

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

(Revised 9/9/2024)

[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 (Parcel No. 7136/060), 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 to expand the existing Oceanview Branch Library located at 345 Randolph Street on any adjacent parcel, and except as required by the environmental review process, required approvals, or other applicable laws.

Existing Law

On February 6, 2024, the Board of Supervisors finally passed an uncodified ordinance (Ordinance No. 32-24, File No. 240017) requiring the City to prioritize the City-owned parcel of land at 100 Orizaba Avenue (Parcel No. 7136/060) as a potential site for the new Public Library branch serving the Oceanview, Merced Heights, Ingleside and Lakeview neighborhoods, subject to environmental review, required approvals, and other applicable laws. The ordinance also required City departments to prioritize the expenditure of City funds for a new Public Library branch at that location. Ordinance No. 32-24 became enacted on February 16, 2024, without the Mayor's signature, and became effective on March 18, 2024.

In addition to the previously-enacted Ordinance No. 32-24, the construction of a new Public Library branch, or expansion of an existing Library branch, is generally governed by the California Environmental Quality Act; the budgetary and fiscal provisions of 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 (Parcel No. 7136/060), subject to environmental review, required approvals, and other applicable laws; and would prohibit 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 to expand the existing Oceanview Branch Library located at 345 Randolph Street, and except as required by the environmental review process, required approvals, or other applicable laws.

Enactment of this ordinance would have the effect of repealing Ordinance No. 32-24. This ordinance differs from the previously-passed ordinance in that it would require the new Public Library branch to be built at the 100 Orizaba location (Parcel No. 7136/060), subject to environmental review, required approvals, and other applicable laws instead of requiring the City to prioritize this location. This ordinance also differs from the previously-passed ordinance in that it would prohibit expenditure of City funds to explore, pursue, or plan construction of a new Public Library branch at locations other than Parcel No. 7136/060, except as required by the environmental review process, required approvals, or other applicable laws, rather than requiring the City to prioritize the expenditure of City funds for a new Public Library branch at that location. In addition, this ordinance differs from the previously-passed ordinance in stating that the ordinance shall not preclude the City from expanding the existing Oceanview Branch Library in its current location at 345 Randolph Street or on to any adjacent parcel, and to permit expenditure of City funds on the expansion of the existing Oceanview Branch Library.

Background Information

This legislative digest reflects an ordinance that re-introduces the original version of Ordinance No. 32-24 with some modifications to allow for expansion of the existing Oceanview Branch Library, prior to amendments made by the Board on January 30, 2024, and final passage by the Board of the amended ordinance on February 6, 2024. This ordinance would override, and thus have the effect of repealing, Ordinance No. 32-24, by requiring the new Public Library branch be built at this location, instead of requiring only that this location be prioritized.

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 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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