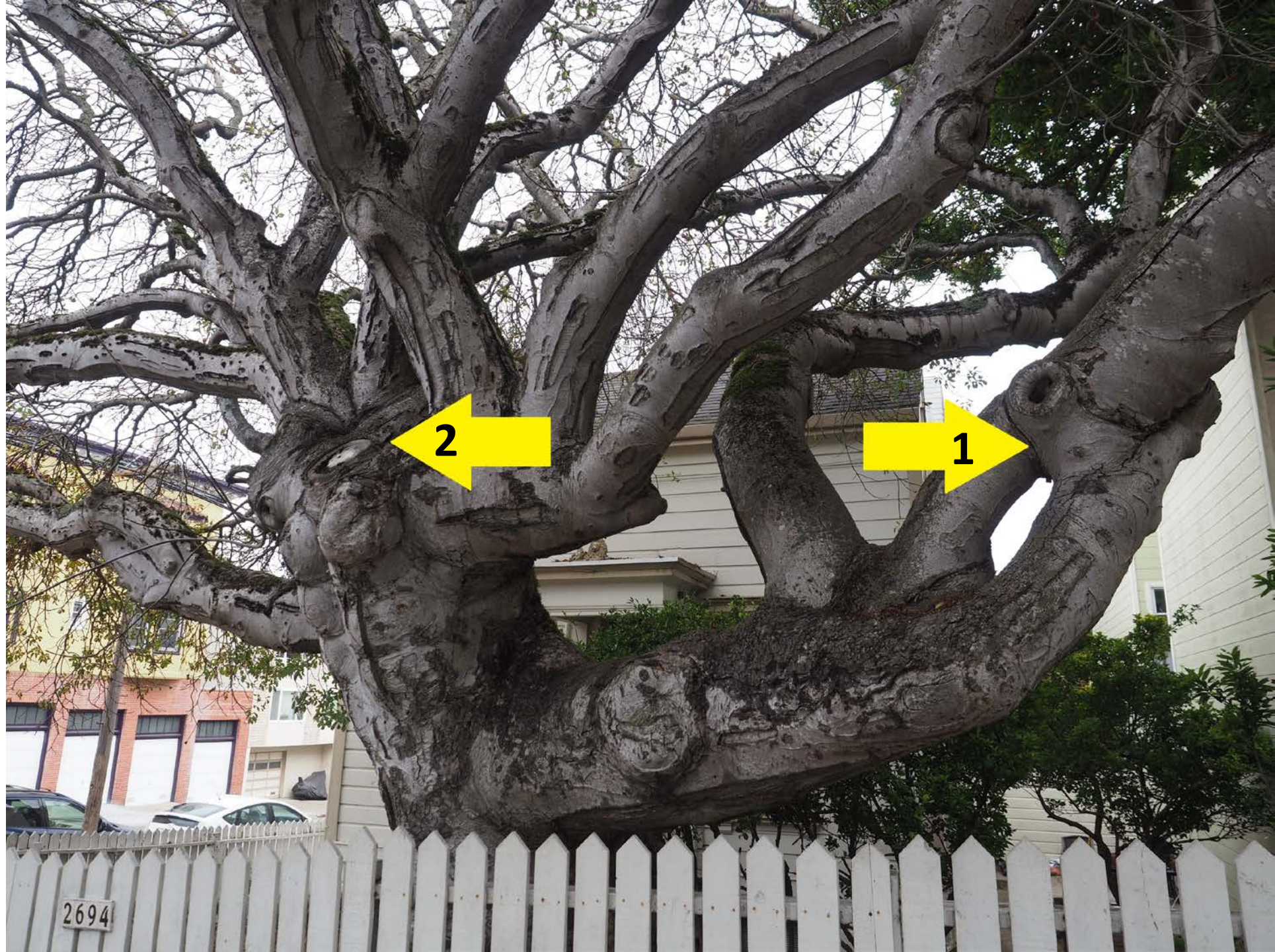




2694





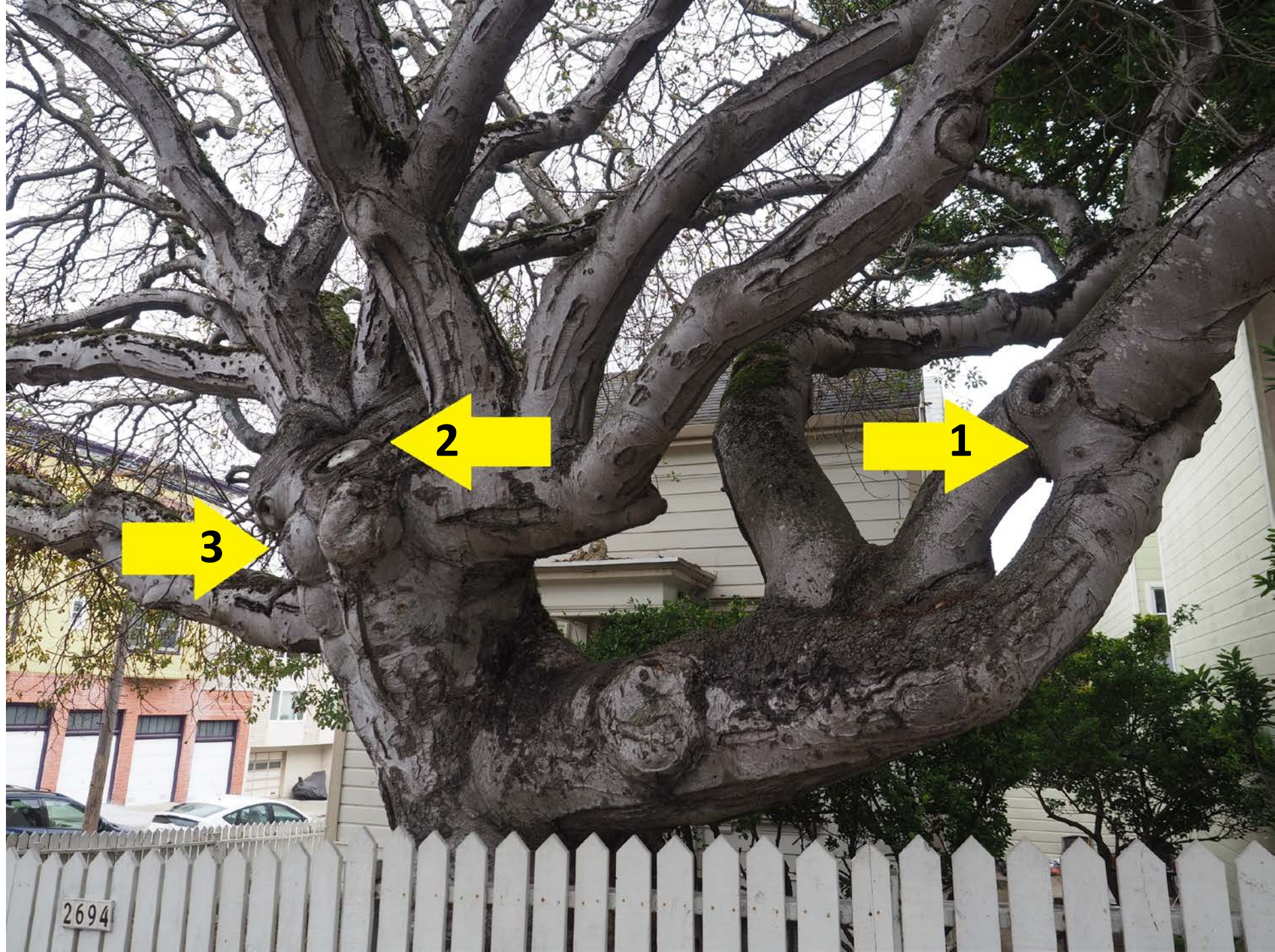


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2694





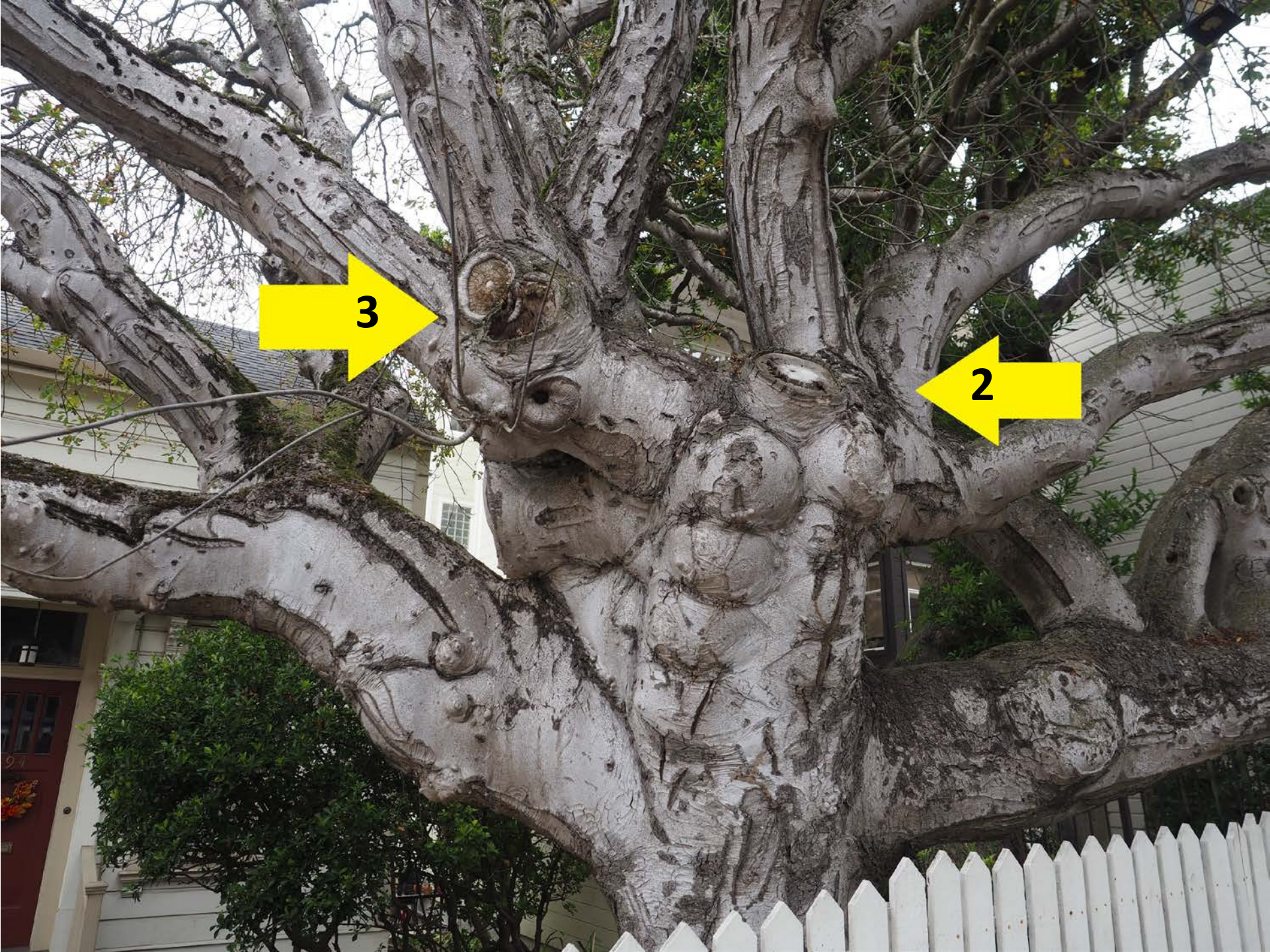
2

1

3

2694





3

2







NO PARKING  
8:00 - 10:00  
FRIDAY  
2 HOUR  
8:00 - 6:00  
MON - THU  
NO PARKING  
ANYTIME

FOR SALE  
OPEN HOUSE  
SATURDAY  
10:00 - 12:00  
1234567890

2694

151









Your guide to



*the trees of*  
**SAN FRANCISCO**  
2ND EDITION

64  
*different*  
*tree profiles*




12  
*walking*  
*tours*



*landmark trees*  
*by neighborhood*

MIKE SULLIVAN



WILDERNESS PRESS 

*Aesculus californica*

CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE



LOCATION: 2694 McAllister St./Willard St. N. near the University of San Francisco campus; also at 124 Lower Terrace/Levant St. in the Upper Market neighborhood

This is one of the few trees in this book that is a true San Francisco native, existing within the current city limits before the arrival of Europeans. The California buckeye also is one of the state's most beautiful native trees, growing to 20 feet in height on wind-protected sites in the dry slopes and canyons of the coastal range and Sierra foothills. The tree produces showy, long-lasting clusters of white flowers in May and June. One or two pear-shaped fruits form on each flower cluster, and inside each fruit's leathery jacket is a seed with a shiny brown coat. The tree's light green leaves are divided into five to seven leaflets, which drop in July (an adaptation to long, dry summers) unless summer water is provided.

