

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code – Film Rebate Program]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to allow the Film Commission, through the Department of Real Estate, to rent space for film production activities and sublease such space to film production companies; to expand the production costs eligible for the Film Rebate Program to include rent payments for such spaces; and making environmental findings.

Existing Law

Under Section 57.8 of the Administrative Code, the City provides a Film Rebate Program in order to increase the number of qualified film productions in San Francisco, increase the number of City residents employed in the filmmaking industry, and encourage the resulting economic benefits to increased filmmaking in San Francisco. As part of the Film Rebate Program, qualified film productions are eligible for rebates on certain qualified film production expenses paid to the City. Currently, the Film Rebate Program does not allow qualified film production companies to obtain a rebate for rent payments made for use of non-City property. In addition, Section 57.8 does not expressly allow the Film Commission to rent property to film production companies.

Amendments to Current Law

Under the proposed Ordinance, the Film Commission, acting through the Department of Real Estate, would be authorized to rent space for film production activities and sublease such space to film production companies when the Executive Director of the Film Commission determines that no suitable alternative City property is available for such proposed film production activities. In addition, the proposed Ordinance expressly expands the definition of the “qualified production costs” that are eligible for rebate to include rental payments made to the City for “property leased by the City.”

Background Information

According to the Film Commission, although the Film Commission encourages film production companies to use City property, suitable City property is not always available for proposed film production activities. Accordingly, in some cases, the City would need to lease space in order to accommodate and facilitate film production activities.