

REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST
(Revised in Committee: 03/28/2011)

[Planning Code - Urban Agriculture]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to update controls related to urban agricultural uses by adding Section 102.34 to define urban agriculture, including neighborhood agriculture and large-scale urban agriculture, and amending Sections 204.1, 209.5, 227, 234.1, 234.2, and Articles 7 and 8 to regulate such uses in various zoning districts; and making findings including environmental findings and findings of consistency with General Plan and Section 101.1.

Existing Law

The San Francisco Planning Code regulates a variety of agricultural uses, such as horticulture, plant nursery, community garden, and neighborhood garden in its residential, commercial, and industrial districts. Many of these uses are not recognized as a discrete zoning uses in Planning Code Article 7 (the Neighborhood Commercial Districts) or Article 8 (the Mixed-use Districts).

Amendments to Current Law

This Ordinance would add Planning Code 102.34 to define urban agricultural use, including neighborhood agriculture and large-scale urban agriculture. The difference between these two types of agricultural use is based on size devoted to the use and certain performance criteria as set forth in the legislation, such as permitting sales of produce during certain hours and storage of equipment. The legislation would treat such urban agricultural uses as either permitted or conditionally authorized in the City's residential, commercial, industrial, neighborhood commercial, and mixed-use districts. The Ordinance also makes environmental findings and findings of consistency with the General Plan and Planning Code Section 101.1.

Background Information

In July 2009 the Mayor issued Executive Directive 09-03 regarding "Healthy and Sustainable Food for San Francisco," which directed all City departments to carry out implementing actions consistent with the goal of fostering local food production in the City. This Ordinance is an outgrowth and expansion of that effort City-wide and would recognize the various scales and intensities of local food production, from small scale gardens to larger-scale urban agriculture.