

1 [Development Fee Collection Procedure; Administrative Fee.]

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3 **Ordinance amending the San Francisco Building Code by adding Section 107A.13 to**  
4 **establish a procedure for the Department of Building Inspection (DBI) to collect**  
5 **development impact and in lieu fees, to provide that the fees are payable prior to**  
6 **issuance of the first building permit or other document authorizing construction of the**  
7 **project, with an option for the project sponsor to defer payment to prior to issuance of**  
8 **the first certificate of occupancy upon agreeing to pay a deferral surcharge on the**  
9 **amount owed that would be deposited into the same fund that receives the**  
10 **development fees, to require that any in-kind public benefits required in lieu of**  
11 **payment of development fees are implemented prior to issuance of the first certificate**  
12 **of occupancy for the project, to require DBI to generate a Project Development Fee**  
13 **Report prior to issuance of the building or site permit for the project listing all fees due**  
14 **with the opportunity for an appeal of technical errors to the Board of Appeals, to**  
15 **establish a Development Fee Collection Unit within DBI and a fee for administering the**  
16 **program; adopting findings, including environmental findings.**

17 NOTE: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*;  
18 deletions are ~~*strike-through italics Times New Roman*~~.  
19 Board amendment additions are double-underlined;  
Board amendment deletions are ~~strike through normal~~.

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

21 Section 1. Findings. The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that:

22 (a) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this  
23 ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources  
24 Code Section 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of  
25 Supervisors in File No. \_\_\_\_\_ and is incorporated herein by reference.

Mayor Newsom  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 (b) In March, 2008, San Francisco published its Citywide Development Impact Fee  
2 Study Consolidated Report. The purpose of the Study was to evaluate the overall state,  
3 effectiveness, and consistency of the City's impact fee collection process and to identify  
4 improvements. Among other things, the Study cited the City's decentralized process as a  
5 problem. Centralizing the collection of development impact and in-lieu fees within the  
6 Department of Building Inspection, providing for an auditing and dispute-resolution function  
7 within DBI, generating a single record listing all the impact and in-lieu fees that the City  
8 assesses on development projects, and providing Project Development Fee Reports to project  
9 sponsors and the public listing fees owed for individual development projects will further the  
10 City's goals of streamlining the process, ensuring that fees are accurately assessed and  
11 collected in a timely manner, informing the public of the fees assessed and collected, and  
12 implementing suggestions contained in the Consolidated Report.

13 (c) The City assesses a variety of development fees on land-use development  
14 projects; the timing for collection of these fees varies. Also, typical economic cycles create  
15 volatility in the building and construction industries that has negative impacts on the  
16 availability of financing, greatly affecting the viability of a range of development projects. The  
17 current global economic crisis has exceeded both the depth and breadth of typical economic  
18 downturns. These boom-and-bust economic cycles create financial and other hardships for  
19 both project sponsors and the City's permit-issuing departments.

20 By enacting this procedure to standardize the collection and timing of payment of  
21 development impact and in-lieu fees assessed by the City and give the project sponsor the  
22 option to defer payment of the fees, the City intends not only to streamline the process but  
23 also to mitigate the financial hardships caused by economic cycles in general and the current  
24 global economic crisis in particular. This will allow project sponsors to proceed to obtain  
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1 entitlements for development projects that would otherwise be unable to proceed under  
2 adverse economic conditions and enable a better-managed economic recovery.

3 Section 2. The San Francisco Building Code is hereby amended by adding Section  
4 107A.13, to read as follows:

5 107A.13 Development Impact and In-Lieu Fees.

6 107A.13.1 Definitions. (a) The following definitions shall govern interpretation of this Section:

7 (1) "City" shall mean the City and County of San Francisco.

8 (2) "Department" shall mean the Department of Building Inspection.

9 (3) "Development fee" shall mean either a development impact fee or an in-lieu fee. It shall not  
10 include a fee for service or any time and material charges charged for reviewing or processing permit  
11 applications.

12 (4) "Development impact fee" shall mean a fee imposed on a development project as a condition  
13 of approval by the various departments and agencies of the City and levies against development  
14 projects by the San Francisco Unified School District under Section 17620 of the California Education  
15 Code and other provisions of State law to mitigate the impacts of increased demand for public services,  
16 facilities or housing caused by the development project that may or may not be an impact fee governed  
17 by the California Mitigation Fee Act (California Government Code Section 66000 et seq.)

