

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: Rose Hillson

Date of evaluation: June 25, 2012

Scientific name: Juniperus

Common name: Juniper (topiary)

Street address: 439 Brussels Street

Cross streets: Bacon St. / Wayland St.

Rarity Yes Partially No

Rarity: Rare Uncommon Common Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: _____

Physical Attributes Yes Partially No

Size: Large Medium Small

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

Comment: Approx. 4-1/2-inch diameter (circumference = 28.5 inches at breast height). Have seen many junipers in SF with similar trunk size.

Age: Yes No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: Many junipers in the city were aesthetically pruned and can be seen on homes from the early 1920s on. Most of the buildings were two-story homes with junipers on each side of the buildings. Age is hard to tell in woody species, but the owner states on the nomination form that this juniper is 50 years old.

Distinguished form: Yes No

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

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Describe: Juniper has been pruned aesthetically into balls on the ends of the branches; thus there is evidence of upper and lower branches on the juniper that have been removed to allow for the topiary pruning. A few of the existing lower branches come close to the top edge of the brick planter box that adjoins the front wall of the building. None of the remaining branches have grown into nor formed themselves onto/over the bricks. The juniper's growth is asymmetrical reaching 11 feet high and spreading more or less diagonally. It spans a total of about 6 feet from the northerly side of the trunk to a point southerly of about 3 feet over the driveway of the lot adjoining. The juniper is trimmed into what is customarily seen in the city -- into balls at the ends of the branches. The hue of the foliage expected of this type of juniper with the differing size balls at the ends of the branches is a very nice green. See **PICTURES** of the nominated juniper at the end of this document. _____

Tree condition: Good Poor Hazard

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

Describe: Tree does not appear to pose a hazard even if several of the balls / branches overhang the south neighbor's property line by about 3 feet (e.g. into the neighbor's driveway area.), starting at about 5 feet up from grade of sidewalk. Tree appears to be healthy. _____

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: Owner states in application that this aesthetically pruned juniper is on a neighborhood garden walk which appears to have begun around 2007 as a fundraising event for the Portola Public Library. The tree species in itself does not inform the viewer that it is historic to the original site or indicative of a direct association to that particular neighborhood. _____

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: Facebook site and www.portolagardentour.com. The website states that the garden tour evolved from a fundraising effort for the Portola Branch Library in 2007. _____

Environmental Yes Partially No

Prominent landscape feature: Yes No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: This juniper which is located on the south side of the front of the house is one of two that decorate the building facade. The other juniper that is on the north side, though larger and trimmed into a more upright manner, was not nominated. It is similarly trimmed into balls at the ends of the branches. Getting back to the juniper being nominated -- the one on the south side of the house -- I would not say it is prominent but contributes to the overall look with the other juniper to frame the front of the building. It is prominent only in that there is no other permanently planted tree. The owner and nominator submitted a **PICTURE** with a shrub/small tree planted in a pot in the front of this juniper on the south side and that blocks it to a degree. The juniper nominated is a nice landscaping feature that is seen throughout the city of San Francisco. _____

Low tree density: Low Moderate High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

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Describe: There are several trees in the vicinity of this garden in the rear. I think the density of the trees in the area is about average for the city. _____

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: No. There are no adjacent trees at the front of the house. It will not affect any other trees. _____

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

High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.

Describe: It is located at the front of the building. It is not blocked by other structures or items on the sidewalk. However, as mentioned above, in the picture of the juniper submitted by the owner/applicant with the nomination form there is another plant in a large pot on the sidewalk closer to the curb in front of this juniper. If this planted pot is in front of the juniper, it will be blocking the juniper from a head-on view of the front of the house. _____

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: There was very little traffic on Brussels St., on Girard St. and on Wayland St. I saw only two total vehicles moving on Bacon St. and Brussels St. in the time I was there. I was examining both junipers in the front of the house even though this nomination was for only the south side juniper (as one looks at the front of the building). I examined the south juniper initially at about 3:55pm on a clear day. I returned to it later about 4:35pm to check the diameter of the specimen. There was still not much traffic. For the city overall, I would say that Brussels St. is a lightly trafficked street. Brussels St. is not a heavily trafficked street either by pedestrians, bicyclists, or by vehicles. _____

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: The juniper is in a brick planter box – soil self-contained. _____

Wind or sound barrier: Yes No

Tree reduces wind speed or mitigates undesirable noise.

