

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Existing Building Code - Enactment of New Code]

Ordinance enacting a 2016 San Francisco Existing Building Code consisting of the 2016 California Existing Building Code with San Francisco amendments; adopting environmental findings and findings of local conditions under the California Health and Safety Code; providing for an operative date of January 1, 2017; and directing the Clerk of the Board to forward the legislation to the California Building Standards Commission as required by State law.

Existing Law

The California Existing Building Code regulates additions, alterations, or repairs to existing buildings, structures, and property. In San Francisco, the requirements for existing buildings currently are contained in Chapter 34 of the Building Code.

Amendments to Current Law

On January 1, 2017, a 2016 California Existing Building Code will go into effect throughout the State. In this State Code adoption cycle, San Francisco will enact a new San Francisco Existing Building Code and incorporate into it the requirements of Chapter 34 of the 2013 San Francisco Building Code as amendments to the 2016 California Existing Building Code (“San Francisco Amendments”).

The San Francisco Amendments are not integrated into the text of the California Codes but rather are separately printed in a stand-alone document. Therefore, the user must consult both texts in order to determine the complete code requirement. In the San Francisco Amendments, additions to the 2016 California Existing Building Code are shown in bold type; deletions are shown with strikethrough.

Background Information

The State of California adopts a new California Building Standards Code every three years (the “triennial State Code”) with supplements published in intervening years. The triennial State Code goes into effect throughout the State 180 days after its publication by the California Building Standards Commission or at a later date established by the Commission. In the current triennial State Code adoption cycle, the California Building Standards Code will go into effect on January 1, 2017. The California Building Standards Code is contained in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, and consists of several parts that are based upon model codes with amendments made by the State agencies with jurisdiction over the subject matter. The California Existing Building Code is Part 10 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.

Local jurisdictions must enforce the California Building Standards Code but they may also enact more restrictive building standards that are reasonably necessary because of local conditions caused by climate, geology, or topography. Local amendments may be made to a triennial State Code and also throughout the intervening years. However, local amendments previously adopted are not automatically applicable to a new triennial State Code. Rather, they must be re-enacted with the required findings of local conditions, expressly made applicable to the new triennial State Code, and with an operative date no earlier than the effective date of the new State Code.

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