18 (5) "Development impact requirement" shall mean a requirement to provide physical  
19 improvements, facilities or below market rate housing units imposed on a development project as a  
20 condition of approval to mitigate the impacts of increased demand for public services, facilities or  
21 housing caused by the development project that may or may not be governed by the California  
22 Mitigation Fee Act (California Government Code Section 66000 et seq.).

23 (6) "Development project" shall mean a project that is subject to a development impact or in-  
24 lieu fee or development impact requirement.

1           (7) "First certificate of occupancy" shall mean either a temporary certificate of occupancy or a  
2 Certificate of Final Completion and Occupancy as defined in San Francisco Building Code Section  
3 109A, whichever is issued first.

4           (8) "First construction document" shall mean the first building permit issued for a development  
5 project or, in the case of a site permit, the first building permit addendum issued or other document  
6 that authorizes construction of the development project. Construction document shall not include  
7 permits or addenda for demolition, grading, shoring, pile driving, or site preparation work.

8           (9) "In-lieu fee" is a fee paid by the project sponsor in lieu of complying with a City requirement  
9 that is not a development impact fee within the meaning of the Mitigation Fee Act .

10           (10) "Project sponsor" or "sponsor" shall mean an applicant seeking approval for construction  
11 of a development project subject to this Section, such applicant's successor and assigns, and/or any  
12 entity which controls or is under common control with such applicant.

13           (11) "Unit" shall mean the Department's Development Fee Collection Unit.

14           107A.13.2 Collection by Department. The Department shall be responsible for collecting all  
15 development impact and in-lieu fees, including (a) fees levied by the San Francisco Unified School  
16 District if the District authorizes collection by the Department, and (b) fees levied by the San Francisco  
17 Public Utilities Commission, if the Commission's General Manager authorizes collection by the  
18 Department, deferral of payment of any development fee, and/or resolution of any development fee  
19 dispute or appeal in accordance with this Section 107A.13.

20           107A.13.3 Timing of development fee payments and satisfaction of development impact  
21 requirements.

22           (a) All development impact or in-lieu fees owed for a development project shall be paid by  
23 the project sponsor prior to issuance of the first construction document; provided, however, that the  
24 project sponsor may elect to defer payment of said fees under Section 107A.13.3.1.

1           (b) Any development impact requirement shall be completed prior to issuance of the first  
2 certificate of occupancy for the development project.

3           107A.13.3.1 Option to defer payment; deferral surcharge. A project sponsor may elect to defer  
4 payment of any development impact or in-lieu fee collected by the Department to a due date prior to  
5 issuance by the Department of the first certificate of occupancy. This option may be exercised by (1)  
6 submitting a deferral request to the Department on a form provided by the Department prior to  
7 issuance of the first construction document, and (2) agreeing to pay a Development Fee Deferral  
8 Surcharge.

9           The Development Fee Deferral Surcharge shall be paid when the deferred fees are paid prior to  
10 issuance of the first certificate of occupancy, and shall accrue at the Development Fee Deferral  
11 Surcharge Rate. The Development Fee Deferral Surcharge Rate shall be calculated monthly by the  
12 San Francisco Treasurer's Office as a blended interest rate comprised of 50% of the Treasurer's yield  
13 on a standard two-year investment and 50% of the Annual Infrastructure Construction Cost Inflation  
14 Estimate published by the Office of the City Administrator's Capital Planning Group and approved by  
15 the City's Capital Planning Committee consistent with its obligations under Section 409(b) of the San  
16 Francisco Planning Code. The Treasurer's yield on a standard two-year investment shall be 60% of  
17 the Two-Year U.S. FNMA Sovereign Agency Note Yield-to-Maturity and 40% of the Current Two-Year  
18 U.S. Treasury Note Yield-to-Maturity as quoted from the close of business on the last open market day  
19 of the month previous to the date when a project sponsor elects to defer the development fees owed on a  
20 development project. The annual Infrastructure Construction Cost Inflation Estimate shall be updated  
21 by the Office of the City Administrator's Capital Planning Group on an annual basis, in consultation  
22 with the Capital Planning Committee, with the goal of establishing a reasonable estimate of  
23 construction cost inflation for the next calendar year for a mix of public infrastructure and facilities in  
24 San Francisco. The Capital Planning Group may rely on past construction cost inflation data, market  
25 trends, and a variety of national, state and local commercial and institutional construction cost