American Indians crushed this tree's poisonous seeds and added them to dammed-up streams to stupefy fish, making them easy to catch. (Today you may find California buckeyes near old Indian campgrounds.)

Perhaps because of its spreading form, the California buckeye is rarely planted as a

street tree in San Francisco, due to narrow urban setbacks. You can view a large and spectacular specimen in a yard at 2694 McAllister Street, near the University of San Francisco campus. The tree was scheduled for removal in 1999 in connection with new construction on the lot, but after a neighborhood outcry, plans for the house were changed to build around, and preserve, the tree. As part of the settlement, the property owner signed a tree easement with Friends of the Urban Forest, protecting the tree from future removal—and making this the only tree in the city protected by a contract.





## Landmark Trees

### PACIFIC HEIGHTS (continued)

- ✘ *Zelkova serrata* (JAPANESE ZELKOVA); 1908 Buchanan St./Bush St. Largest known example in San Francisco.

### POTRERO HILL

- ✘ *Acer × freemanii* (FREEMAN MAPLE); 696 Pennsylvania Ave. (many examples surrounding this building).
- ✘ *Banksia integrifolia* (COAST BANKSIA); 1745 20th St./Wisconsin St. (Wisconsin St. side of building, very close to the house).
- ✘ *Carpinus betulus* (EUROPEAN HORNBEAM); 227 Connecticut St./Mariposa St.
- ✘ *Ceiba speciosa* (FLOSS SILK TREE); 1745 20th St./Wisconsin St. (20th St. side, the large tree with thorns covering the trunk).
- ✘ *Jacaranda mimosifolia* (JACARANDA); a row of them at 655 Texas St./Sierra St.
- ✘ *Melaleuca styphelioides* (PRICKLY MELALEUCA); southeast corner of 19th and Missouri Sts. A tree not often found in San Francisco.
- ✘ *Olea europaea* (OLIVE); in park fronting 200 block of Carolina St./Mariposa St. (two trees).
- ✘ *Pinus patula* (MEXICAN WEEPING PINE); 18th St. between Carolina and De Haro Sts., on south side of the street.
- ✘ *Pyrus kawakamii* (EVERGREEN PEAR); 1299 18th St./Texas St.
- ✘ *Wigandia urens* (CARACAS WIGANDIA); just uphill from 1424 18th St./Connecticut St., in yard, over fence (the tree with very large purple flowers).
- ✘ *Ziziphus zizyphus* (JUJUBE TREE); 491 Pennsylvania St./20th St.

### RICHMOND

- ✘ *Aesculus californica* (CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE); 2694 McAllister St./Willard St. N. The largest California buckeye in San Francisco, and one of the most famous trees in the city. This tree was almost removed due to development in 1999, but the tree-sympathetic property owner changed the development plans, saving the buckeye. It's also the only tree in the city that is legally protected by an easement—by law, the owner cannot remove the tree without the approval of Friends of the Urban Forest.
- ✘ *Agonis flexuosa* (PEPPERMINT WILLOW); 83–85 Stanyan St./Geary Blvd.
- ✘ *Angophora* sp.; across from 243–245 25th Ave./California St. An uncommon tree in San Francisco—a relative of eucalyptus, but with opposite, instead of alternate, leaves.
- ✘ *Banksia integrifolia* (COAST BANKSIA); 283 10th Ave./Clement St. This is one of my favorite trees—it is far too rare for a tree that thrives in San Francisco!
- ✘ *Hakea suaveolens* (SWEET HAKEA); 1350–1352 Lake St./15th Ave.; also at 1124–1126 Lake St./12th Ave.
- ✘ *Lophostemon confertus* (BRISBANE BOX); 696 2nd Ave./Cabrillo St.
- ✘ *Umbellularia californica* (CALIFORNIA BAY); 2694 McAllister St. (at corner of McAllister and Willard St. N.). The large tree behind the California buckeye at the same address.

### RUSSIAN HILL

- ✘ *Acer macrophyllum* (BIGLEAF MAPLE); a California native, on the steep hill above 44 Macondray Lane/Taylor St., next to a giant blue gum eucalyptus (the maple is the tree with the metal support holding it up); also just around the corner on the hillside at the corner of Green and Taylor Sts.
- ✘ *Aesculus californica* (CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE); two sprawling trees on the steep hillside just below 15–17 Macondray Lane/Taylor St. (someone on this street liked California natives a few decades ago).



# Urban Forestry Council Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria

Pursuant to Ordinance 0017-06 and Public Works Code Section 810, the UFC has developed these criteria for evaluating potential landmark trees in San Francisco. When evaluating or considering potential landmark trees, please consider the context of the tree within its site location. For example, a tree on PUC land may not have the same community importance that a street or park tree would. Use comment sections, as appropriate, to explain or support evaluation. Attach sheets if more space is needed.

Evaluator's name: Jon Swae

Date of evaluation: 10-9-2018 (10:45am)

Scientific name: Aesculus California

Common name: California buckeye

Street address: 2694 McAllister Street

Cross streets: Willard Street North

**Rarity**  Yes  Partially  No

**Rarity:**  Rare  Uncommon  Common  Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: California buckeyes are a native California species. They don't appear common in San Francisco. Only 43 buckeye trees were recorded in the Street Tree Census (2017). It is rare for such a large specimen to be found in San Francisco and located in such a prime visible location next to the public right-of-way.

**Physical Attributes**  Yes  Partially  No

**Size:**  Large  Medium  Small

Notable size compared to other trees of the same species in San Francisco.

Comment: This is certainly the largest California Buckeye I have ever seen in either an urban or non-urban location. It is quite magnificent. The *Trees of San Francisco* book by Mike Sullivan lists the tree as "the largest California buckeye in San Francisco."

**Age:**  Yes  No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: Given the large size of the tree and trunk, it appears significantly advanced in age. The home associated with the tree was built in 1900. The tree was likely planted around then.

**Distinguished form:**  Yes  No

**Urban Forestry Council**  
**Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria**

2

Tree is an example of good form for its species, has a majestic quality or otherwise unique structure.

