

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning Code - Landmark Designation - Wall at the Intersection of Diamond Heights Boulevard and Clipper Street (aka Diamond Heights Safety Wall)]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate the wall located at the intersection of Diamond Heights Boulevard and Clipper Street (aka Diamond Heights Safety Wall), in Assessor's Parcel Block No. 7504, Lot No. 011, as a Landmark under Article 10 of the Planning Code; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; making public necessity, convenience, and welfare findings under Planning Code, Section 302; and making findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1.

Existing Law

Under Article 10, Section 1004 of the Planning Code, the Board of Supervisors may, by ordinance, designate an individual structure that has special character or special historical, architectural or aesthetic interest or value as a City landmark. Once a structure has been named a landmark, any construction, alteration, removal or demolition for which a City permit is required necessitates a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission ("HPC"). (Planning Code Section 1006; Charter of the City and County of San Francisco, Section 4.135.) Thus, landmark designation affords a high degree of protection to historic and architectural structures of merit in the City. There are currently more than 260 individual landmarks in the City under Article 10, in addition to other structures and districts in the downtown area that are protected under Article 11. (See Appendix A to Article 10.)

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance amends the Planning Code to add a new historic landmark to the list of individual landmarks under Article 10: the wall located at the intersection of Diamond Heights Boulevard and Clipper Street, on Assessor's Parcel No. 7504, Lot 011 (aka Diamond Heights Safety Wall).

The ordinance finds that the Diamond Heights Safety Wall is eligible for designation as a City landmark under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A (association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history), and C (embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; and represents the work of a master). Specifically, designation of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall is proper given its association with the Diamond Heights Redevelopment Project, as a notable work of Bay Area artist and architect Stefan Alexander Novak, and as a visual landmark – a gateway into the Diamond Heights neighborhood.

As required by Section 1004, the ordinance lists the particular features that shall be preserved, or replaced in-kind as determined necessary.

Background Information

The landmark designation was initiated by the HPC pursuant to its authority under the Charter to recommend approval, disapproval, or modification of landmark designations and historic district designations under the Planning Code to the Board of Supervisors. The HPC held a hearing to initiate the landmark designation of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall on November 1, 2017. On December 20, 2017, after holding a public hearing on the proposed designation and having considered the community-sponsored Landmark Designation Application prepared by Robert Pullum and the Landmark Designation Case Report, the HPC voted to recommend approval of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall to the Board of Supervisors.

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