



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

September 19, 2012

Mayor Edwin Lee, Supervisors David Chiu , Jane Kim and
Ms. Angela Calvillo, Clerk
Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

1650 Mission St.
Suite 400
San Francisco,
CA 94103-2479

Reception:
415.558.6378

Fax:
415.558.6409

Planning
Information:
415.558.6377

Re: Transmittal of Planning Case Number 2012.0901T
BF No. 12-0464:

Recommendation: Approval

Dear Mayor Lee, Supervisors Chiu and Kim, and Ms. Calvillo,

On August 16th, 2012, the San Francisco Planning Commission (hereinafter "Commission") conducted a duly noticed public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting to consider the proposed Ordinance under Board of Supervisors File Number 12-0464.

At the June 16th Hearing, the Commission voted 6-0 to recommend approval with modifications of the proposed Ordinance which would amend the Planning Code to provide that as of January 1, 2013, the requirements of the inclusionary affordable housing program apply only to housing projects of 10 units or more and will no longer apply to buildings of 5 to 9 units that have not yet received a first construction document.

The attached resolution provides more detail about the Commission's action. If you have any questions or require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AM-Rodgers", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

AnMarie Rodgers
Manager of Legislative Affairs

Cc: City Attorneys Jon Givner, Clerk Allisa Miller and Susan Cleveland-Knowles

Attachments (one copy of the following):

Planning Commission Resolution No. 18692
Department Executive Summary



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Planning Commission Resolution No.18692

HEARING DATE: AUGUST 16TH , 2012

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Project Name: Threshold for Inclusionary Housing

Case Number: 2012.0901T [Board File No. 12-0464]

Initiated by: Mayor Edwin M. Lee, Supervisors David Chiu and Jane Kim

Introduced on: June 26, 2012

Staff Contact: Kimia Haddadan, 415.575.9068
kimia.haddadan@sfgov.org

Reviewed by: AnMarie Rodgers, Manager Legislative Affairs
anmarie.rodgers@sfgov.org, 415.558.6395

90-Day Deadline: September 26th, 2012

Recommendation: **Approval**

RECOMMENDING THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PASS AN ORDINANCE WITH AMENDMENTS TO THE SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING CODE SECTION 415.3 TO 1) PROVIDE THAT, AS OF JANUARY 1, 2013, THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE INCLUSIONARY AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM APPLY ONLY TO HOUSING PROJECTS OF 10 UNITS OR MORE AND WILL NO LONGER APPLY TO BUILDINGS OF 5 TO 9 UNITS THAT HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A FIRST CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENT; 2) SETTING A CONDITION OF OPERATION OF THE ORDINANCE WOULD BE ONLY UPON THE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HOUSING TRUST FUND CHARTER AMENDMENT; AND MAKING ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS AND FINDINGS OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE GENERAL PLAN AND PLANNING CODE SECTION 101.1 AND 302.

PREAMBLE

Whereas, on June 6, 2012 Mayor Edwin Lee, Supervisors David Chiu, and Jane Kim introduced a proposed Ordinance under Board File Number 12-0464 that would amend Planning Code by making amendments to the San Francisco Planning Code Section 415.3 to 1) provide that, as of January 1, 2013, the requirements of the inclusionary affordable housing program apply only to housing projects of 10 units or more and will no longer apply to buildings of 5 to 9 units that have not yet received a first construction document; and 2) setting a condition of operation of the Ordinance would be only upon the adoption and implementation of the Housing Trust Fund Charter Amendment; and

Whereas, the proposal was a part of the larger Housing Trust Fund legislation proposed by Mayor Edwin Lee which would contribute to affordable housing about \$1.2 billion over the course of the next thirty years; and

Whereas, since the introduction of the proposed Ordinance, the Planning Department recommended approval of the proposed Ordinance; and

Whereas, on August 16th, 2012 the San Francisco Planning Commission (hereinafter "Commission") conducted a duly noticed public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting to consider the proposed Ordinance and the proposed modification; and

Whereas, the proposed Ordinance have been found exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act per sections 15060(c)(2); and

Whereas, the Commission has heard and considered the testimony presented to it at the public hearing and has further considered written materials and oral testimony presented by Department staff, and other interested parties; and

Whereas, the all pertinent documents may be found in the files of the Department, as the custodian of records, at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco; and

Whereas, the Commission has reviewed the proposed Ordinance; and

MOVED, that the Commission hereby recommends that the Board of Supervisors recommend *approval* of the proposed Ordinance.

