

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[General Plan - Port of San Francisco Waterfront Plan Update]

Ordinance amending the Recreation and Open Space Element, Central Waterfront Area Plan, and Northeastern Waterfront Area Plan of the General Plan to maintain consistency with the Port of San Francisco’s Waterfront Plan update; and making environmental findings, including adopting a statement of overriding considerations, and findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1, and findings of public necessity, convenience, and welfare under Planning Code, Section 340.

Existing Law

State law requires cities and counties to prepare and adopt a comprehensive, long-term General Plan for development. The General Plan may address any subjects that, in the judgment of the Board of Supervisors, relate to the physical development of the City.

The City’s General Plan contains a Recreation and Open Space Element, among others. It also contains several area plans, including the Central Waterfront Area Plan and Northeastern Waterfront Area Plan. The Board of Supervisors amends these elements and area plans from time to time to reflect changed circumstances. The Central Waterfront Area Plan and Northeastern Waterfront Area Plan provide land use controls and proposed community improvements for much of the City’s waterfront.

In 1997, the Port Commission first adopted its Waterfront Plan (previously the Waterfront Land Use Plan), which is the long-range plan that sets forth policies for the use and improvement of properties owned and managed by the Port of San Francisco. On April 11, 2023, after an extensive community engagement process, the Port adopted an updated Waterfront Plan.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed legislation would amend the Central Waterfront Area Plan, Northeastern Waterfront Area Plan, and Recreation and Open Space Element of the General Plan to reflect changes and new developments that have occurred since the Plan Areas and Element were last updated, and to make minor changes to the objectives, policies, and text of these area plans and element to align the General Plan with the updated Waterfront Plan and other policy documents.

Background Information

The Port conducted a thorough public planning process for the updated Waterfront Plan, which included the creation of a Waterfront Plan Working Group that presented extensive

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policy recommendations to the Port Commission, and the adoption of a draft updated Waterfront Plan in 2019. The Planning Commission initiated this ordinance, pursuant to Planning Code section 340, on March 9, 2023. This ordinance is a companion to other legislative amendments to the Planning Code and Zoning Map that would give effect to the updated Waterfront Plan.

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