Describe: The tree has a very large and unique trunk with many knobby shapes. The tree's large and high canopy spreads over the property's front yard and surrounding sidewalks. Photos of the tree in bloom and covered in green leaves reveal a very fine appearing form.

**Tree condition:**         Good     Poor     Hazard

Consider overall tree health and structure, and whether or not tree poses a hazard

Describe: The tree appears to be in a good condition for such age. Marks are visible where pruning has occurred in the past. Some moss can be seen growing on limbs.

**Historical**     Yes     Partially     No

**Historical Association:**         Yes         None apparent

Related to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.

Describe nature of appreciation: I am not aware of any connection of the tree to historic events, people or structures.

**Profiled in a publication or other media:**         Yes         Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage: The tree is discussed in *The Trees of San Francisco* by Mike Sullivan an on websites of local native plant organizations.

**Environmental**     Yes     Partially     No

**Prominent landscape feature:**  Yes         No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: The tree has a striking presence and creates a prominent feature on the corner of McAllister and Willard North Streets. It would be difficult to not notice the buckeye.

**Low tree density:**         Low         Moderate         High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

Describe: McAllister and nearby streets appear only partially covered by street trees. The Inner Richmond has an estimated canopy of 9.5%.

**Interdependent group of trees:**         Yes         No

This tree in an integral member of a group of trees and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.

Describe: A very old and large California Bay tree is located adjacent to the buckeye. It is uncertain how any potential removal would impact this other tree.

**Urban Forestry Council**  
**Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria**

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**Visible or Accessible from public right-of-way:**  Yes  No  
High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.

Describe: The tree cannot be missed. Its prominent location at the corner makes it highly visible to pedestrians, vehicles and nearby homes.

**High traffic area:**  Yes  No  
Tree is located in an area that has a high volume of vehicle, pedestrian or bike traffic and has a potential traffic calming effect.

Describe: Moderate vehicle and pedestrian traffic was visible during time of viewing (~11am).

**Important wildlife habitat:**  Yes  No  
Species has a known relationship with a particular local wildlife species or it provides food, shelter, or nesting to specific known wildlife individuals.

Describe: Birds were visible in the trees branches at the time of visit.

**Erosion control:**  Yes  No  
Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe: I am unaware of any major erosion control function being performed by the tree.

**Wind or sound barrier:**  Yes  No  
Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: The tree does not appear to provide a significant wind or sound barrier.

**Cultural**  Yes  Partially  No

**Neighborhood appreciation:**  Yes  None apparent  
Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition, outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to tree, etc. Attach documentation:

Describe: I believe an easement was put on the property at some point in the past requiring Friends of the Urban Forest to be involved in any decisions by future property owners affecting the tree. This presumably was initiated out of strong interest in the tree. The Urban Forestry Council has also periodically remarked on the tree's significance in San Francisco. I am not aware of any letters from neighbors in regards to landmark designation.

**Cultural appreciation:**  Yes  None apparent  
Particular value to certain cultural or ethnic groups in the city.

Describe nature of appreciation: The McAllister Street buckeye is celebrated by various local native plant and habitat restoration organizations. The tree is mentioned in documents from the California Native Plant Society's Yerba Buena Chapter and by the Sutro Stewards Project (see attached documentation).

**Urban Forestry Council**  
**Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria**

**Planting contributes to neighborhood character:**  Yes  No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: I would say the tree does contribute to the neighborhood's character. Its unique size, age and form along with its location in the front yard of a 100 year old home creates a very rare focal point in a neighborhood with mostly large apartment buildings.

**Profiled in a publication or other media:**  Yes  Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage: The tree is mentioned in the *Trees of San Francisco* book and in documents by local environmental organizations.

**Prominent landscape feature:**  Yes  No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: Yes, the tree is surely a prominent landscape feature as is discussed throughout this document. While the viewing occurred in the fall, springtime photos show the tree in striking full bloom with many white cone-like flowers blooming.

**Additional comments**

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## California Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*)

Posted on January 8, 2017 by Jake Sigg

The California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) is common in the Bay Area but harsh winds, sandy soils, and other factors conspired to prevent very many trees from growing in San Francisco prior to European contact. A Flora of San Francisco, California, published in 1958, states that Archibald Menzies in the 1792 Vancouver Expedition records the buckeye on the “skirts of the Bay and hilly Country behind” in the northeastern part of what is now San Francisco.



The flora reported only one tree extant in the city in 1958 and it is still thriving at the Caltrain station at 22nd and Pennsylvania Streets. Subsequently we have located a sizable one in a backyard at the base of a cliff at the open space at Palou and Phelps Streets. Other large ones are on the shoreline of Mallard Lake in Golden Gate Park and in a front yard at 2694 McAllister Street, corner of Willard.

The trunk of the last-noted one is approximately two feet diameter just above its swollen base. Knobby excrescences and fused branches invite visual inspection, one fusing branch producing a ten-inch-diameter doughnut hole. Some of the limbs are larger than the trunks of most trees you will encounter. An impressively large California bay laurel keeps it close company. But you should see the trees soon—they are growing in front of an old empty cottage with an unkempt yard (as is the cottage next door) and they both have “condo” written all over them. It would be nice if the landowner were enlightened enough to save them but the world isn’t like that, is it?



Buckeye Are these cited trees indigenous occurrences? Estimating the age of a buckeye is not easy. Buckeyes have a moderate growth rate even when growing in fairly dry surroundings. When water is available growth can be rapid, so that a large tree is not necessarily very old.

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sand dunes. Lack of water and leaves sensitive to wind would prohibit that. More likely the buckeye and the bay were planted by the owner after the cottage was built. The Mallard Lake tree could be indigenous because it is growing in a depression, out of the wind and where the water table was probably high enough. However, abundant water is provided by the lake and it could have been planted within the last five or six decades.

Buckeyes are easy to grow and if you have space in your yard (they will eventually want to spread thirty feet or more) you might want to pick up a seed at our November plant sale. We recommend seed rather than a plant because a buckeye grows quickly from seed, it will have a better-formed root system, and it will grow faster than if you had started from a plant in a can.

Posted in [Gardening with Natives](#).



Jake Sigg

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## Native Trees: San Francisco's Long time Residents

April 24, 2017 Janis Gomes

California is widely known as the home to some of the largest trees in the world. Among them is the native California redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and native giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), the latter species boasting the largest single living tree (by volume) in the world. Here in San Francisco, a unique microclimate, windy conditions, and sandy and serpentine soils have precluded the area from having an extensive native tree canopy, let alone producing the aforementioned "big trees" found in other parts of the state.



