

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code - Permit Prioritization]

Ordinance amending the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code to create a Permit Prioritization Task Force responsible for recommending permit prioritization guidelines to the Department of Building Inspection, Planning Department, and Department of Public Works, requiring those departments to review and update their permit prioritization guidelines periodically, and requiring the commissions that oversee each department to approve the department's permit prioritization guidelines; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

City law requires the Department of Building Inspection, the Planning Department and the Department of Public Works to treat all permit applicants the same and to process permits in the order they are received unless such departments have made a written finding that there is a public policy basis for prioritizing the review of certain types of permits. The departments are required to adopt written permit prioritization guidelines.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would create an interdepartmental Permit Prioritization Task Force consisting of four members appointed by the Director of the Department of Building Inspection, Planning Director, Director of Public Works, and the President of the Board of Supervisors, respectively. The Director of the Permit Center or designee will also be a member of the Task Force and serve as its chair. The Task Force will review the departments' existing permit prioritization guidelines and recommend appropriate modifications to the department heads and oversight commissions. The goal of the Task Force will be to develop a list of permit types that each department includes in their prioritization guidelines to streamline review of prioritized project types. The proposed ordinance will require the departments' oversight commissions to approve the updated prioritization guidelines and any subsequent changes to the guidelines, and will require the departments to periodically review and modify the guidelines as necessary or appropriate. Finally, the proposed ordinance will require the departments to collect and annually report data on processing times for prioritized permits and to report on the impact prioritization has on non-prioritized permits.

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