

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning Code – Green Landscaping Ordinance.]

Ordinance amending various sections of the Planning Code to address screening, greening, street tree, and permeability requirements; creating definitions for “vehicle use area”, “ornamental fencing”, and “permeable surface”; amending the Public Works Code Section 805 to create requirements for the establishment of new street trees and replacement of dead street trees; and adopting findings, including environmental findings, Section 302 findings, and findings of consistency with the General Plan and the Priority Policies of Planning Code Section 101.1.

Existing Law

The Planning Code contain various provisions concerning screening, landscaping, and street tree requirements associated with various uses. The Public Works Code Article 16 governs the regulatory process for planting, removing, and maintaining street trees.

Amendments to Current Law

This Ordinance would create or modify Planning Code provisions on greening, screening, and landscaping, including street tree requirements, and provide for a process by which the Zoning Administrator could modify some these provisions under certain circumstances. The legislation would add definitions for vehicular use area, ornamental fencing, and permeable surfaces. The Ordinance would amend the Public Works Code to delineate an establishment period for street trees and process to address the replacement of dead street trees. The Ordinance would make environmental findings and findings of consistency with the City's General Plan and Planning Code Section 101.1.

Background Information

This Ordinance seeks to enhance environmental benefits and the City's aesthetic quality through increasing permeable surfaces, street planting, and landscaping in the City.