Nevertheless, San Francisco has always had its share of native trees. Long before the major tree plantings of the late 1800s, small stands of native oaks, bay laurel, willows, and California buckeye graced the landscape, near creeks and in canyons, and in the city's less windy eastern side. In fact, the **coast live oak** (pictured left) was among the most important food sources for the Ohlone Indians. Acorns, when ground into meal, provide high protein calories year-round and were important in winter and other times of scarcity. You can also still see some of the area's early oak trees in remnant patches such as the Oak Woodlands in Golden Gate Park. In *San Francisco A Natural History*, Garr and Miller (pg. 53) noted, "Arroyo willow thickets lined the former city creeks, along with occasional wax myrtles. California Bay trees or laurels were located along Mission Creek in the Mission District. Coffeeberry

(*Rhamnus californica*) and toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), though classified as shrubs, can grow to the size of a small tree."

While today many of the city's trees are introduced species that have fared well in our unique climate, a number of native trees and shrubs continue to enjoy a place in our landscape. A few notable ones are highlighted here:

**California Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*)** or California horse chestnut has been called a tree for all seasons. In early spring its bright chartreuse palm-shaped foliage announces spring long before most any other tree. Then in spring and summer it puts on a spectacular display of cone-like white flower spikes. In fall and winter after shedding all its leaves and fruit, its silvery smooth bare branches resemble an ethereal piece of artwork glowing in the moonlight.

*Aesculus californica* is a member of the Sapindaceae (soapberry) family and is the only buckeye species native to California. It is distributed widely in the state among coastal sage scrub, mixed-evergreen forest, riparian areas (rivers & creeks) and central



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oak woodland. It is a large shrub or tree growing from 13-40 feet tall and is typically multi-trunked. The California buckeye's crown is as broad as it is high. Young leaves are chartreuse green, turning darker green as it matures and has five to seven palmate (shaped like an open palm or like a hand with the fingers extended) leaflets. It has leathery pear-like seed pods and shiny brown seeds that look like chestnuts. But don't roast them since they are known to be unpleasant tasting and are toxic.

**Birds and Bees:** The sweetly fragrant flowers of this tree provide a rich pollen and nectar source for native bees, hummingbirds, and many species of butterflies. However, *Aesculus californica* pollen is known to be hazardous to honey bees, none of which are native to California. It is advised not to plant them near to apiaries.

**Local native American tribes,** including the Pomo, Yokut, and Luiseño, crushed the poisonous nuts to stupefy schools of fish in small streams to make them easier to catch. Buckeye also makes a good fireboard for a bow drill to make fire with.



**In the garden,** California buckeye is drought tolerant. However, it will go deciduous early (summer) if dry, hence, it may look better with some watering. In cool coastal climates, leaves may hold through early fall. *Aesculus californica* tolerates clay, serpentine, and seasonal flooding. It is also great for a butterfly garden. It works well with other natives such as Buckwheat (*Eriogonum* sp.), Coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*), Sticky Monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), Oak (*Quercus* sp.), Redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*), Currant

(*Ribes* sp.), Hummingbird Sage (*Salvia spathacea*), Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), and many others, as well as numerous annual wildflowers.

You can see California buckeye in a number of places in the city, including atop Mt. Sutro in Rotary Meadow. One of the more prominent specimens can be seen on the corner of Willard North and McAllister Street near the University of San Francisco.

#### **Hollyleaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*)**

is also known as Islais Cherry. Islais Creek, in San Francisco's Glen Canyon south of Twin Peaks, is named for the hollyleaf cherry that reportedly grew along this riparian habitat. It is an evergreen shrub to small tree that is native to the chaparral areas of coastal California (from Mendocino County to San Diego County), Baja California, and Baja California Sur, as well as the desert chaparral areas of the Mojave desert. It is a member of the rose family, Rosaceae, and grows 8-30 feet tall with shiny, spiny-toothed leaves. Its fruits are sweet edible cherries, although they contain little flesh. Its small white flowers are produced on racemes (a flower cluster with the separate flowers attached by short equal stalks at equal distances along a central stem) in the spring.



**Birds and Bees:** Hollyleaf cherry is an excellent tree for encouraging wildlife into the garden. The flowers attract bees. The fruits are relished by many bird species and the seeds are consumed by small mammals. These birds and animals also help to disperse the seeds away from the parent plant. In addition, many bird and animal species use the plants for cover as well as nesting places.

**Native American uses:** Central and southern California tribes prized hollyleaf cherry not so much for its minimal fleshy fruit, but for its seed kernel or pit, which had to be subjected to a lengthy cooking process to remove the poisonous hydrocyanic acid it contained. The flour made from the processed pits was said to taste like beans or chestnuts. The Diegueño and the Cahuilla are among the tribes that treated colds and coughs with infusions made from hollyleaf cherry bark and roots.

**In the garden** hollyleaf cherry is easy to care for, has a low water requirement, and tolerates a variety of soil. It can tolerate temperatures down to 15° F. It works well with native trees and brush such as Coyotebrush (*Baccharis pilularis*), Barberry (*Berberis*

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Franciscan wallflower

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sp.), Ceanothus sp., Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*), Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Pines (*Pinus sp.*), Oak (*Quercus sp.*), Flannelbush (*Fremontodendron sp.*), Currant (*Ribes sp.*), and many others. It is deer resistant, and can be used as a hedge or for bank stabilization.

**Come Visit Us!**

The Sutro Stewards Native Plant Nursery is a great place to learn about native plants. To learn more about the nursery and our Wednesday volunteer opportunities, see our [Nursery page](#). To learn about Sutro Stewards' other activities and volunteer efforts see our [Events calendar](#).

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native trees nature nursery nursery intern nursery tour oak open house participatory budget party pedestrian safety pink flowering currant place-based plant care plant hike plant identification plant profile plant propagation plant sale planting plants pollinators profile propagation rain garden rainwater catchment realignment recipe recognitions recreation red-shouldered hawk route run runoff safety sandy seeds silk tassel soaproot spring steller's jay stewardship sticky monkey flower stonework stormwater student interns summit sutro stewards tapping tellima tours toyon trail bell trail building trail running trail system trailhead trails training trip report urban biodiversity volunteer volunteer appreciation party volunteer spotlight walkers walking wallflower water weeding wild onion wildflower walk wildflowers wildlife wllaking woodpecker yerba buena

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**Urban Forestry Council  
Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria**

Pursuant to Ordinance 0017-06 and Public Works Code Section 810, the UFC has developed these criteria for evaluating potential landmark trees in San Francisco. When evaluating or considering potential landmark trees, please consider the context of the tree within its site location. For example, a tree on PUC land may not have the same community importance that a street or park tree would. Use comment sections, as appropriate, to explain or support evaluation. Attach sheets if more space is needed.