Describe: _____

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Cultural ___ Yes X Partially ___ No

Neighborhood appreciation: X Yes ___ None apparent

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

Describe: Per the owner/nominator statement on the form submitted, the house is on a neighborhood garden tour program (Portola Garden Tour), so people have interest in the plantings as a whole. The fundraising began in 2007 for the Portola Library and then appeared to morph into this garden tour for fundraising for City College. The juniper is part of that tour. It is unclear when the owner/nominator's garden was initially included in the Portola Garden Tour even if the program has been in effect starting with the 2007 library fundraising effort.

Cultural appreciation: ___ Yes X None apparent

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

Describe nature of appreciation: People who partake in the Portola Garden Tour will see the two front junipers of this home on their way to see the rear yard plantings.

Planting contributes to neighborhood character: ___ Yes X No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: The aesthetically pruned juniper is something that is nice to look at. It may not contribute specifically to the neighborhood character in that this type of pruning is seen in many places and even on the same species (juniper) of larger examples citywide and in many other cities in California and quite possibly elsewhere. Please see PICTURES herein of typical examples of juniper being pruned into balls at various other SF locations.

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: Facebook page – Portola Garden Tour – www.portolagardentour.com.

Prominent landscape feature: ___ Yes ___ No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: *** THIS ITEM IS A DUPLICATE OF AN ITEM EARLIER

(SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM FORM)***

Additional comments

The juniper at the front of the house on the south side that is being nominated herein has a nice aesthetic form commonly seen in junipers pruned in this manner. Although fairly large for its species, it is not the largest (tallest, widest, biggest diameter trunk, etc.); and in fact, it is smaller than the same kind of juniper with the same pruning technique done to it as the one on the north side of the house as evidenced by the photos that came with the nomination

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packet. The south side juniper being nominated has some green coloration at the bottom of the trunk closer to the planter box. Unsure if this is due to heavy shading near the bottom of the plant or if somebody has painted what looks like green paint or insecticidal paint ? on the bark. While this juniper is on a garden walk and people enjoy it, this candidate does not appear to rise to the level of landmark status in my opinion. The owner/applicant deserves to be commended for caring about his oasis garden in the rear and for adding to the whimsy of this nominated juniper (along with the other larger juniper on the north). Continuing on with the garden tour as he has done is a nice program for the neighbors and for fund-raising for City College. I encourage his continued work in this endeavor and thank the owner and the nominator for bringing this to the attention of the Landmark Tree Committee of the Urban Forest Council within the Department of the Environment.

PICTURES of junipers with aesthetic pruning in San Francisco:



Near Laguna Honda on Dewey Blvd. with heavy traffic.