1 inflation indices in developing their annual estimates for San Francisco. The San Francisco  
2 Treasurer's Office shall publish the blended rate on its website at the beginning of each month,  
3 commencing on March 1, 2010. The accrual of any deferred development fees begins on the first day  
4 that a project sponsor elects to defer development fees, but never later than immediately after issuance  
5 of the first construction document. The Development Fee Collection Unit shall calculate the final  
6 Development Fee Deferral Surcharge by multiplying the total development fees otherwise due prior to  
7 issuance of the construction document by the Development Fee Deferral Surcharge Rate by the actual  
8 day count of the entire Development Fee Deferral Period, which shall be the number of days between  
9 the project sponsor's election to defer to final payment of the deferred development fees. The  
10 Development Fee Deferral Surcharge shall be apportioned among all development fee funds according  
11 to the ratio of each development fee as a percentage of the total development fees owed on the specific  
12 project.

13 107A.13.4 Development Fee Collection Unit. There shall be a Development Fee Collection  
14 Unit established within the Department. The Unit's duties include: (1) receiving and organizing  
15 information from various City agencies concerning the amount of development fees owed or specific  
16 development impact requirements imposed under various sections of the San Francisco Municipal  
17 Code or other legal authority, (2) working with the project sponsor and relevant agencies to resolve  
18 any disputes or questions concerning the development fees or development impact requirements  
19 applied to specific development projects, (3) ensuring that the first construction document, or first  
20 certificate of occupancy if the project sponsor elects to defer payment, is not issued prior to payment of  
21 all development fees that are due and owing, (4) confirming with the Planning Department that any  
22 outstanding development impact requirements are satisfied prior to issuance of the first certificate of  
23 occupancy for projects subject to such requirements, (5) generating Project Development Fee Reports,  
24 (6) processing any development fee refunds, (7) publishing and updating the Citywide Development  
25 Fee Register, (8) initiating lien proceedings to collect any unpaid development impact or in-lieu fees,

1 and (9) performing such other duties as the Building Official requires. The fee for the Department's  
2 services shall be as provided in Section 107A.13.14.

3 107A.13.5 Citywide Development Fee Register. The Unit shall publish a Citywide  
4 Development Fee Register that lists all current San Francisco development impact and in-lieu fees. The  
5 Unit shall update the Register whenever a development impact or in-lieu fee is newly enacted,  
6 rescinded or amended. The Unit shall make the Register available to the public upon request, including  
7 but not limited to posting it on the Department's website.

8 107A.13.6 Required City Agency or Department Notice to Development Fee Collection Unit.  
9 Prior to issuance of any building or site permit for a project, any department or agency responsible for  
10 calculating a development fee collected by the Unit or imposing a development impact requirement  
11 shall send written or electronic notification to the Development Fee Collection Unit that (i) identifies  
12 the development project, (ii) lists which specific development fees and/or development impact  
13 requirements are applicable and the legal authorization for their application, (iii) specifies the amount  
14 of the development fee or fees that the department or agency calculates is owed to the City or that the  
15 project sponsor has elected to satisfy a development impact requirement through the direct provision of  
16 public benefits, and (iv) lists the name and contact information for the staff person at each agency or  
17 department responsible for calculating the development fee or monitoring the development impact  
18 requirement.

19 107A.13.7 Project Development Fee Report. Prior to the issuance of the building or site  
20 permit for a development project that owes a development fee or fees or is subject to development  
21 impact requirements, and at any time thereafter, the Development Fee Collection Unit shall prepare  
22 and provide to the project sponsor, or any member of the public upon request, a Project Development  
23 Fee Report. The Report shall: (i) identify the development project (ii) list which specific development  
24 fees and/or development impact requirements are applicable and the legal authorization for their  
25 application, (iii) specify the amount of the development fee or fees that the department or agency

1 calculates is owed or that the project sponsor has elected to satisfy a development impact requirement  
2 through the direct provision of physical improvements, (iv) list the name and contact information for  
3 the staff person at each agency or department responsible for calculating the development fee or  
4 monitoring the development impact requirement, and (v) state whether the development fee or fees are  
5 due and payable prior to issuance of the first construction document or whether the project sponsor has  
6 requested deferral under Section 107A.13.3.1, and note the status of payment. A copy of the Project  
7 Development Fee Report shall always be made available to the project sponsor immediately prior to  
8 issuance of the site or building permit for a development project subject to any development fee or fees  
9 to provide adequate notice of the proposed development fee or fees.

