COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: Land Use and Transportation Committee Date March 11, 2019

Board of Su	pervisors Meeting Date		
Cmte Board			
	Motion		
	Resolution		
	Ordinance		
$\overline{\square}$	Legislative Digest		
	Budget and Legislative Analyst Report		
\square	Youth Commission Report		
	Introduction Form		
	Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report		
	MOU		
	Grant Information Form		
\square	Grant Budget		
	Subcontract Budget		
	Contract/Agreement		
	Form 126 – Ethics Commission		
	Award Letter		
	Application		
	Public Correspondence		
OTHER	(Use back side if additional space is needed)		
	Referral CEQA 112217		
	Referral BIC 112217		
	Referral FYI 112217		
	CEQA Determination 113017		
	BIC Response 122018		
	Hearing Notice 031119		
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Completed by: Erica Major Date March 7, 2019			
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FILE NO. 171194

ORDINANCE 10.

[Building Code - Installation of Solar Energy Systems]

Ordinance amending the Building Code to enact an expedited and streamlined permit process for solar energy systems; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and directing the Clerk to forward this Ordinance to the Building Standards Commission upon final passage.

NOTE: Unchanged Code text and uncodified text are in plain Arial font.
Additions to Codes are in <u>single-underline italics Times New Roman font</u>.
Deletions to Codes are in <u>strikethrough italics Times New Roman font</u>.
Board amendment additions are in <u>double-underlined Arial font</u>.
Board amendment deletions are in strikethrough Arial font.
Asterisks (* * * *) indicate the omission of unchanged Code subsections or parts of tables.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. Findings.

(a) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 171194 and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board affirms this determination.

(b) The Building Inspection Commission considered this ordinance on December 19, 2018, at a duly noticed public hearing pursuant to Charter Section D3.750-5.

(c) In the 1978 California Solar Rights Act (Civil Code Sections 714 to 714.1), the Legislature declared that the implementation of consistent statewide standards to achieve the timely and cost-effective installation of solar energy systems is a matter of statewide concern and not a municipal affair. In numerous laws it has enacted since then, the Legislature has

declared it the policy of the State of California to both encourage the development of innovative distributed generation technology and to prioritize the widespread adoption of solar power as a renewable energy resource.

(d) In September 2014 the Legislature enacted AB 2188, which among other things amended Section 65850.5 of the Government Code to require that all jurisdictions within the state adopt an ordinance for an expedited, streamlined permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems. In adopting this requirement, the Legislature stated that:

(1) it is the policy of the state to promote and encourage the use of solar energy systems and limit obstacles to their use;

(2) the permitting process governing the installation of rooftop solar energy systems varies widely across jurisdictions, which is both an obstacle to the state's clean energy and greenhouse reduction goals and a burdensome cost to homeowners, businesses, schools, and public agencies;

(3) a modern and standardized permitting process for installations of smallscale solar distributed generation technology on residential rooftops will increase the deployment of solar distributed generation, help to expand access to lower income households, provide solar customers greater installation ease, improve the state's ability to reach its clean energy goals, and generate much needed jobs in the state; and

(4) it is the intent of the Legislature that local agencies comply not only with the mandatory language of the new law but also with the legislative intent to encourage the installation of solar energy systems by removing obstacles to, and minimizing costs of, permitting for such systems.

(e)

Government Code Section 65850.5(b) mandates that:

 (1) review of an application to install a solar energy system shall be limited to the building official's review of whether it meets all health and safety requirements of local, state, and federal law;

 (2) the requirements of local law be limited to those standards and regulations necessary to ensure that the solar energy system will not have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety;

(3) any conditions imposed on an application to install a solar energy system shall be designed to mitigate the specific, adverse impact upon the public health and safety at the lowest cost possible; and

(4) the local jurisdiction may not deny an application to install a solar energy system unless written findings, based upon substantial evidence in the record, are made that the proposed installation would have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety and there is no "feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific, adverse impact," as that term is defined in Government Code Section 65850.5(j).

