

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - California Environmental Quality Act Procedures, Appeal of Exempt Project Modification]

Ordinance amending Administrative Code, Chapter 31, to provide for appeal to the Planning Commission of a Planning Department determination that an exempt project modification does not require a new decision under the California Environmental Quality Act; and making environmental findings.

Existing Law

The City of San Francisco, in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq.* ("CEQA"), and CEQA Guidelines, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15000 *et seq.* has adopted local procedures for administering its responsibilities under CEQA. These procedures are codified in San Francisco Administrative Code Chapter 31. These procedures tailor the general provisions of the CEQA Guidelines to the specific operations of the City and incorporate by reference the provisions of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance amends one section of current Chapter 31. The amendment provides for a process of appealing a determination by the Planning Department to the Planning Commission when the Planning Department determines that the nature of a modification to a project it has determined to be exempt from CEQA, is insufficient to trigger the need for a new CEQA decision before a subsequent project approval action is taken.

Background Information

The ordinance is proposed to revise one aspect of the City's existing CEQA implementation procedures. A companion ordinance is also proposed that would further revise the City's existing CEQA implementation procedures.