Junipero Serra Blvd. in San Francisco

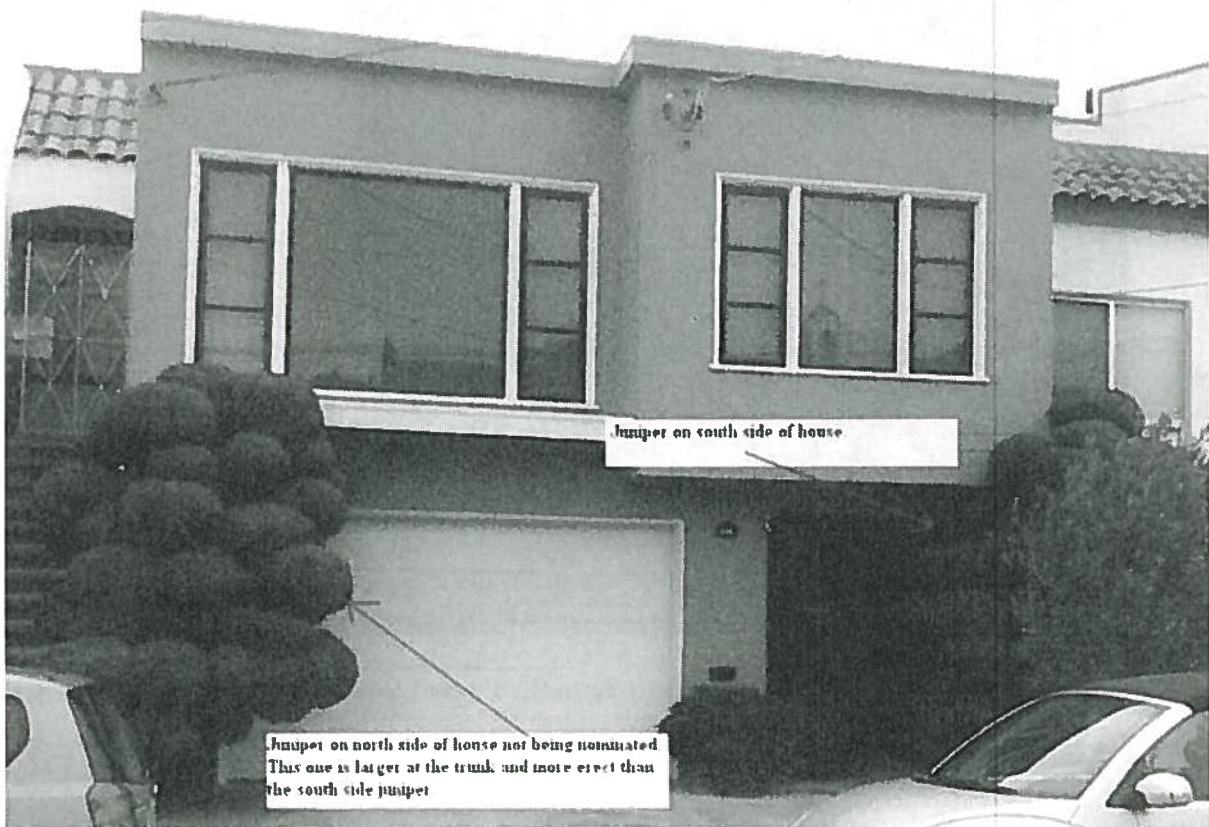


Aesthetically pruned junipers on Junipero Serra Blvd. near Ocean Avenue in San Francisco.



Aesthetically pruned junipers on Junipero Serra Blvd. near Ocean Avenue in San Francisco.

PICTURES of nominated juniper at 439 Brussels St.:





439 Brussels St. juniper nomination

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Evaluator's name: Megan Sutherland

Date of evaluation: 07/01/2012

Scientific name: Juniperous

Common name: Juniper

Street address: 439 Brussels St

Cross streets: Bacon St

Rarity ___ Yes ___ Partially X No

Rarity: ___ Rare ___ Uncommon X Common ___ Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: _____

Physical Attributes ___ Yes X Partially ___ No

Size: ___ Large ___ Medium X Small

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

Comment: The tree was approximately 15' tall.

Age: ___ Yes X No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: According to the applicant, the tree is more than 50 years ago, however, this species has an average longevity between 50-150 years.

Distinguished form: X Yes ___ No

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

Describe: This tree has been well cared for and pruned as a topiary with many balls of vegetation

spreading out from the main trunk. Sprouts from the vegetation balls are in need of pruning to

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maintain overall aesthetic. According to a letter included with the application, pruning is being coordinated with a professional service.

Tree condition: Good Poor Hazard

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

Describe: The tree is in good health and does not pose a hazard. It is evident that the tree is being maintained by a professional.

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: This topiary and another stand on both sides of the house making for a striking landscape feature easily visible from the sidewalk.

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: _____

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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 is planted close to a front corner of the house and is visible from the sidewalk.

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: The tree is in front of the house which is located near the intersection of Bacon and Brussels

Sts and within a block of the Martin Luther King Jr Academic Middle School.

