



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Certificate of Determination Exemption from Environmental Review

Case No.: 2013.1157E
Project Title: 2013 San Francisco Building Codes - Proposed Amendments
Location: Citywide
Project Sponsor: Kirk Means, Building Inspector, Department of Building Inspection
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

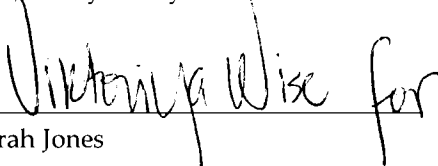
The proposed project would include updates to the current San Francisco Building, Residential, Electrical, Plumbing, and Mechanical Codes and the adoption of local amendments to the 2013 California Building Standard Codes. Elements of the proposed 2013 San Francisco Building Code would reflect a similar structure to the previously-adopted 2010 San Francisco Building Code and would retain discrete code sections for Building, Residential, Electrical, Plumbing, and Mechanical. An addition of a new individual section for the San Francisco Green Building Code, which was formerly Section 13C of the 2010 San Francisco Building Code, would be added to the proposed 2013 San Francisco Building Code. The California Green Building Code is part 11 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations and will go into effect throughout California at the same time as the 2013 California Building Standards Code, thus a Green Building Code section would be added to the proposed 2013 San Francisco Building Code.
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EXEMPT STATUS:

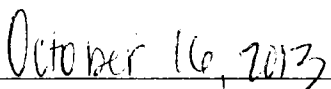
General Rule Exclusion [State Guidelines, Section 15061(b)(3)].

DETERMINATION:

I do hereby certify that the above determination has been made pursuant to State and Local requirements.



Sarah Jones
Environmental Review Officer



Date

cc: Kirk Means, Building Inspector, DBI
Judy Boyajian, Deputy City Attorney

Virna Byrd, M.D.F.
Bulletin Board

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (continued):

The San Francisco Building Code regulates and controls the design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, location, maintenance and demolition of all buildings and structures, quarrying, grading, excavation and filling of land, in the City and County of San Francisco. In addition, the Code provides safety to life and property from fire and other hazards attributed to the built environment and to provide safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations. (The full text of proposed amendments is available for review at the Department of Building Inspection (DBI)).

The proposed project is subject to review and adoption by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Approval action for the proposed project is the adoption of the proposed project (ordinance) by the Board of Supervisors. Following introduction of the proposed ordinance to the Board of Supervisors, a 30-day review and comment period would be required prior to a Land Use Committee hearing on the proposed changes to the Code. When approved, the Land Use Committee will send the proposed ordinance to the full Board. The Board of Supervisors will review and approve the proposed project (ordinance) and upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, the proposed ordinance will be forwarded to the Mayor for signature. Following mayoral signature of the proposed ordinance, there is a 30-day waiting period before the approved ordinances can become effective.

REMARKS:

Every three years, the State of California adopts new California Building Code Standards, which go into effect throughout the State within 180 days after publication. The 2013 California Building Code will go into effect throughout California on January 1, 2014. The City and County of San Francisco is required, by State law, to enforce the California Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical, Housing, and Fire Codes.

Additional discretionary actions for local jurisdictions include the ability to enact more stringent standards, or local amendments, to the California Building Code Standards. Local amendments proposed for adoption by the City of San Francisco primarily deal with administrative, procedural, informational, and non-physical aspects of the various Code sections. To the extent that the local amendments relate to physical building conditions, they are intended to improve building safety and regulate building features such as wood decks, balconies, earthquake recording instruments, and sidewalks. The physical effects of such modifications are related to building design features which are very minor, localized in terms of visibility and impact, and intended to improve building safety. In addition, these local amendments provide guidance on specific conditions that are unique to the City of San Francisco such as topography, geology, and climate.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) provides an exemption from environmental review where it can be seen with certainty that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment. Since the proposed code amendments would have no significant environmental effects, it is appropriately

exempt from environmental review under the General Rule Exclusion (CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)).

CEQA State Guidelines Section 15300.2 states that a categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. There are no unusual circumstances surrounding the current proposal that would suggest a reasonable possibility of a significant environmental effect. The proposed would have no significant environmental effects. The project would be exempt under the above-cited classification. For the above reasons, the proposed project is appropriately exempt from environmental review.