

**Jomsky, Mark**

**From:** Beck, Michael  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 6:42 AM  
**To:** 'Gregory Harrison'  
**Cc:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** RE: Tree selection for Maple and Corson Streets  
Mr. Harrison,

Thank you for sharing your thoughtful letter. I will forward to the City Clerk to ensure it becomes part of the record.

...Michael

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Michael J. Beck  
City Manager  
City of Pasadena  
(626) 744-7927

**From:** Gregory Harrison [mailto:gregandnikki@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 6:33 AM  
**To:** Bogaard, Bill; Margaret McAustin; Robinson, Jacque; Holden, Chris; Haderlein, Steve; Gordo, Victor; De La Cuba, Vannia; Fuller, Margo; Stone, Rhonda; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry; Beck, Michael  
**Cc:** Barar, Darya  
**Subject:** Tree selection for Maple and Corson Streets

Dear Mayor Bogaard and City Councilmembers, and City Manager Beck,

Subj: AMENDMENT TO THE MASTER STREET TREE PLAN--MAPLE AND CORSON STREETS -- FEBRUARY 7, 2011 AGENDA

As a member of the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee, I wanted to share my thoughts on this issue. I am unable to attend the February 7th City Council meeting. Therefore, I am writing regarding the proposed amendment to the Master Street Tree plan in favor of the Fern Pine (*Podocarpus gracillior*), pictured below.

As you know, the UFAC committee has spent a good part of last year considering not only the tree removals on Maple and Corson (due to the planned sound wall) but also the Amendment to the Master Street Tree plan for Maple and Corson Streets. The UFAC recommendation of the Fern Pine, which I supported, was made in consideration of a variety of issues as requested by the City Council including fast-growing, drought tolerant, evergreen and trees that have a large canopy.

Throughout our deliberations, and during our site visits to each of our candidate trees, it was said many times that "there is no perfect tree." Every tree has positives and negatives and we do our best to select trees that meet a variety of criteria. In fact, the UFAC was specifically tasked to consider a number of criteria. Certainly drought tolerance is important, and that is no doubt why both the UFAC and the Design Commission looked favorably upon the Oak Species. And it is also why the UFAC

considered the Fern Pine, as it requires only moist soil. The Fern Pines that we visited on Union Street (near Hill Street) looked very good despite minimal water. Growth rates are similar for Oaks and Fern Pines (about 24" per year).

Another technical issue which deserves consideration is diversity of tree species. I love oaks - they are great trees. But they're not the only great tree, and the health of our urban forest depends to some extent on diversity. Oaks, for instance, are susceptible to some diseases and have a health hazard (allergies). The Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute (a resource used by Pasadena UFAC staff and developed by the Natural Resources Management Department at Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo) does not identify any Pests or Diseases for the Fern Pine on its website, nor does the Fern Pine have any known health hazards. Diversity of tree species is an important aspect for the long-term health of our urban forest, and also leads to a pleasing palette of trees for the City.

In summary, I recognize that there are a number of considerations in selecting a tree for this location. I do not wish to downplay the importance of drought tolerance, but I do wish to make the point that the UFAC committee looked at a variety of considerations, including drought tolerance, as requested by the City Council. We arrived at the Fern Pine (*Podocarpus gracilior*) for our committee recommendation. I think it would be a very good choice for this location

Thank you,

Gregory Harrison



IMG\_6798.JPG  
Podocarpus gracillior, Fern Pine  
Union street

[http://selectree.calpoly.edu/treedetail\\_all.Jasso?rid=1114&-session=selectree.634B67320508333BF4jhr406E8B3](http://selectree.calpoly.edu/treedetail_all.Jasso?rid=1114&-session=selectree.634B67320508333BF4jhr406E8B3)