FINDINGS

Having reviewed the materials identified in the preamble above, and having heard all testimony and arguments, this Commission finds, concludes, and determines as follows:

1. There is a critical need for affordable housing in San Francisco amplified by the continuous decline in funding sources. Federal assistance to affordable housing has experienced a significant cutback since the 1970s; Budget Authority's housing assistance has declined by 48% since 1976, from \$56.4 billion to \$29.2 billion. More recently, the redevelopment agencies across California were resolved, which left San Francisco with a void of \$40 to \$50 Million per year for affordable housing.
2. The Housing Trust Fund strives to respond to this critical need for affordable housing, matching San Francisco's need for low to moderate housing production with significant funding. Over 30 years, the Housing Trust Fund will provide approximately \$1.2 billion for affordable housing production. Total investment in housing and the economy over the 30 year span of the Housing Trust Fund will be approximately \$3 billion in today's dollars.
3. The Housing Trust Fund includes many components which were determined through collaborations among fifty groups of stakeholders including affordable housing advocates,

market-rate developers, Mayor's Office, Members of the Board of Supervisors, property owners, and lenders among other groups. On July 24, 2012, the Board of Supervisors approved the Housing Trust Fund to be placed on the ballot for the November 6, 2012 elections.

4. Moving the threshold of the inclusionary housing program from 5 or more units to 10 or more units is one of those components. Smaller-scale projects (such as 5-9 unit projects) represent the most prevalent type of infill development in the City. Sponsors of such projects indicate that removing the burden of inclusionary program would stimulate such projects, helping the City to best utilize the infill sites; and contribute to the dire need for housing. Residential developers argue that the inclusionary program imposes a higher burden on smaller-scale projects compared to other projects. Staff did not find data that could support this assumption and believes such units can potentially maintain the flexibility to absorb the inclusionary program costs
5. Since 2006, there has been only about seven projects (with 5-9 units) completed that were subject to the inclusionary requirements. Not one of these projects have been constructed yet. Three of these projects are expected to provide on-site Below Market Rate units (three units in total), and the other four projects would pay the in lieu fee which would amount to approximately \$1.4M. There are also 16 projects of this type in the pipeline, constituting 107 units. These projects have not received entitlements yet. Assuming that all these units move forward to completion, and that they all choose the in-lieu fee option, the City would receive another \$5.5M. These projects would likely become exempt from the inclusionary program, should the proposed Ordinance becomes effective.
6. Affordable housing provided as a result of 5-9 unit projects remain minuscule compared to what the Housing Trust Fund would contribute, if passed by the voters. Moving the threshold from 10 units or more to 5 units or more is a piece of a large package, for which all stakeholders compromised to achieve consensus. Currently, the Housing Trust Fund has the support of all stakeholders involved in the process of negotiations; and should it pass at the elections, it would introduce a continuous and reliable revenue stream to affordable housing development.
7. **General Plan Compliance.** The proposed Ordinance is, on balance, consistent with the following Objectives and Policies of the General Plan:

OBJECTIVE 7

Secure funding and resources for permanently affordable housing, including innovative programs that are not solely reliant on traditional mechanisms or capital.

POLICY 7.1

Expand the financial resources available for permanently affordable housing, especially permanent sources.

San Francisco should continue to be a leader in identifying, securing and mandating funding for permanently affordable housing. Building on a good track record for securing federal and state funds, the City shall continue to lobby for necessary funding in coordination with regional

entities. Local programs such as HOPE-SF, inclusionary housing and 50% set asides of Redevelopment Areas' Tax Increment Financing dollars demonstrate a strong dedication to providing local funding to affordable housing. These programs should be continued and expanded as feasible.

A dedicated, permanent source of local funding for housing programs will also help address the need for affordability over the long-term. Currently, local funding for affordable housing is dependent on annual budgeting, which makes long-term planning difficult. It also creates a situation where affordable housing funding is dramatically effected by downturns in the economy, which further exacerbates issues already faced by low-income families. Ultimately San Francisco's affordable housing programs should have a permanent funding source.