10 107A.13.8 Failure to give notice of a development fee owed or development impact  
11 requirement. The failure of the Unit or a fee-assessing department or agency to give any notice of a  
12 development fee owed or development impact requirement shall not relieve the project sponsor of the  
13 obligation to pay the development fee when it is due. The procedure set forth in this Section is not  
14 intended to preclude enforcement of the development fee or development impact requirements pursuant  
15 to any other section of this Code, the Planning Code or other parts of the Municipal Code or under the  
16 laws of the State of California.

17 107A.13.9 Development fee dispute resolution; appeal to Board of Appeals.

18 107A.13.9.1 Procedure for resolution by Development Fee Collection Unit. If a dispute or  
19 question arises concerning the accuracy of the final Project Development Fee Report, including the  
20 mathematical calculation of any development fee listed thereon, the Development Fee Collection Unit  
21 shall attempt to resolve it in consultation with the department or agency affected by the disputed fee  
22 and the project sponsor. A person protesting the accuracy of the Report must submit the issue or issues  
23 in writing to the Unit with a copy to the department or agency whose development fee is in dispute.  
24 Any public notice of the issuance of the building or site permit shall notify the public of the right to  
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1 request a copy of the Project Development Fee Report and of the right of appeal to the Board of  
2 Appeals under Section 107A.13.9.2.

3 107A.13.9.2 Appeal to Board of Appeals. (a) If the Development Fee Collection Unit is unable  
4 to resolve the dispute or question , the project sponsor or a member of the public may appeal the  
5 Project Development Fee Report to the Board of Appeals within 15 days of the issuance of the building  
6 or site permit under Article 8 et seq. of the San Francisco Business & Tax Regulations Code.

7 (b) In cases where a project sponsor is not using the site permit process and is required to  
8 pay a development fee or fees prior to issuance of the development project's building permit, and  
9 chooses not to defer payment under Section 107A.13.3.1, the sponsor may pay a disputed fee under  
10 protest and file an appeal within 15 days of the issuance of the permit.

11 (c) In order to appeal to the Board of Appeals under this Section, a project sponsor  
12 appellant must first have attempted to resolve the dispute or question by following the procedure in  
13 Section 107A.13.9.1. Evidence of this prior attempt must be submitted to the Board of Appeals in order  
14 for the Board to accept the appeal. Members of the public may file an appeal under this Section without  
15 providing such evidence if they lacked adequate notice to raise the issues by following the procedures  
16 in Section 107A.13.9.1.

17 (d) Promptly after an appeal has been filed, the Board of Appeals shall notify the  
18 department or agency whose development fee or development impact requirement is at issue of the fact  
19 that an appeal has been filed and the date scheduled for hearing. A representative of the Department of  
20 Building Inspection and of the department or agency whose development fee or development impact  
21 requirement is in dispute must be present at the appeal hearing.

22 (e) In hearing any appeal of the Project Development Fee Report, the Board's jurisdiction  
23 is strictly limited to determining whether the mathematical calculation of the development fee or the  
24 scope of a development impact requirement is accurate and resolving any technical disputes over the  
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1 use, occupancy, floor area, unit count and mix, or other objective criteria that calculation of the  
2 challenged development fee or development impact requirement is based upon.

3 (f) If a decision by the Board of Appeals requires a refund of all or any portion of the  
4 disputed development fee, the refund shall be processed promptly by the Development Fee Collection  
5 Unit under Section 107A.13.11. If a decision requires a new determination regarding the scope of a  
6 development impact requirement, such new determination shall be made by the relevant City agency or  
7 department prior to issuance of the first certificate of occupancy. Where the Board determines that an  
8 additional amount of the fee or fees is due and owing, the additional amount shall be paid prior to  
9 issuance of the first certificate of occupancy for the development project.