(f) In compliance with City policy and with the state's mandates and declared legislative intent, City departments currently process applications for installation of all on-site renewable energy systems (such as solar photovoltaic, solar hot water, cogeneration, wind turbine generators, or other renewable energy features) in accordance with the Priority Permit Processing Guidelines set forth in the Department of Building Inspection's Administrative Bulletin 004. This ordinance codifies the existing process.

Section 2. California Health and Safety Code Section 17958.7. No findings are required because the ordinance enacts the expedited permit process for solar energy systems required by Government Code Section 65850.5. It does not amend a "building standard," as defined in Section 18909 of the Health and Safety Code.

Section 3. The Building Code is hereby amended by adding Section 106A.1.15, to read as follows:

106A.1.15 Solar energy systems.

106A.1.15.1 Definitions. For purposes of this Section 106A.1.15, the following definitions apply:

<u>"Solar energy system," as defined in California Government Code Section 65850.5(j) and Civil</u> <u>Code Section 801.5(a), means either of the following:</u>

1. Any solar collector or other solar energy device whose primary purpose is to provide for the collection, storage, and distribution of solar energy for space heating, space cooling, electric generation, or water heating.

2. Any structural design feature of a building, whose primary purpose is to provide for the collection, storage, and distribution of solar energy for electricity generation, space heating or cooling, or for water heating.

"Small residential rooftop solar energy system," as defined in California Government Code Section 65850.5(j), means a solar energy system that:

is no larger than 10 kilowatts alternating current nameplate rating or 30 kilowatts thermal;
is installed on a single or duplex family dwelling;.

3. has a solar panel or module array that does not exceed the maximum legal building height in applicable City codes;

<u>4. conforms to all applicable state fire, structural, electrical, and other building codes as</u> adopted or amended by the City and County of San Francisco; and

5. conforms to all state and City health and safety standards.

106A.1.15.2 Permit and fees. An electrical permit is required to install or alter a solar energy system. See Section 110A, Table 1A-E – Electrical Permit Fee Issuance and Inspection Fee Schedule for applicable fee. The fee for a building, plumbing, mechanical, or other permit, if required, shall be the fee established in the Section 110 fee tables for that permit.

EXCEPTION: An electrical permit is not required to make minor alterations to an existing solar energy system unless the alterations materially change the size, type, or components of the system in such a way as to require new permitting.

106A.1.15.3 General requirements.

<u>1. A solar energy system and its installation shall comply with Article 690 and other applicable</u> <u>sections of the Electrical Code, and any applicable sections of the Mechanical Code, Plumbing Code,</u> <u>Building Code, or other codes enforced by the Department of Building Inspection.</u>

2. A solar energy system for producing electricity shall meet all applicable safety and performance standards for such systems established by the Electrical Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and accredited testing laboratories such as Underwriters Laboratories and, where applicable, rules of the Public Utilities Commission regarding safety and reliability.

3. A solar energy system used for heating water in single-family residences or for heating water in swimming pools shall be certified by an accredited listing agency as defined by the Plumbing and Mechanical Codes.

<u>4. A solar energy system proposed for installation on a building that is a designated landmark</u> or a contributory resource in a designated historic district requires a building permit and shall be reviewed by the Planning Department pursuant to the requirements of Section 1005 and other applicable sections of Article 10 of the Planning Code.

5. Installation of a solar hot water system requires a plumbing permit.

106A.1.15.4 Permit application submittal documentation; expedited review. Upon submittal of the application and the following documentation, an application for a permit to install a solar energy system is deemed complete and eligible for expedited review in accordance with the Department's Priority Permit Processing Guidelines. (See Administrative Bulletin 004.) The application, and the documentation required by this Section 106A.1.15.4, may be submitted electronically.