The proposed Ordinance would advance this Objective and Policy by supporting the Housing Trust Fund legislation as an innovative funding approach at the critical time when the City is in desperate need for affordable housing.

8. **Planning Code Section 302 Findings.** The Planning Commission finds from the facts presented that the public necessity, convenience and general welfare require the proposed amendments to the Planning Code as set forth in Section 302.
9. **Planning Code Section 101 Findings.** The proposed replacement project is generally consistent with the eight General Plan priority policies set forth in Section 101.1 in that:

- A) The existing neighborhood-serving retail uses will be preserved and enhanced and future opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of such businesses will be enhanced:

The proposed Ordinance will have no adverse impact on the neighborhood-serving retail uses.

- B) The existing housing and neighborhood character will be conserved and protected in order to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhoods:

The proposed Ordinance will have no adverse effect on existing housing and neighborhood character. The proposed Ordinance will help ensure that neighborhoods maintain a mix of housing for diverse economic levels

- C) The City's supply of affordable housing will be preserved and enhanced:

The proposed Ordinance will facilitate approval of the Housing Trust Fund that would significantly enhance affordable housing finance in the City. Over 30 years, the Housing Trust Fund is estimated to provide approximately \$1.2 billion for affordable housing production.

- D) The commuter traffic will not impede MUNI transit service or overburden our streets or neighborhood parking:

The proposed Ordinance will not result in commuter traffic impeding MUNI transit service or overburdening the streets or neighborhood parking.

- E) A diverse economic base will be maintained by protecting our industrial and service sectors from displacement due to commercial office development. And future opportunities for resident employment and ownership in these sectors will be enhanced:

The proposed Ordinance will not result in displacement of industrial or service sectors.

- F) The City will achieve the greatest possible preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an earthquake.

The proposed Ordinance would not affect the preparedness against injury and loss of life in an earthquake.

- G) That landmark and historic buildings will be preserved:

The proposed Ordinance would not adversely affect landmark and historic buildings.

- H) Parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas will be protected from development:

The proposed Ordinance would not adversely affect parks and open spaces in terms their access to sunlight and vistas.

I hereby certify that the Planning Commission ADOPTED the foregoing Resolution on August 16th, 2012.

Linda Avery
Commission Secretary

AYES: Antonini, Fong, Hillis, Moore, Sugaya, Wu

NAYS:

ABSENT: Borden

ADOPTED: 8/16/2012



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Executive Summary Planning Code Text Change HEARING DATE: AUGUST 16TH, 2012

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Project Name: Threshold for Inclusionary Housing

Case Number: 2012.0901T [Board File No. 120464]

Initiated by: Mayor Edwin M. Lee, Supervisors David Chiu and Jane Kim

Introduced on: June 26, 2012

Staff Contact: Kimia Haddadan, 415.575.9068
kimia.haddadan@sfgov.org

Reviewed by: AnMarie Rodgers, Manager Legislative Affairs
anmarie.rodgers@sfgov.org, 415.558.6395

90-Day Deadline: September 26th, 2012

Recommendation: **Approval**

PLANNING CODE AMENDMENTS

The proposed Ordinance would initiate amendments to the San Francisco Planning Code Section 415.3 to 1) provide that, as of January 1, 2013, the requirements of the inclusionary affordable housing program apply only to housing projects of 10 units or more and will no longer apply to buildings of 5 to 9 units that have not yet received a first construction document; and 2) condition of operation of the Ordinance would be only upon the adoption and implementation of the Housing Trust Fund Charter Amendment.

The Way It Is Now:

Section 415 of the Planning Code currently establishes requirements for residential projects of five units or more to provide a certain amount of housing affordable to specific household income ranges. In addition, in the absence of San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, a dedicated local funding source for affordable housing does not exist.

The Way It Would Be:

The proposed Ordinance would amend Planning Code Section 415.3 to raise the unit number threshold of housing projects subject to affordable housing provisions to 10 and more units, from the existing 5 and more units. This proposed change would only apply if the Housing Trust Fund Charter Amendment passes at the November 6, 2012 elections. The Housing Trust Fund would dedicate a certain portion of the General Fund each year, for thirty years, to affordable housing. It should be noted that this Ordinance only proposes to change the threshold for which projects would be subject to the Inclusionary Affordable Housing Program. This Ordinance does *not* otherwise change the requirements. The Housing Trust Fund, however, does propose lowering the requirements for the provision of on-site units.

