

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Fire, Public Works Codes - Audit Amnesty Fee Waivers]

Ordinance amending the Fire and Public Works Codes to waive application review and processing fees for permits to abate violations related to the Department of Building Inspection’s Internal Quality Control Audit Amnesty Program; and affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

Section 108 of the Fire Code outlines the fees the Fire Department charges for administrative services to the public, including reviewing and inspecting permits associated with building construction and repair. Article 2.1 of the Public Works Code outlines the fee and assessment schedule for services provided by the Department of Public Works.

Amendments to Current Law

The Proposed Legislation amends Fire Code Section 108 and Article 2.1 of the Public Works Code to waive permit review and processing fees for any permits needed to abate violations related to DBI’s Internal Quality Control Audit (“Audit”).

Background Information

In May 2021, DBI initiated the Audit – a review of properties that were associated with Rodrigo Santos and former Inspector Bernard Curran. DBI completed the Audit in January 2025, and while DBI did not find any imminent life-safety hazards, some Audit properties were issued Notices of Violation (NOVs) requiring the owner to apply for permits to abate the underlying Code violation. To provide relief for these property owners, the Board passed Ordinance No. 171-25, which created an Amnesty program for Audit properties in Section 106A.6 of the Building Code and Section 187 of the Planning Code. The Amnesty program streamlined the permit process and waived Planning and DBI fees for permits to abate Audit-related NOVs. Since enactment of the Amnesty program, some permits to abate Audit-related NOVs have been charged permit review and inspection fees by the Fire Department and Department of Public Works. The Proposed Legislation extends the Amnesty program’s waiver to cover Fire and Public Works fees as well as DBI and Planning fees.