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: The tree is located at a property very near highway 101 and San Bruno Ave. The tree acts as

a sound barrier. However, due to the location of the tree and it's extremely close proximity to the

outer wall of the house, it is unlikely to provide a substantial wind break beyond what the walls of the

house are providing.

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: A letter was received from the Portola Garden Tour Organizer (Ruth Wallace) in support of

landmark status. The letter from Supervisor Cohen speaks to the beauty of the garden and the

premises, but does not specifically mention the tree in question or landmark status.

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Cultural appreciation: Yes None apparent

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

Describe nature of appreciation: The applicant states that the Mediterranean topiary landscaping is an homage to the family's and neighborhood's Italian immigrants of the early 1900's.

Planting contributes to neighborhood character: Yes No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: The Portola is historically known as the Garden District. This tree is part of a property that is featured on the Portola Garden Tour.

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: This topiary and another stand on both sides of the house making for a striking landscape feature easily visible from the sidewalk.

Additional comments

I think this tree has a beautifully distinguished form and has been well manicured as a topiary.

However, the bar for landmark status is necessarily high. While the tree has a distinguished form, it doesn't appear to stand out in any category of assessment (Rarity, Physical Attributes, Historical, Environmental, and Cultural). The form of the tree is beautiful, but I don't see enough additional supporting characteristics to make the tree worthy of landmark status.

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Evaluator's name: Chris Buck
Date of evaluation: June 25, 2012
Scientific name: Juniperus chinensis 'Torulosa'
Common name: Hollywood Juniper
Street address: 439 Brussels Street
Cross streets: Wayland and Bacon

Rarity Yes Partially No

Rarity: Rare Uncommon Common Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: Planted throughout SF in 1950s and 1960s, commonly found up against front of buildings as landscape accent.

Physical Attributes Yes Partially No

Size: Large Medium Small

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

Comment: Medium size, overall.

Age: Yes No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: It is old compared to other landscape species, but not older than others of same species.

Distinguished form: Yes No

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

Describe: Topiary - a common practice for this species, but done well and routinely pruned to maintain "balls".

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Tree condition: Good Poor Hazard

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

Describe: NO major structural concerns, vigor is good.
NO damage to sidewalk or building.

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: Although commonly planted in front of
new buildings in 50s + 60s, it is associated with that era
of home construction and landscape design.

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: Some exposure locally and city-wide for local
garden tours.

Environmental Yes Partially No

Prominent landscape feature: Yes No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: It is a striking feature, but the
scale and impact is not necessarily outstanding.

Low tree density: Low Moderate High

Tree exists in a neighborhood with very few trees.

Describe: yes. Por talu is known for its low tree density
within the sidewalk, public R.O.W.

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: One of two trees at front of building. They
go together nicely - but are not necessarily dependent
on each other.

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

High visibility and/or accessibility from public property.

Describe: located in front of building, with just feet of
the public R.O.W.

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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: medium traffic. Bacon Street is busy.

church activity parking on block. residential with commercial traffic from nearby San Bruno Avenue.

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: to a limited degree, but on very small scale.

~~IEA~~

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: Letters of support, but on a limited scale.

Cultural appreciation: Yes None apparent

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

Describe nature of appreciation: yes but limited: many in community value trees and plants, generally, and appreciate when people have not paved over their front yard landscaping. But this is limited.

Planting contributes to neighborhood character: Yes No

Tree contributes significantly to, or represents, neighborhood aesthetic.

Describe contribution: yes it contributes, but not to level intended for a potential landmark tree.

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Profiled in a publication or other media: ___ Yes ___ Unknown No

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

Describe coverage: House is part of cherished local garden tours.

Owner received nice note of appreciation from District 10 supervisor, Malia Cohen, and Portola Garden Tour Organizer, Ruth Wallace.

Prominent landscape feature: ___ Yes No

A striking and outstanding natural feature.

Describe, attach photo if possible: The tree is a nice natural feature,

but not striking on the level of landmark tree consideration.

Additional comments

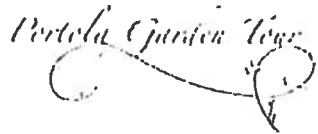
This hollyhock juniper matches its companion at front of property very nicely.