ISSUES AND CONSIDERATION

Background

In July, 2012 Mayor Edwin Lee and Supervisors David Chiu and Jane Kim introduced a legislation which proposes to establish a new Housing Trust Fund dedicated to providing affordable housing and other housing related assistance. The proposal came after the State of California ruled to remove the Redevelopment Agency which removed a significant source of financing for affordable housing in San Francisco. Over fifty stakeholders in housing convened and underwent a detailed negotiation process to determine the components of the Housing Trust Fund. The stakeholders for the Housing Trust Fund Working Group include affordable housing advocates, market-rate developers, Mayor's Office, Members of the Board of Supervisors, property owners, and lenders among other groups. On July 24, 2012, the Board of Supervisors approved the Housing Trust Fund to be placed on the ballot for the November 6, 2012 elections.

The three major components of the Housing Trust Fund are as follows:

- Dedicate annual contribution of the General Fund to the newly established Housing Trust Fund, for thirty years. First year contributions would be \$20M, plus an additional \$2.8M each year, until the limit of \$50.8M per year is reached.
- Lower the existing on-site inclusionary housing requirement¹ by 20%. In practice, the City would calculate the required inclusionary units (15% of the project's total units) and then reduce that number by 20% if the units are to be provided on-site. However, in no case shall the on-site requirement be less than 12% of the units provided.
- Prohibit future increases to the inclusionary housing requirements, with certain exceptions.

This group of stakeholders developed this proposed Ordinance as a companion piece. While not part of the Charter Amendment that will be before the voters, the stakeholders determined that this change was necessary to create consensus:

- Companion legislation raising the unit threshold for the inclusionary housing requirements from housing projects with 5 units or more to projects with 10 units or more.

In the past decade, there have been changes to the inclusionary housing program. In 1992, the Planning Commission adopted the City's first Inclusionary Affordable Housing Policy, requiring housing projects with 10 or more units that seek a conditional use permit or planned unit development to provide 10% of those units as affordable housing. In 2002 the City revised this policy to apply to all housing projects with 10 or more units, with higher requirements for projects receiving a conditional use permit or planned unit development. Most recently, in 2006 legislation passed which modified the requirements in several aspects; among them were: increasing inclusionary requirements, revisions to the Area Median Income calculations, expanding the requirements by lowering the unit threshold from projects with 10 or more units to projects with 5 or more units.

¹ The existing requirements of Section 415 Inclusionary Affordable Housing Program are as follows: either fee payment or provision of 15% of the project's units as on-site affordable units or the provision of 20% of project's units off-site as affordable to low- to moderate-income households. The fee payment is calculated based on the off-site requirements percentage (usually 20% with exceptions in the Eastern Neighborhoods), proportional to unit type (studio, 1-2-3 bedroom and so forth). This percentage is then multiplied by the affordability gap, which is the difference between the cost of producing the unit and the maximum unit sales price when sold as an affordable unit.

The proposed Ordinance before the Commission today would revert the threshold for inclusionary requirements to what was in place before the 2006 legislation.

Housing Trust Fund and need for affordable housing

San Francisco severely lacks housing affordable to moderate, low and very low income households. Comparing current housing productions trends with what Regional Housing Need Allocations² (RHNA) projected for these income ranges better illustrates this fact. As of the first quarter of 2012, only 25% of the RHNA projection for households earning 80%-120% of AMI has been met. This percentage plummets to 17% for households earning 50%-79% of AMI.