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<u>1. a standard plan contained in the most current version of the California Solar Permitting</u> <u>Guidebook and adopted by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research or other plan acceptable to</u> the Building Official;

2. the information required by the checklists contained in the most current version of the California Solar Permitting Guidebook and adopted by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research:

<u>3. verification, using standard engineering techniques, that the support structure for the solar</u> <u>energy system is stable and adequate to transfer all wind, seismic, and dead and live loads associated</u> <u>with the system to the building foundation; and</u>

<u>4. verification, using standard electrical inspection techniques, that the existing electrical</u> <u>system including existing line, load, ground and bonding wiring, as well as main panel and subpanel</u> <u>sizes, are adequately sized, based on the existing electrical system's current use, to carry all new</u> <u>photovoltaic electrical loads.</u>

106A.1.15.5 Permit review and issuance. A permit for a solar energy system that is 4 kilowatts or less is issued over the counter if the application meets all requirements and a public health or safety issue has not been identified. A larger system requires review by the Electrical Division, and a review by other Divisions may be required depending on the system. An application for installation of a solar energy system on a building that is a designated landmark or a contributory resource in a designated historic district requires review by the Planning Department to ensure conformance with the provisions of Section 1005 and other applicable sections of Article 10 of the Planning Code.

106A.1.15.6 Inspections. Only one inspection is required for a small residential rooftop energy system that is eligible for expedited review under Section 106A.1.15.4. An inspection will be scheduled within three business days of a request and provide a two-hour inspection window. If the system fails inspection, a subsequent inspection is required.

<u>106A.1.15.7</u> Separate approval required to connect a Solar Energy System to the electricity grid. Approval of a permit for installation of a solar energy system does not authorize the applicant to connect the system to the local utility provider's electricity grid. The applicant is responsible for obtaining such approval or permission from the local utility provider.

106A.1.15.8 Denial of permit; permit conditions. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65850.5(c), if the Department or other agency of the City denies an application for a solar energy system use permit, it shall make written findings, based upon substantial evidence in the record, that the proposed installation would have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety and there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific, adverse impact. The findings shall include the basis for the rejection of potential feasible alternatives for preventing the adverse impact. Any conditions imposed on the permit shall be designed to mitigate the specific, adverse impact upon the public health and safety at the lowest cost possible.

Section 4. The Building Code is hereby amended by revising Section 106A.2, to read as follows:

106A.2 Work exempt from permit. Exemptions from the permit requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any work to be done in any manner in violation of the provisions of this code or any other laws or ordinances of this jurisdiction. A building permit shall not be required for the following:

23. A small residential rooftop solar energy system, as defined in Section 106A.1.15.1, installed on a building that is not a designated landmark or a contributory resource in a designated historic district. An electrical permit or other permit may be required depending on the system.

Supervisor Peskin BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

* * * *

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

Section 6. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles, numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under the official title of the ordinance.

Section 7. Directions to Clerk. The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is hereby directed to forward a copy of this ordinance to the California Building Standards Commission upon final passage.

APPROVED AS TO FORM: **DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney**

By:

Deputy City Attorney n:\legana\as2015\1600183\01230084.doc

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Building Code - Installation of Solar Energy Systems]

Ordinance amending the Building Code to enact an expedited and streamlined permit process for solar energy systems; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and directing the Clerk to forward this Ordinance to the Building Standards Commission upon final passage.

Existing Law

There are no existing Code provisions being amended.

Amendments to Current Law

Section 106A.1.15 is added to the Building Code to codify the existing administrative process for streamlining and expediting the review and approval of applications for a permit to install an on-site renewable energy system (such as solar photovoltaic, solar hot water, cogeneration, wind turbine generators, or other renewable energy features). City departments currently process these applications in accordance with the Priority Permit Processing Guidelines in the Department of Building Inspection's Administrative Bulletin 004 in order to comply with City and State policy and mandates.

An electrical permit is always required to install the system; a plumbing permit is also required if a solar hot water system is being installed. The permit for a small system is issued over the counter if the application meets all requirements and a public health and safety issue has not been identified. A building permit is only required if the system proposes installation on a building that is a designated landmark or a contributory resource in a designated historic district, in which case the permit application is referred to the Planning Department for review under Article 10 of the Planning Code. The provisions in the ordinance that limit permit conditions or denial are requirements imposed by Government Code Section 65850.5.

