

REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

(2/13/2017, Amended in Committee)

[Planning Code - Amusement Arcades in the South of Market Service/Light Industrial District]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to allow Amusement Arcades in the South of Market Service/Light Industrial District; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; making findings of consistency with the General Plan and the eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1; and adopting findings of public convenience, necessity, and welfare under Planning Code Section 302.

Existing Law

Planning Code Section 803.4 specifies the uses prohibited in South of Market and Eastern Neighborhoods Mixed Use Districts. An Amusement Game Arcade (defined in Section 890.4 as a "retail use which provides 11 or more amusement games such as video games, pinball machines, or other such similar mechanical and electronic amusement devices") is not permitted in any South of Market District. Section 817 establishes the zoning controls for the Service/Light Industrial (SLI) District.

Amendments to Current Law

Section 803.4 is amended to exempt the SLI District from the prohibition against Amusement Game Arcades in South of Market Districts, and the SLI Zoning Control Table is amended to allow it as a Permitted Use.

Background Information

Controls on Amusement Game Arcades and Mechanical Amusement Devices (MADs) date back to the early 1980's, when there was concern about their rapid proliferation and the potential nuisances they created. At that time, regulations were added to both the Police and Planning Codes.

In 2014, the Board of Supervisors extensively revised and updated the Police Code provisions by reducing the restrictions on the location of MADs and Arcades, lessening the permitting requirements, and deleting obsolete provisions. Within the past two years the Board has passed legislation to allow Amusement Game Arcades in Neighborhood Commercial Districts where they previously were prohibited (the Haight Street NCD and the Upper Market NCD). This ordinance has been modified from what was originally introduced to allow Amusement Game Arcades only in the South of Market SLI District.