

**LEGISLATIVE DIGEST**

[Public Works Code - Public Works Graffiti Abatement Pilot Program]

**Ordinance amending the Public Works Code to require Public Works to create a pilot program allowing property owners in commercial areas to opt into graffiti abatement by Public Works at no cost to the property owner; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act**

Existing Law

Under Public Works Code Article 23, it is unlawful for a property owner to allow graffiti to remain on the property owner. Public Works is charged with issuing Notices of Violations when the Director determines that property contains graffiti in violation of the code. Property owners can request hearings to demonstrate a hardship, in which case, the Director may remove the graffiti at no cost, subject to certain conditions. If no hardship is shown, the Director may provide paint to the property owner at no charge. In addition, the Director may order that the graffiti be abated, but must obtain a court order prior to the Public Works entering onto the property, and any abatement is subject to state and federal art preservation laws.

Amendments to Current Law

The amendment would create a pilot program in which property owners in commercial corridors may opt into having Public Works abate graffiti. The program would last for approximately two years.

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