10 107A.13.10 Violation of this Section deemed a violation of the Building Code. In addition to  
11 the lien proceedings authorized by Section 107A.13.14, a violation of this Section 107A.13 shall be  
12 deemed a violation of the Building Code and subject to the provisions of Section 103A and any  
13 investigation or other fees authorized under other sections of this Code to compensate the Department  
14 for the cost of abating violations.

15 107A.13.11 Development fee refunds. Upon notification by the property owner or project  
16 sponsor and confirmation by the applicable department or agency that a fee refund is due, the Unit  
17 shall process the refund. The fee for processing the refund shall be as set forth in Table 1A-D – Other  
18 Building Permit and Plan Review Fees.

19 107A.13.12 Development fee information a public record. Any notice of development fees due  
20 or development impact requirements imposed sent to the Development Collection Unit by any fee-  
21 assessing departments and agencies, the Project Development Fee Report issued by the Unit, and any  
22 development fee refunds or development impact requirement revisions made are a matter of public  
23 record.

24 107A.13.13 Administrative fee. The fee for services provided by the Department under this  
25 Section 107A.13 shall be the Standard Hourly Rate for Administration set forth in Table 1A-D of this

1 Code . The administrative fee is payable within 30 days' of the Department's notice that payment is  
2 due.

3 107A.13.14 Administrative procedures. The Building Official is empowered to adopt such  
4 administrative procedures as he or she deems necessary to implement this Section. Such administrative  
5 procedures shall be generally consistent with the procedural requirements set forth in this Section  
6 107A.

7 107A.13.15 Wrongful Issuance of First Construction Document or Certificate of Occupancy;  
8 assessment lien; notice. In addition to any other remedy established in this Code or under other  
9 authority under the laws of the State of California, if DBI inadvertently or mistakenly issues the first  
10 construction document or first certificate of occupancy, whichever applies, for a development project  
11 that has not paid a development fee that is due and owing and payment has not been received within 30  
12 days following notice that payment is due, or, in the case where a sponsor has elected to satisfy a  
13 development impact requirement through direct provision of physical improvements and where non-  
14 compliance with any such requirement is not corrected within 30 days following notice, the Department  
15 shall initiate proceedings in accordance with Article XX of Chapter 10 of the San Francisco  
16 Administrative Code to make the entire unpaid balance of the fee that is due, including interest at the  
17 rate of one and one-half percent per month or fraction thereof on the amount of unpaid fee, a lien  
18 against all parcels used for the development project. The penalty fee provisions of this section shall  
19 also apply to projects that have elected to provide physical improvements in lieu of paying a  
20 development fee, as if they had elected to pay the relevant development fee.

21 The Department shall send all notices required by Article XX to the owner or owners of the  
22 property and to the project sponsor if different from the owner. The Department shall also prepare a  
23 preliminary report, and notify the owner and sponsor of a hearing by the Board of Supervisors to  
24 confirm such report at least ten days before the date of the hearing. The report shall contain the owner  
25 and sponsor's names, a description of the development project, a description of the parcels of real

1 property to be encumbered as set forth in the Assessor's Map Books for the current year, a description  
2 of the alleged violation of this Section, and shall fix a time, date, and place for hearing. The  
3 Department shall mail this report to the sponsor and each owner of record of the parcels of real  
4 property subject to the lien.

5 Any notice required to be given to an owner or sponsor shall be sufficiently given or served  
6 upon the owner or sponsor for all purposes in this Section if personally served upon the owner or  
7 sponsor or if deposited, postage prepaid, in post office letterbox addressed to the owner or sponsor at  
8 the official address of the owner or sponsor maintained by the Tax Collector for the mailing of tax bills  
9 or, if no such address is available, to the sponsor at the address of the development project, and to the  
10 applicant for the site or building permit at the address on the permit application.

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Except for the release of the lien recording fee authorized by Administrative Code Section 10.237, all sums collected by the Tax Collector under this Section shall be held in trust by the Treasurer and deposited in the City's appropriate fee account.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
JUDITH A. BOYAJIAN  
Deputy City Attorney