Planted with others across the city in 1950s and 1960s as landscape element in front of buildings.

I have some concern about how much this juniper extends beyond the property line, within the path of the neighbor's garage door to the south.

Very nicely maintained tree. Commonly found throughout San Francisco at this size and age.

One photo attached taken by C. Buck on 6/25/12.



January 3, 2012

City and County of San Francisco
Department of Public Works

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the preservation of Ray and Bernice Bozzini trees at 439 Brussels in San Francisco as Significant or Landmark trees or both. Their juniper and Chinese magnolia trees are an asset to their property, The Portola neighborhood, community and, ultimately, The Earth.

The Bozzinis have lived in The Portola for most of their long lives. Their parents and brothers and sisters lived in properties adjacent to theirs for many years. They raised their children in their current home.

Over the years, they have been active community members. They have supported the construction of the neighborhood branch library and many other neighborhood concerns. Ray was involved with the San Francisco Organizing Project (SFOP) St. Elizabeth Chapter for many years. Bernice and her son, Robert, have opened their garden for the past several years to the Portola Garden Tour, a charity neighborhood garden tour that has established a scholarship fund at City College of San Francisco.

It is through my work with the garden tour that I came to enjoy their trees, home and garden. Their garden has been the most requested garden on the tour for the past two years. We used photos of their garden for the promotional materials, both printed and electronic, for the 2010 and 2011 tours. Much of the appeal of their home and garden is the care they give to their trees.

The juniper, on the street access side of the house, frames the entrance of the house and offers an inviting portal into the home. Their street side landscaping is among the most attractive in The Portola and, possibly, The City.

The Chinese magnolia is magnificent and visible from Bacon Street. In their garden, it sets the tone for the entire landscaping. The magnolia provides a crown cover that shields the garden from street noise and forms the most intimate of the garden's many sitting areas or "rooms". It provides rich, deep color and flowers. It is the most dramatic element in a garden that has been described as breath-taking.

These trees need to be preserved. They are well cared for and attended to. The trees add to the beauty of the neighborhood and San Francisco as a whole. I would ask that you help to preserve them for the community and the Bozzinis, as well.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have to the tree's intrinsic worth to The Portola and the enjoyment of the Bozzinis in their garden beauty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth Wallace".

Ruth Wallace
Portola Garden Tour Organizer
Portola Neighborhood Steering Committee (PNSC) Board Member

Come see the hidden gardens of San Francisco's Garden District! Thanks for helping!

Please make all checks payable to: EH/F Portola Garden District Scholarship

TAX ID 94-1721925

749 Colby Street ▲ San Francisco, CA 94134 ▲ (415) 585-8399 ▲ www.portolagardentour.com



MALIA COHEN

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 10

October 25, 2011

Dear Neighbor,

It was a pleasure to walk through your garden and be reminded of what we can achieve with a little hard work and a delicate touch, consistently applied. Your work serves an inspiration to our neighbors and demonstrates your admirable commitment to beauty and progress.

Thank you for your diligence to so beautifully maintain your property, and your generosity for sharing your grounds with our neighbors during the Portola Garden Tour. I hope to be able to visit your garden again during next year's tour.

It will be a great day when the rest of our neighborhoods are as serene and peaceful as your garden.

Warm Regards,


Malia Cohen

6/25/12



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Evaluator's name: Larry Costello _____

Date of evaluation: 6/25/12 _____

Scientific name: Juniperus sp. _____

Common name: Juniper _____

Street address: 439 Brussels St _____

Cross streets: _____

Rarity ___ Yes ___ Partially x No

Rarity: ___ Rare ___ Uncommon x Common ___ Other

Unusual species in San Francisco or other geographic regions.

Comment: _____

Physical Attributes ___ Yes ___ Partially x No

Size: x Large ___ Medium ___ Small

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

Comment: _____

Age: ___ Yes x No

Significantly advanced age for the species.

Comment: _____

Distinguished form: x Yes ___ No

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

Describe: _____

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

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: _____

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: _____

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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: _____

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 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: _____
