LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning Code - Landmark Designation - 770 Woolsey Street (aka University Mound Nursery)]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate 770 Woolsey Street (aka University Mound Nursery), Assessor's Parcel Block No. 6055, Lot No. 001, as a Landmark under Article 10 of the Planning Code; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and making public necessity, convenience and welfare findings under Planning Code, Section 302, and findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1.

Existing Law

Under Article 10, Section 1004 of the Planning Code, the Board of Supervisors may, by ordinance, designate an individual structure that has special character or special historical, architectural or aesthetic interest or value as a City landmark. Once a structure has been named a landmark, any construction, alteration, removal or demolition for which a City permit is required necessitates a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission ("HPC"). (Planning Code Section 1006; Charter of the City and County of San Francisco, Section 4.135.) Thus, landmark designation affords a high degree of protection to historic and architectural structures of merit in the City. There are currently more than 270 individual landmarks in the City under Article 10, in addition to other structures and districts in the downtown area that are protected under Article 11. (See Appendix A to Article 10.)

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance amends the Planning Code to add a new historic landmark to the list of individual landmarks under Article 10: 770 Woolsey Street (aka University Mound Nursery), Assessor's Parcel Block No. 6055. Lot No. 001.

The ordinance finds that the 770 Woolsey is eligible for local designation as it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Specifically, designation of 770 Woolsey is proper because of its association "with the commercial flower-growing industry in the Portola District, and for its association with the role Italians and Italian-Americans played in the city's flower-growing industry."

As required by Section 1004, the ordinance lists the particular exterior and interior features that shall be preserved, or replaced in-kind as determined necessary.

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Background Information

The landmark designation was initiated by the Board of Supervisors pursuant to its authority under the Planning Code to initiate landmark designations.

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