

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning Code, Zoning Map - Density Calculation in RC, RTO, NC, and Certain Named NCDs]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to replace numerical density limits in Residential-Commercial (RC), Residential Transit Oriented (RTO), Neighborhood Commercial (NC) and certain Neighborhood Commercial Districts (NCD), except for parcels located in the Priority Equity Geographies Special Use District, with already-existing regulations on the built envelope of buildings, such as height, bulk and setbacks; creating the Priority Equity Geographies Special Use District; amending the Zoning Map to add the Priority Equity Geographies Special Use District; 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

The Planning Code regulates the density of dwelling units either by (1) limiting the number of units per lot or per square foot of lot area – known as numerical density limits; or (2) by allowing as many units as may be constructed while complying with applicable requirements and limitations set forth elsewhere in the Code, such as height, bulk, setbacks, open space, exposure and unit mix – known as form-based density.

Most Residential-Commercial (RC), Residential Transit Oriented (RTO), and Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Districts, and certain Named Neighborhood Commercial Districts have numerical density limits.

The 2022 Housing Element, adopted in January 2023, identifies several neighborhoods in the City that have been designated as Priority Equity Geographies, based on data from the Department of Public Health. Priority Equity Geographies are areas of the city that have a significant concentration of underserved populations, such as households with low incomes and communities of color.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would change the density requirements in RC, RTO, NC and certain Named NC District’s to form-based density, and would create the Priority Equity Geographies Special Use District. If a parcel in an RC, RTO, NC or Named NC District is within the newly created Priority Equity Geographies Special Use District, existing numerical density limits would continue to apply.

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