Evaluator's name: MALCOLM HILLAN  
Date of evaluation: 9.28.18  
Scientific name: AESCULUS CALIFORNICA  
Common name: CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE  
Street address: 2694 McALLISTER  
Cross streets: N. WILLARD ST.

**Rarity**     Yes     Partially     No

**Rarity:**     Rare     Uncommon     Common     Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.  
Comment: WHILE NOT A RARE TREE, EXAMPLES OF NATIVE SAN FRANCISCO TREES OF THIS STATURE ARE RARE. THERE ARE PROBABLY FEW TREES INDIGENOUS TO S.F. (SPP. OF) THIS IS ONE.

**Physical Attributes**     Yes     Partially     No

**Size:**     Large     Medium     Small  
Notable size compared to other trees of the same species in San Francisco.

Comment: VERY LARGE SPECIMEN, ESPECIALLY FOR AN URBAN SETTING. TRULY UNUSUAL.

**Age:**     Yes     No    ?  
Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: NO IDEA, BUT FOR THE SPECIES, WHICH IS GENERALLY SHORT-LIVED, THIS ONE IS FAR ALONG, WITHOUT DOUBT.

**Distinguished form:**     Yes     No  
Tree is an example of good form for its species, has a majestic quality or otherwise unique structure.

Describe: CONSIDERING THE LIMITS OF THE SITE, AMAZINGLY ATTRACTIVE.

Urban Forestry Council  
Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria

Tree condition: \_\_\_ Good \_\_\_ Poor \_\_\_ Hazard  FAIR

Consider overall tree health and structure, and whether or not tree poses a hazard

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

TREE IS OLD, W/ SOME LARGE CUTS... MAY LEAD TO ROT AT SOME POINT. APPARENTLY SOUND FOR THE TIME BEING.

**Historical**  Yes \_\_\_ Partially \_\_\_ No

**Historical Association:**  Yes \_\_\_ None apparent

Related to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.

Describe nature of appreciation: \_\_\_\_\_

ASSOCIATION w/ FARMHOUSE SITE, C. 1900

**Profiled in a publication or other media:** \_\_\_ Yes  Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. Attach documentation if appropriate.

Describe coverage: \_\_\_\_\_

NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE...

**Environmental**  Yes \_\_\_ Partially \_\_\_ No

**Prominent landscape feature:**  Yes \_\_\_ No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: \_\_\_\_\_ STUNNING, FOR LOCATION

**Low tree density:**  Low \_\_\_ Moderate \_\_\_ High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Interdependent group of trees:** \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  UNKNOWN

This tree in an integral member of a group of trees and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_ IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS ABSCULUS

PARTIALLY PROTECTS/SUPPORTS THE ADJACENT UMBELLIFERIA, (IN ITSELF AN OUTSTANDING, LANDMARK-WORTHY SPECIMEN.)

**Visible or Accessible from public right-of-way:**  Yes \_\_\_ No

High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_ COULDN'T BE MORE VISIBLE

OR STRIKING, FROM 270° AND THE PROPERTIES IT OCCUPIES.

**Urban Forestry Council  
Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria**

**High traffic area:** \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

MODERATE

Tree is located in an area that has a high volume of vehicle, pedestrian or bike traffic and has a potential traffic calming effect.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Important wildlife habitat:** \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Species has a known relationship with a particular local wildlife species or it provides food, shelter, or nesting to specific known wildlife individuals.

UNKNOWN.

**Erosion control:** \_\_\_ Yes  No

Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Wind or sound barrier:** \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

MINIMAL

Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural** \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Partially  No

**Neighborhood appreciation:** \_\_\_ Yes  None apparent

Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition, outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to tree, etc. Attach documentation:

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural appreciation:** \_\_\_ Yes  None apparent

Particular value to certain cultural or ethnic groups in the city.

Describe nature of appreciation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Planting contributes to neighborhood character:**  Yes \_\_\_ No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

TREE  
THIS TREE DEFINES THE SECTION OF  
Mc ALLISTER IT OCCUPIES / DOMINATES.

Urban Forestry Council  
Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria

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Profiled in a publication or other media:  Yes  Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. Attach documentation if appropriate.

Describe coverage: \_\_\_\_\_

Prominent landscape feature:  Yes  No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: "STRIKING AND OUTSTANDING"

SAY IT ALL

Additional comments

THIS TREE, AND ITS NEIGHBORING  
UMBELLULARIA, ARE EXAMPLES OF WHY  
THE LANDMARK TREE ORDINANCE  
SHOULD EXIST. I HAVE LONG WAITED  
AND HOPED FOR THIS TREE TO COME  
BEFORE US, AND LO AND BEHOLD: ANDREW  
WOLFRAM AND THE HPL HAVE BROUGHT  
IT FORTH. THANK YOU! (MY ONLY  
QUESTION: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF  
THE UMBELLULARIA?! ) TO VOTE  
TO LANDMARK SUCH A BEAUTIFUL,  
BIG, DISTINGUISHED S.F. NATIVE TREE  
IS TRULY AN HONOR!

# Urban Forestry Council Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria

Pursuant to Ordinance 0017-06 and Public Works Code Section 810, the UFC has developed these criteria for evaluating potential landmark trees in San Francisco. When evaluating or considering potential landmark trees, please consider the context of the tree within its site location. For example, a tree on PUC land may not have the same community importance that a street or park tree would. Use comment sections, as appropriate, to explain or support evaluation. Attach sheets if more space is needed.

