

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

Date: April 1, 2026
To: Planning Department/Planning Commission
From: John Carroll, Assistant Clerk, Land Use and Transportation Committee
Subject: Board of Supervisors Legislation Referral - File No. 260295
Housing Code - Structural Maintenance Inspections

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Determination *(California Public Resources Code, Sections 21000 et seq.)* Not defined as a project under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15378 and 15060(c)(2) because it would not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.
 Ordinance / Resolution
 Ballot Measure
4/23/2026 *Joy Navarrete*
- Amendment to the Planning Code, including the following Findings:
(Planning Code, Section 302(b): 90 days for Planning Commission review)
 General Plan Planning Code, Section 101.1 Planning Code, Section 302
- Amendment to the Administrative Code, involving Land Use/Planning
(Board Rule 3.23: 30 days for possible Planning Department review)
- General Plan Referral for Non-Planning Code Amendments
(Charter, Section 4.105, and Administrative Code, Section 2A.53)
(Required for legislation concerning the acquisition, vacation, sale, or change in use of City property; subdivision of land; construction, improvement, extension, widening, narrowing, removal, or relocation of public ways, transportation routes, ground, open space, buildings, or structures; plans for public housing and publicly-assisted private housing; redevelopment plans; development agreements; the annual capital expenditure plan and six-year capital improvement program; and any capital improvement project or long-term financing proposal such as general obligation or revenue bonds.)
- Historic Preservation Commission
 Landmark *(Planning Code, Section 1004.3)*
 Cultural Districts *(Charter, Section 4.135 & Board Rule 3.23)*
 Mills Act Contract *(Government Code, Section 50280)*
 Designation for Significant/Contributory Buildings *(Planning Code, Article 11)*

Please send the Planning Department/Commission recommendation/determination to John Carroll at john.carroll@sfgov.org.

1 [Housing Code - Structural Maintenance Inspections]

2
3 **Ordinance amending the Housing Code to revise qualifications and deadlines for**
4 **conducting structural maintenance inspections; and affirming the Planning**
5 **Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.**

6 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
7 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
8 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.
9 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.
10 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
11 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
12 subsections or parts of tables.

13 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

14 Section 1. Findings.

15 (a) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this
16 ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources
17 Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of
18 Supervisors in File No. ____ and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board affirms this
19 determination.

20 (b) On _____, the Building Inspection Commission considered this
21 ordinance at a duly noticed public hearing pursuant to Charter Section 4.121 and Building
22 Code Section 104A.2.11.2. A copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Building Inspection
23 Commission regarding the Commission's recommendation is on file with the Clerk of the
24 Board of Supervisors in File No. _____.

25 (c) No local findings are required under California Health and Safety Code Section
17958.7 because the amendments to the Housing Code contained in this ordinance do not

1 regulate materials or manner of construction or repair, and instead relate in their entirety to
2 administrative procedures for implementing the code, which are expressly excluded from the
3 definition of a “building standard” by California Health and Safety Code Section 18909(c).

4
5 Section 2. Chapter 6 of the Housing Code is hereby amended by revising Section 604,
6 to read as follows:

7 **SEC. 604. STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE.**

8 (a) **Affidavit Required.** All wood and metal decks, balconies, landings, exit
9 corridors, stairway systems, guardrails, handrails, ~~fire escapes,~~ or any parts thereof in weather-
10 exposed areas of apartment buildings and hotels shall be inspected by (i) a licensed general
11 contractor with a minimum of five years’ experience holding the “A,” “B,” or “C-5” license
12 classifications (or any combination thereof) issued by the Contractors State License Board and a
13 minimum of five years’ experience in constructing multistory wood frame buildings, or (ii) an
14 individual certified as a building inspector or building official from a recognized state, national, or
15 international association, ~~or a structural pest control licensee,~~ or (iii) a licensed professional
16 architect or licensed professional civil or structural engineer, verifying that the exit system,
17 corridor, balcony, deck or any part thereof is in general safe condition, in adequate working
18 order, and free from hazardous dry rot, fungus, deterioration, decay, or improper alteration.
19 Licensed general contractors or any other individuals hired to complete this inspection shall not be
20 employed by the City and County of San Francisco while performing the inspection. Property owners
21 shall provide proof of compliance with this subsection by submitting an affidavit form (provided
22 by the Department) signed by the responsible inspector to the Housing Inspection Services
23 Division every ~~six~~ five years. Properties subject to California Health and Safety Code Section 17973
24 may delay or advance the submittal deadline for the affidavit required by this subsection to align with
25 the timelines required for Section 17973 inspection reports. This alteration of the affidavit timeline

1 may not allow any property to forgo submitting an affidavit for more than seven years. For purposes
2 of this subsection, "weather-exposed areas" means those areas which are not interior building
3 areas. The affidavit process shall commence on January 1, 2004.

4
5 Section 3. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors
6 intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles,
7 numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal
8 Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment
9 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under
10 the official title of the ordinance.

11
12 Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective at 12:00 a.m. on the
13 31st day after enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor
14 returns the ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it,
15 or the Board of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

16
17
18 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
19 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

20 By: /s/ Robb Kapla
21 ROBB KAPLA
22 Deputy City Attorney

23 4931-6950-2873, v. 1
24
25

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Housing Code - Structural Maintenance Inspections]

Ordinance amending the Housing Code to revise qualifications and deadlines for conducting structural maintenance inspections; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

Section 604 of the Housing Code requires property owners of apartment buildings and hotels conduct inspections of all outdoor decks, balconies, landings, exit corridors, and stairs for hazardous conditions every five years. These inspections must be conducted and verified by a licensed general contractor, structural pest control licensee, architect, or engineer.

Amendments to Current Law

The Proposed Legislation revises the categories of qualified inspectors into 3 groups: (1) licensed contractors with A, B, or C-5 classifications (or any combination) and five years experience; (2) state, regional, or nationally certified building inspectors or building officials; and (3) licensed architects, civil or structural engineers. Individuals conducting inspections must not be current employees of the City. The Proposed Legislation would also allow properties subject to California Health and Safety Code Section 17973 to align their Section 604 inspection frequency with the timelines for Section 17973 inspection reports.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SAN FRANCISCO



DANIEL LURIE
MAYOR

TO: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
FROM: Dexter Darmali, Legislative & Ethics Secretary
RE: Housing Code - Structural Maintenance Inspections
DATE: March 24, 2026

Ordinance amending the Housing Code to revise qualifications and deadlines for conducting structural maintenance inspections; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Should you have any questions, please contact Adam Thongsavat at adam.thongsavat@sfgov.org