

## **LEGISLATIVE DIGEST**

[Planning Code - Landmark Designation - “Allegory of California,” The City Club of San Francisco (formerly Pacific Stock Exchange Luncheon Club), 155 Sansome Street]

**Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate the fresco titled “Allegory of California” in the grand stairwell between 10th and 11th floors of The City Club of San Francisco (former Pacific Stock Exchange Luncheon Club), within 155 Sansome Street, Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 0268, Lot No. 001A, as a Landmark consistent with the standards set forth in Article 10 of the Planning Code; affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and making public necessity, convenience, and welfare findings under Planning Code, Section 302, and 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. Unless prohibited by state law, 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. (Planning Code § 1006; Charter of the City and County of San Francisco, § 4.135.) Thus, landmark designation generally affords a high degree of protection to historic and architectural structures of merit in the City. There are currently 292 individual landmarks in the City under Article 10, in addition to structures and districts in the downtown area that are protected under Article 11. (See App. 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 fresco titled “Allegory of California” in the grand stairwell between 10th and 11th floors of The City Club of San Francisco (former Pacific Stock Exchange Luncheon Club), within 155 Sansome Street, Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 0268, Lot No. 001A (“the Fresco”).

The ordinance finds that the Fresco is eligible for designation as it is associated with events that have made a culturally and historically significant contribution to the broad patterns of San Francisco history and it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and work of master artist Diego Rivera. Specifically, designation of the Fresco, which depicts classic themes and motifs found in Rivera compositions including harmony between nature and machine, a glorification of the past while looking toward the future, and a panorama of historical figures, is proper given its association with the

preeminent Mexican artist, Diego Rivera. The Fresco, designed and painted on the walls and ceiling of an interior stairwell for the former Pacific Stock Exchange, reflects its immediate environment, physically and artistically, and is the first fresco by Rivera painted in the United States. The Fresco is also significant for its association with the Latinx and Chicanx arts communities, a significant and vibrant part of San Francisco's cultural heritage.

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

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