Such critical need is amplified by the continuous dwindling of funding sources for affordable housing. In the past few decades, there has been a consistent downward trend in federal funding allocated to subsidize housing production. Federal assistance for affordable housing, historically a pillar of support for affordable housing in San Francisco, has steadily declined since the 1970s; Budget Authority's housing assistance declined by 48% since 1976, from \$56.4 billion to \$29.2 billion (See Exhibit A, Figure 1). In just the past five years, yearly federal housing funds allocated to San Francisco have been almost cut in half, from over \$13 million per year to under \$8 million per year. The Mayor's Office of Housing projects a 48 percent cut to federal HOME funds, which is one of the primary sources of federal affordable housing funding to San Francisco. This decrease in city allocated federal funding, combined with the elimination of redevelopment agencies, has resulted in projected available housing resources dropping from a five-year high of over \$140 million dollars for FY 2008-2009 to a projected total of less than \$20 million in FY 2012-13. At the local level, San Francisco, along with other municipalities across California, recently lost a secured funding resource for affordable housing with the abolishment of redevelopment agencies. Historically, Redevelopment Agency tax increment and bond proceeds accounted for more than 50% of the total funding for affordable housing development and preservation, about \$40 to \$50 million a year.

The Housing Trust Fund strives to respond to this critical need for affordable housing, matching San Francisco's need for low to moderate housing production with significant funding. Over 30 years, the Housing Trust Fund will provide approximately \$1.2 billion for affordable housing production. Total investment in housing and the economy over the 30 year span of the Housing Trust Fund will be approximately \$3 billion in today's dollars.

Examining 5-9 unit buildings

Fewer 5-9 unit buildings produced. The 5-9 unit projects constitute only 6% of residential projects in San Francisco, providing only 3% of all residential units in the City in the past ten years. Therefore, this Ordinance would affect a relatively small portion of development projects in the City. Staff looked at the development trend for 5-9 unit projects since the inclusionary requirements were expanded to include these smaller projects. While data shows a decline in development 5-9 unit buildings since 2006, the downward trend began a few years before during the early 2000s. In addition, such decline is also visible in other smaller to moderate scale projects, specifically in recent years due to the 2008 market crash (See

² Amount projected by California HUD and ABAG for the 2007-2014 cycle.

Exhibit A, Figure 2) Based on these findings, one could not necessarily attribute the decline in development of 5-9 unit projects to inclusionary requirements.

Feasibility of 5-9 unit projects. In 2006, when the last significant modifications to the inclusionary housing programs occurred, the Mayor's Office hired a consultant³ to evaluate feasibility of the proposed fee. This study looked at four different development prototypes. It did not provide specific evaluation on 5-9 unit projects and moving the threshold component of the legislation. However, one of the study's prototypes, wood-frame construction residential unit over a concrete podium garage, generally matches projects with 5-9 units. The analysis of small wood frame prototype found that the inclusionary requirements would be feasible for this prototype⁴ – and that this requirement was feasible for both the on-site and the in-lieu fee options. Sample pro formas for 5-9 unit projects could more accurately evaluate the cost burden of inclusionary requirements on project sponsors of these projects. Staff was unable to secure such pro formas, in 2006.

Production of affordable housing by 5-9 unit buildings. In 2006, staff also found that within the 5-9 unit projects in the City, buildings with 6 or 8 units are the most common. Staff did not observe a high propensity in 9 unit projects, seems to show that developers did not exhibit a tendency to avoid the inclusionary housing program by building one less unit in their projects. Since 2006, there has been only about seven projects (with 5-9 units) approved that were subject to the inclusionary requirements. Not one of these projects have been constructed yet. Three of these projects are expected to provide on-site Below Market Rate units (three units in total), and the other four projects would pay the in lieu fee which would amount to approximately \$1.4M. There are also 16 projects of this type in the pipeline, constituting 107 units. These projects have not received entitlements yet. Assuming that all these units move forward to completion, and that they all choose the in-lieu fee option, the City would receive another \$5.5M. These projects would likely become exempt from the inclusionary program, should the proposed Ordinance becomes effective.

Lastly, it is important to highlight that the affordable housing provided as a result of 5-9 unit projects remain minuscule compared to what the Housing Trust Fund would contribute, if passed by the voters. Moving the threshold from 10 units or more to 5 units or more is a piece of a large package, for which all stakeholders compromised to achieve consensus. Currently, the Housing Trust Fund has the support of all stakeholders involved in the process of negotiations; and should it pass at the elections, it would introduce a continuous and reliable revenue stream to affordable housing development.

REQUIRED COMMISSION ACTION

The proposed Resolution is before the Commission so that it may recommend adoption, rejection, or adoption with modifications to the Board of Supervisors.

