

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Site for New Library Branch for Oceanview, Merced Heights, Ingleside, and Lakeview Neighborhoods]

Ordinance requiring that the new Public Library branch serving the Oceanview, Merced Heights, Ingleside, and Lakeview neighborhoods be built on the City-owned parcel of land at 100 Orizaba Avenue, subject to environmental review, required approvals, and other applicable laws; and prohibiting the expenditure of City funds to explore, pursue, or plan construction of a new Public Library branch serving those neighborhoods at any alternate location, except as required by the environmental review process, required approvals, or other applicable laws.

Existing Law

Existing law does not address the location of a new Public Library branch serving the Oceanview, Merced Heights, Ingleside, and Lakeview neighborhoods. The construction of a new Public Library branch is generally governed by the California Environmental Quality Act; the budget and fiscal provisions or the Charter; planning, regulatory, and other required City approvals; and other applicable laws.

Amendments to Current Law

This is an uncodified ordinance that would require the new Public Library branch serving the Oceanview, Merced Heights, Ingleside, and Lakeview neighborhoods be built on the City-owned parcel of land at 100 Orizaba Avenue, subject to environmental review, required approvals, and other applicable laws; and prohibiting the expenditure of City funds to explore, pursue of plan construction of a new Public Library branch serving those neighborhoods at any alternate location, except as required by the environmental review process, required approvals, or other applicable laws.

Background Information

In early 2019, during community meetings with Oceanview neighborhood residents regarding the prospective renovation of the Oceanview Branch Library facility, community members expressed concern with the shortcomings of the existing facility, and reservations about the efficacy of renovating the existing facility to address the community's needs for library services. Oceanview residents conveyed the need for a new library branch to be constructed at a new location to serve their growing population. Following those community meetings, the Library partnered with the Department of Public Works to prepare a Site Feasibility Report for the construction of a new Library branch at 100 Orizaba Avenue, on an approximately 31,620 square foot lot currently designated as public open space. In April 2022, the Planning

Department issued a Preliminary Project Assessment for the project at 100 Orizaba Avenue. During community meetings in June 2022, community members supported the construction of a new Public Library branch at the recommended location at 100 Orizaba Avenue. This ordinance requires the use of the location at 100 Orizaba Avenue for the construction of a new Public Library branch for the Oceanview, Merced Heights, Ingleside, and Lakeview Neighborhoods, and prohibits the expenditure of City funds to explore alternative locations, unless required by, and subject to, the environmental review process, required approvals, or other applicable laws. This ordinance does not constitute an approval of the Library branch proposal, and the City retains its discretion to approve, disapprove, or modify the proposal, as required by the environmental review process and other applicable laws.

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