Evaluator's name: CARLA STORT  
Date of evaluation: 10/4/18  
Scientific name: Aesculus californica  
Common name: Buckeye  
Street address: 2694 McAllister  
Cross streets: Willard North

**Rarity**  Yes  Partially  No  
**Rarity:**  Rare  Uncommon  Common  Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.  
Comment: While there are some buckeyes in SF  
it is not a common tree

**Physical Attributes**  Yes  Partially  No

**Size:**  Large  Medium  Small  
Notable size compared to other trees of the same species in San Francisco.

Comment: Very large example of species  
dbh > 34" measured just below 4.5 at main stem

**Age:**  Yes  No  
Significantly advanced age for the species.  
Comment: appears to be - certainly very large

**Distinguished form:**  Yes  No  
Tree is an example of good form for its species, has a majestic quality or otherwise unique structure.  
Describe: appears to have been topped in past



**Urban Forestry Council**  
**Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria**

2

**Tree condition:** \_\_\_ Good  \_\_\_ Poor \_\_\_ Hazard

Consider overall tree health and structure, and whether or not tree poses a hazard

Describe: tree has been topped in past and has  
some structural defects - health and vigor  
hard to determine at this time of year

**Historical** \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Partially \_\_\_ No

**Historical Association:** \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ None apparent

Related to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.

Describe nature of appreciation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Profiled in a publication or other media:** \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Environmental** \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Partially \_\_\_ No

**Prominent landscape feature:**  Yes \_\_\_ No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: right on corner, dramatic  
canopy

**Low tree density:** \_\_\_ Low  Moderate \_\_\_ High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

Describe: inner Richmond hills

**Interdependent group of trees:** \_\_\_ Yes  No

This tree in an integral member of a group of trees and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Visible or Accessible from public right-of-way:**  Yes \_\_\_ No

High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.

Describe: right on corner, immediately adjacent  
to sidewalk

**Urban Forestry Council**  
**Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria**

3

**High traffic area:**  Yes  No

Tree is located in an area that has a high volume of vehicle, pedestrian or bike traffic and has a potential traffic calming effect.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Important wildlife habitat:**  Yes  No

Species has a known relationship with a particular local wildlife species or it provides food, shelter, or nesting to specific known wildlife individuals.

*Native insects + butterflies*

*fruit is toxic + flowers may be toxic to non-native bees*

**Erosion control:**  Yes  No

Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Wind or sound barrier:**  Yes  No

Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural**  Yes  Partially  No

**Neighborhood appreciation:**  Yes  None apparent

Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition, outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to tree, etc. Attach documentation:

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural appreciation:**  Yes  None apparent

Particular value to certain cultural or ethnic groups in the city.

Describe nature of appreciation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Planting contributes to neighborhood character:**  Yes  No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Urban Forestry Council  
Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria

Profiled in a publication or other media:  Yes  Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. Attach documentation if appropriate.

Describe coverage: \_\_\_\_\_

San Francisco Trees website, Trees of SF book

Prominent landscape feature:  Yes  No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments

Tree appears to have been topped in past, contributing to problematic structure.

Otherwise, very large and notable example of the species.

# Urban Forestry Council Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria

Pursuant to Ordinance 0017-06 and Public Works Code Section 810, the UFC has developed these criteria for evaluating potential landmark trees in San Francisco. When evaluating or considering potential landmark trees, please consider the context of the tree within its site location. For example, a tree on PUC land may not have the same community importance that a street or park tree would. Use comment sections, as appropriate, to explain or support evaluation. Attach sheets if more space is needed.

Evaluator's name: Damon Spigelman

Date of evaluation: 9-14-2018

Scientific name: AESCULUS CALIFORNIA

Common name: CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE

Street address: 2964 McAllister

Cross streets: Willard

**Rarity**     Yes     Partially     No

**Rarity:**     Rare     Uncommon     Common     Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment:  Possibly the largest California Buckeye in San Francisco

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**Physical Attributes**     Yes     Partially     No

**Size:**     Large     Medium     Small

Notable size compared to other trees of the same species in San Francisco.

Comment: Trunk DBH is uncommonly large for this species in an urban setting, along with a large canopy spread average canopies do not usually exceeding 30' in circumference.

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**Age:**     Yes     No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: Due to size and history of home construction being dated at 1900 an estimated age of species would put the tree at 90 to 100 years.

**Urban Forestry Council  
Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria**

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old \_\_\_\_\_

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**Distinguished form:**  Yes  No

Tree is an example of good form for its species, has a majestic quality or otherwise unique structure.

Describe:  Good crown circumference with large trunk DBH

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**Tree condition:**  Good  Poor  Hazard

Consider overall tree health and structure, and whether or not tree poses a hazard

Describe: Tree is showing signs of decay which is normal for a tree of this advanced age, I noticed a vertical crack in one of the laterals overhanging the sidewalk, recommend removing or reducing end weight. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Historical**  Yes  Partially  No

**Historical Association:**  Yes  None apparent

Related to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.

Describe nature of appreciation:  No found information on any historical information of residence, home built in 1900 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Profiled in a publication or other media:**  Yes  Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage:  San Francisco's Trees

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<http://www.sftrees.com/landmark-trees/>

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**Environmental**  Yes  Partially  No

**Prominent landscape feature:**  Yes  No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: Focal point of residence, adds character to the street and prominently located at the corner of an intersection with high foot traffic.

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**Low tree density:**  Low  Moderate  High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

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**Urban Forestry Council**  
**Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria**

Describe: Low street tree density in the area

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**Interdependent group of trees:**  Yes  No

This tree in an integral member of a group of trees and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.

Describe: There is a Bay Laurel Tree growing next to the Buckeye, this tree would not be impacted or have an adverse impact if it were to be removed.

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**Visible or Accessible from public right-of-way:**  Yes  No

High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.

Describe: The Buckeye is located on the corner of McAllister/Willard with a visibility factor.

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**High traffic area:**  Yes  No

Tree is located in an area that has a high volume of vehicle, pedestrian or bike traffic and has a potential traffic calming effect.

Describe:  This is a large and unique tree that provides a special visual and wow factor to the neighborhood.

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**Important wildlife habitat:**  Yes  No

Species has a known relationship with a particular local wildlife species or it provides food, shelter, or nesting to specific known wildlife individuals.  No visible nesting sites located upon inspection, this is not to say I missed a potential habitat structure.

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**Erosion control:**  Yes  No

Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe:  Tree is growing in a relatively flat area with no signs of potential erosion.

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**Wind or sound barrier:**  Yes  No

Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe:  Due to the location of the Buckeye it provides cooling and sound reduction to the residence.

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**Cultural**    \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ Partially    \_\_\_ No

**Neighborhood appreciation:**                    \_\_\_ Yes              X   None apparent

Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition, outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to tree, etc. Attach documentation:

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Cultural appreciation:**                    \_\_\_ Yes              X   None apparent

Particular value to certain cultural or ethnic groups in the city.