³ Keyser Martson Associates, Inc. Inclusionary Program San Francisco Sensitivity Analysis.

⁴ In both cases the 18% minimum Return on Cost threshold is met. Prototype 1 also meets a minimum 15% Margin on Net Sales test. The estimated timeline is 3.1 years and the Annualized Return on Equity computes to 27.6% for In-Lieu and 27.8% for On-Site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Department recommends that the Commission recommend *approval* of the proposed Ordinances and adopt the attached Draft Resolution to that effect.

Basis for Recommendation of Support

Funding prospects for affordable housing are dire. The Housing Trust Fund was formed through a collaborative process, bringing developers, affordable housing advocates, bankers, and City officials to a consensus on how to best fund affordable housing locally. The General Plan's Housing Element specifically states the City should find such funding in Policy 7.1: "Expand the financial resources available for permanently affordable housing, especially permanent sources".

The Housing Trust Fund's revenue stream for affordable housing would by far offset and overshadow any potential loss of funding caused by moving the threshold from 5 or more units to 10 or more units. There is currently not enough analysis that would support that removing 5-9 unit projects from the inclusionary program would stimulate these project types. However, staff's argument for supporting this Ordinance is that the Ordinance would only be enacted if the voters also approve the Housing Trust Fund. Therefore, staff supports this proposal as a part of the Housing Trust Fund consensus and the best avenue to protect funding for affordable housing.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This legislation was reviewed under CEQA and found not a project per CEQA guidelines Sections 15060 (c) (2).

PUBLIC COMMENT

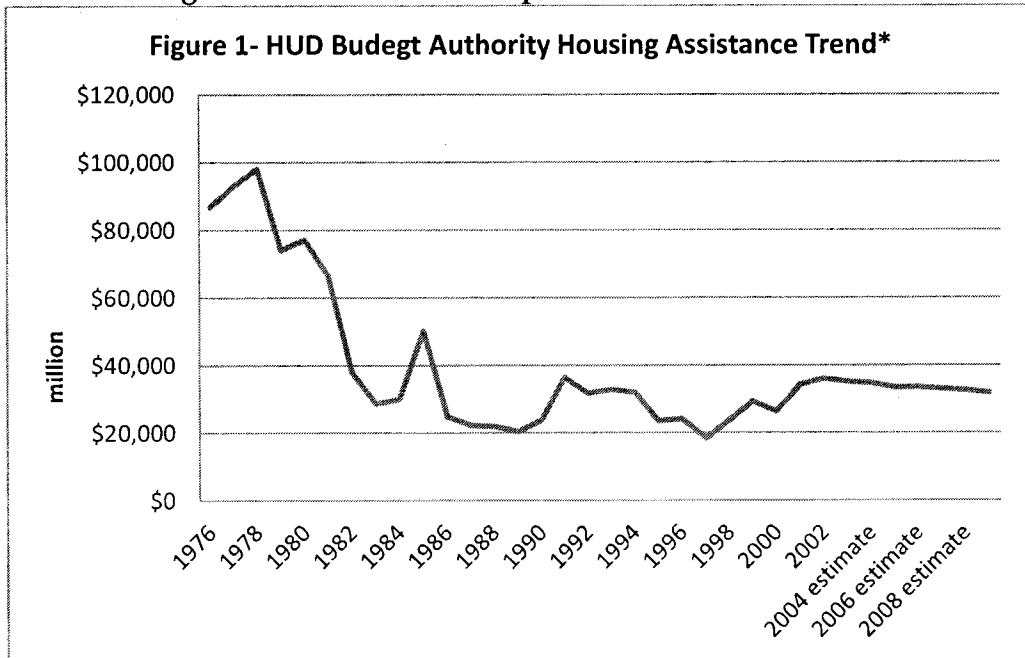
The Department has received no public comments regarding this legislation.

RECOMMENDATION:	Recommendation of Approval
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Attachments:

- Exhibit A: Housing Assistance and Development Trends
- Exhibit B: Draft Resolution
- Exhibit C: Draft Board of Supervisors Ordinance [Board File No. 12-0464]

Exhibit A- Housing Assistance and Development Trends



*Source: The National Low Income Housing Coalition, Changing Priorities: The Federal Budget and Housing Assistance, October 2004