Background Information

In September 2014, the Legislature amended Government Code Section 65850.5 to require that all local jurisdictions adopt an ordinance to expedite and streamline the permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems. In numerous statutes enacted previously (including the 1978 California Solar Rights Act, Civil Code Sections 714 to 714.1), the Legislature has declared that it is State policy to prioritize the widespread adoption of solar power as a renewable energy resource and that the timely and cost-effective installation of solar energy systems is a matter of statewide concern.

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City Hall Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244 San Francisco 94102-4689 Tel. No. 554-5184 Fax No. 554-5163 TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

November 22, 2017

File No. 171194

Lisa Gibson Acting Environmental Review Officer Planning Department 1650 Mission Street, Ste. 400 San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Gibson:

On November 14, 2017, Supervisor Peskin introduced the following proposed legislation:

File No. 171194

Ordinance amending the Building Code to enact an expedited and streamlined permit process for solar energy systems; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and directing the Clerk to forward this Ordinance to the Building Standards Commission upon final passage.

This legislation is being transmitted to you for environmental review.

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

ArcBy: Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director Land Use and Transportation Committee

Not defined as a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 and 15060(c)(2) because it does not result in a physical change in the environment.

Attachment

c: Joy Navarrete, Environmental Planning Laura Lynch, Environmental Planning

Joy

Navarrete

Digitally signed by Joy Navarrete DN: cn=Joy Navarrete, o=Planning, ou=Environmental Planning, email=joy.navarrete@sfgov.org, c=US Date: 2017.11.30 15;31:42 -08'00'

BUILDING INSPECTION COMMISSION (BIC)



Department of Building Inspection Voice (415) 558-6164 - Fax (415) 558-6509 1660 Mission Street, San Francisco, California 94103-2414

London N. Breed Mayor

COMMISSION

Debra Walker

John Konstin Frank Lee

Sonya Harris

Secretary

Tom C. Hui

Director

Sam Moss **James Warshell**

Vice-President **Kevin Clinch**

President

Angus McCarthy

December 20, 2018

Ms. Angela Calvillo Clerk of the Board Board of Supervisors, City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244 San Francisco, CA 94102-4694

Dear Ms. Calvillo:

RE: File No.171194

Ordinance amending the Building Code to enact an expedited and streamlined permit process for solar energy systems; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and directing the Clerk to forward this Ordinance to the Building Standards Commission upon final passage.

This amendment was heard at the Code Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting on December 12, 2018. The CAC recommended the adoption of ordinance File #171194 as written.

The Building Inspection Commission met and held a public hearing on December 19, 2018 regarding File No. 171194 on the proposed amendment to the San Francisco Building Code referenced above. The Commissioners voted unanimously to support this proposed amendment.

The Commissioners voted to recommend approval of the proposed Ordinance.

President McCarthy Yes **Commissioner Clinch** Yes **Commissioner Lee** Yes Commissioner Warshell Yes Vice-President Walker Yes Commissioner Konstin Yes **Commissioner Moss** Yes

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 558-6164.

Sincerely,

Donga Hans

Sonya Harris **Commission Secretary**

Tom C. Hui, S.E., Director Mayor London N. Breed Supervisor Aaron Peskin Board of Supervisors

cc:



City Hall Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244 San Francisco 94102-4689 Tel. No. 554-5184 Fax No. 554-5163 TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

November 22, 2017

File No. 171194

Lisa Gibson Acting Environmental Review Officer Planning Department 1650 Mission Street, Ste. 400 San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Gibson:

On November 14, 2017, Supervisor Peskin introduced the following proposed legislation:

File No. 171194

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This legislation is being transmitted to you for environmental review.

