

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Business and Tax Regulations Code - Public Realm Landscaping, Improvement, and Maintenance Assessment Districts]

Ordinance amending the Business and Tax Regulations Code, by adding Article 15A “Public Realm Landscaping, Improvement and Maintenance Assessment Districts,” to provide for establishment of assessment districts to finance landscaping, improvements, and maintenance of Public Realm areas (outdoor spaces open to the public), including parks, parklets, sidewalks, landscaped areas, plazas, and gardens; to authorize the purchase of real property with assessment funds, where property will be a Public Realm area, and the district will provide landscaping, improvements and/or maintenance; and making environmental findings.

Existing Law

Current Article 15 in the City’s Business and Tax Regulations Code (“Business Improvement Districts Procedure Code”) provides a procedural vehicle for establishment of assessment districts focused on businesses, by augmenting and modifying state law, the “Property and Business Improvement District Law of 1994” (California Streets and Highways Code §§36600 *et seq.*).

Amendments to Current Law

This Article 15A will create a procedural vehicle for neighborhoods to establish assessment districts that focus on landscaping, improvements, and maintenance of Public Realm areas. Article 15A similarly augments and modifies state law, the “Property and Business Improvement District Law of 1994” (California Streets and Highways Code §§36600 *et seq.*). As defined in Article 15A, Public Realm areas are outdoor spaces open to the public, including parks, parklets, sidewalks, landscaped areas, plazas, and gardens. Article 15A also includes a provision for utilization of assessment funds to purchase or participate in the purchase of real property that will be a Public Realm area, where the district will provide landscaping, improvements and/or maintenance.