Describe nature of appreciation: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Planting contributes to neighborhood character:**      X   Yes            \_\_\_ No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: The Buckeye is grand in its appearance and adds character to the neighborhood.

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**Profiled in a publication or other media:**      X   Yes            \_\_\_ Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.

Describe coverage: San Francisco Trees

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**Prominent landscape feature:**      X   Yes            \_\_\_ No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: Irreplaceable in its size and structure.



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**Additional comments**

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# Urban Forestry Council Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria

Pursuant to Ordinance 0017-06 and Public Works Code Section 810, the UFC has developed these criteria for evaluating potential landmark trees in San Francisco. When evaluating or considering potential landmark trees, please consider the context of the tree within its site location. For example, a tree on PUC land may not have the same community importance that a street or park tree would. Use comment sections, as appropriate, to explain or support evaluation. Attach sheets if more space is needed.

Evaluator's name: Mike Sullivan  
Date of evaluation: 9/15/18  
Scientific name: Aesculus californica  
Common name: California buckeye  
Street address: 2694 McAllister Street  
Cross streets: Willard St. North / McAllister

**Rarity**    \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ Partially     No

Rarity: \_\_\_ Rare     Uncommon    \_\_\_ Common    \_\_\_ Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: Common in Bay Area (native); rare on SF streets/yards

**Physical Attributes**     Yes    \_\_\_ Partially    \_\_\_ No

Size:  Large    \_\_\_ Medium    \_\_\_ Small

Notable size compared to other trees of the same species in San Francisco.

Comment: Huge specimen - biggest by far in the City of this species

Age:  Yes    \_\_\_ No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: Very old - maybe older than the Victorian?

Distinguished form:  Yes    \_\_\_ No

Tree is an example of good form for its species, has a majestic quality or otherwise unique structure.

Describe: Great form (spreading)

Urban Forestry Council  
Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria

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Tree condition:  Good  Poor  Hazard  
Consider overall tree health and structure, and whether or not tree poses a hazard

Describe: Very healthy. leaf loss now (but not unusual for September)

**Historical**  Yes  Partially  No

Historical Association:  Yes  None apparent  
Related to a historic or cultural building, site, street, person, event, etc.

Describe nature of appreciation: Only tree in SF to be protected by a "tree easement" - in favor of Friends of the Urban Forest

Profiled in a publication or other media:  Yes  Unknown

Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. Attach documentation if appropriate.  
Describe coverage:

Trees of San Francisco

**Environmental**  Yes  Partially  No

Prominent landscape feature:  Yes  No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.  
Describe, attach photo if possible: Native tree

Low tree density:  Low  Moderate  High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.  
Describe:

Interdependent group of trees:  Yes  No

This tree in an integral member of a group of trees and removing it may have an adverse impact on adjacent trees.

Describe:

Visible or Accessible from public right-of-way:  Yes  No

High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.

Describe:

**Urban Forestry Council  
Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria**

**High traffic area:**  Yes  No

Tree is located in an area that has a high volume of vehicle, pedestrian or bike traffic and has a potential traffic calming effect.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Important wildlife habitat:**  Yes  No

Species has a known relationship with a particular local wildlife species or it provides food, shelter, or nesting to specific known wildlife individuals.

Native CA tree

**Erosion control:**  Yes  No

Tree prevents soil erosion.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Wind or sound barrier:**  Yes  No

Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural**  Yes  Partially  No

**Neighborhood appreciation:**  Yes  None apparent

Multiple indicators such as letters of support, petition, outdoor gatherings, celebrations adjacent or related to tree, etc. Attach documentation:

Describe: Neighbors turned out en masse to protect the tree years ago - prompting the easement

**Cultural appreciation:**  Yes  None apparent

Particular value to certain cultural or ethnic groups in the city.

Describe nature of appreciation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Planting contributes to neighborhood character:**  Yes  No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

**Urban Forestry Council  
Landmark Tree Evaluation Form and Criteria**

**Profiled in a publication or other media:**  Yes  Unknown  
Tree has received coverage in print, internet, video media, etc. **Attach documentation** if appropriate.  
Describe coverage: \_\_\_\_\_

See above

**Prominent landscape feature:**  Yes  No  
A striking and outstanding natural feature.  
Describe, attach photo if possible: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional comments**

Spectacular specimen of a California native; adjacent to another huge example of a CA native (California bay) with a unique history - construction in the '90s almost destroyed the tree, leading to the easement in favor of Friends of the Urban Forest.

Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 7



City and County of San Francisco

**MYRNA MELGAR**

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DATE: July 14, 2022

TO: Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Supervisor Myrna Melgar, Chair, Land Use and Transportation Committee *MM*

RE: Land Use and Transportation Committee  
COMMITTEE REPORT

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Pursuant to Board Rule 4.20, as Chair of the Land Use and Transportation Committee, I have deemed the following matter is of urgent nature and request them to be considered by the full Board on Tuesday, July 19, 2022

File No. 220504

**Landmark Tree Designation - California Buckeye - 2694 McAllister Street**

Sponsor: Chan

This matter will be heard in the Land Use and Transportation Committee at a Regular Meeting on Monday, July 18, 2022 at 1:30pm

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689  
Tel. No. (415) 554-5184  
Fax No. (415) 554-5163  
TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Carla Short, Interim Director, Public Works  
Peter Brastow, Urban Forestry Coordinator, Urban Forestry Council  
Jonas Ionin, Commission Secretary, Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Erica Major, Assistant Clerk, Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: May 11, 2022

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

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The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Chan on May 3, 2022:

**File No. 220504**

**Ordinance designating the California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) tree located at 2694 McAllister Street as a landmark tree pursuant to the Public Works Code; making findings supporting the designation; and directing official acts in furtherance of the landmark tree designation, as defined herein.**

If you have comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: [erica.major@sfgov.org](mailto:erica.major@sfgov.org).

cc: David Steinberg, Public Works  
Bryan Dahl, Public Works  
John Thomas, Public Works  
Lena Liu, Public Works  
Rich Hillis, Historic Preservation Commission  
Tina Tam, Historic Preservation Commission  
Lisa Gibson, Historic Preservation Commission  
Devyani Jain, Historic Preservation Commission  
AnMarie Rodgers, Historic Preservation Commission  
Aaron Starr, Historic Preservation Commission  
Andrea Ruiz-Esquide, Office of the City Attorney Joy Navarrete, Historic Preservation Commission