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

W

Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director Land Use and Transportation Committee

Attachment

Joy Navarrete, Environmental Planning C: Laura Lynch, Environmental Planning



City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244 San Francisco 94102-4689 Tel. No. 554-5184 Fax No. 554-5163 TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tom Hui, Director, Department of Building Inspection Sonya Harris, Secretary, Building Inspection Commission

FROM: M Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: November 22, 2017

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following legislation, introduced by Supervisor Peskin on November 14, 2017:

File No. 171194

Ordinance amending the Building Code to enact an expedited and streamlined permit process for solar energy systems; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and directing the Clerk to forward this Ordinance to the Building Standards Commission upon final passage.

The proposed ordinance is being transmitted pursuant to Charter, Section D3.750-5, for public hearing and recommendation. It is pending before the Land Use and Transportation Committee and will be scheduled for hearing upon receipt of your response.

Please forward me the Commission's recommendation and reports at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: <u>alisa.somera@sfgov.org</u>.

c: William Strawn, Department of Building Inspection Carolyn Jayin, Department of Building Inspection



City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244 San Francisco 94102-4689 Tel. No. 554-5184 Fax No. 554-5163 TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Rahaim, Director, Planning Department Deborah Raphael, Director, Department of the Environment FROM: Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director

Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: November 22, 2017

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Peskin on November 14, 2017:

File No. 171194

Ordinance amending the Building Code to enact an expedited and streamlined permit process for solar energy systems; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and directing the Clerk to forward this Ordinance to the Building Standards Commission upon final passage.

If you have comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: <u>alisa.somera@sfgov.org</u>.

c: Scott Sanchez, Planning Department Lisa Gibson, Planning Department AnMarie Rodgers, Planning Department Aaron Starr, Planning Department Joy Navarrete, Planning Department Laura Lynch, Planning Department Peter Gallotta, Department of the Environment



City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244 San Francisco 94102-4689 Tel. No. 554-5184 Fax No. 554-5163 TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Land Use and Transportation Committee will hold a public hearing to consider the following proposal and said public hearing will be held as follows, at which time all interested parties may attend and be heard:

Date: Monday, March 11, 2019

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Legislative Chamber, Room 250, located at City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA

Subjects: File No. 171194. Ordinance amending the Building Code to enact an expedited and streamlined permit process for solar energy systems; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and directing the Clerk to forward this Ordinance to the Building Standards Commission upon final passage.

If this legislation passes, Building Code, Section 106A.1.15, will be added to codify the existing administrative process for streamlining and expediting the review and approval of applications for a permit to install an on-site renewable energy system. An electrical permit is required to install or alter a solar energy system and will be subject to the established fees in Building Code, Section 110A, Table 1A-E – Electrical Permit Fee Issuance and Inspection Fee Schedule. The fees for a building, plumbing, mechanical, or other permit, if required, shall be the fee established in the Building Code, Section 110, fee tables for that specific permit.

In accordance with Administrative Code, Section 67.7-1, persons who are unable to attend the hearing on these matters may submit written comments to the City prior to the time the hearing begins. These comments will be made part of the official public record in these matters, and shall be brought to the attention of the members of the Committee. Written comments should be addressed to Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102. Information relating to these matters are available in the Office of the Clerk of the Board. Agenda information relating to these matters will be available for public review on Friday, March 8, 2019.

e and

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

DATED/POSTED: March 1, 2019 PUBLISHED: March 1 and March 6, 2019

Print Form			
Introduction Form			
By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor SAN FRANCISCIO			
I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):	amp ting date		
✓ 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).			
2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.			
3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.			
4. Request for letter beginning :"Supervisor	inquiries"		
5. City Attorney Request.	-		
6. Call File No. from Committee.			
7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).			
8. Substitute Legislation File No.			
9. Reactivate File No.			
10. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on			
Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following			
Small Business Commission Vouth Commission Ethics Commiss	sion		
Planning Commission Building Inspection Commission			
Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative F	'orm.		
Sponsor(s):			
Supervisor Peskin			
Subject:			
[Building Code - Installation of Solar Energy Systems]			
The text is listed:			
Ordinance amending the Building Code to enact an expedited and streamlined permit process for solar systems; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Qua directing the Clerk to forward this ordinance to the Building Standards Commission upon final passa	ality Act; and		
Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:			
For Clerk's Use Only			