



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
(323) 881-2401

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

48 December 20, 2016

DARYL L. OSBY
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

December 20, 2016

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

LORI GLASGOW
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SET FOR HEARING - JANUARY 24, 2017

Dear Supervisors:

PROPOSED 2017 LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE CODE (TITLE 32) AND CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE CODE (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

The Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (District) requests approval of the proposed ordinance amending the County Fire Code (Title 32) which adopts by reference, with certain changes and amendments, the 2016 California Fire Code, and adopting Title 32 as the Fire Code for the District. The ordinance includes specific building codes that are more stringent than those adopted by the State Fire Marshal contained in the California Building Standards Code, and makes the required findings necessary due to local climatic, geological, and/or topographical conditions in the County.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND AS THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Introduce, waive reading, and schedule a public hearing for January 24, 2017, regarding the attached ordinance, amending Title 32 of the Los Angeles County Code and adopting Title 32 as the District's Fire Code.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD, ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND AS THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Find that the attached ordinance is exempt under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

2. Find that the proposed changes and modifications to building standards contained in the 2016 California Fire Code are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, and/or topographical conditions in the County and District, as detailed in the ordinance.
3. Adopt the ordinance and establish the operative date as thirty days after its adoption.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The attached ordinance, when adopted, will update and set forth provisions and regulations for the enforcement of Title 32 within the unincorporated areas of the County and in the cities served by the District.

The California Health and Safety Code requires that the County adopt the same building standards as those contained in the California Building Standards Code with the exception that the County may establish more restrictive building standards reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, and/or topographic conditions. Health and Safety Code Section 18941.5 requires that all County amendments, together with the State Building Standards Code, become effective 180 days after the publication of the State Building Standards Code, or at a later date established by the Building Standards Commission. The Commission has established that date to be January 1, 2017. This code update cycle happens every three years when the State adopts new building standards that require cities, counties, and fire districts to update their codes to conform to the new State Fire Code. It is recommended that your Board establish the operative date of the ordinance to thirty days following adoption of the ordinance.

In addition, new fees have been established for plan review, permits and inspections. Many existing fees are being adjusted for the first time since 2007.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the proposed ordinance is consistent with Los Angeles County Strategic Plan Goal number three, Integrated Service Delivery, to maximize opportunities to measurably improve client and community outcomes and leverage resources through the continuous integration of health, community, and public safety services.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be some fiscal impact necessitated by training staff and implementing the new requirements and fees in the Fire Code. Costs associated with such efforts will be covered by the District's existing and anticipated budget, or will be recovered from review and permit fees. Existing prevention fees generate \$2.2 million dollars on an annual basis. Based on an average increase of twenty percent, updated prevention fees are expected to generate \$2.64 million dollars per year. New fees, when fully implemented, will generate an additional \$7 million dollars in annual revenue. The proposed new fees are on average 12 percent less than the existing fees charged by similar departments for like services. When new revenues are added, total annual revenue for prevention fees is expected to be \$9.64 million annually.

There is no impact to County cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The ordinance amending the Title 32 of the Los Angeles County Code has been approved as to form by County Counsel and an analysis is attached.

The proposed ordinance repeals certain sections of Title 32 and the incorporation of the 2013 California Fire Code and the 2012 International Fire Code. The proposed ordinance adopts by reference the 2016 California Fire Code which incorporates by adoption the 2015 edition of the International Fire Code, and then adds amendments that address the unique conditions existing in Los Angeles County. The ordinance also adjusts most existing fees, most of which have not been increased since 2007. New fees for plan review, permits and inspections are being added to provide improved customer service and to meet greater customer demand. Recovery of permitting and review fees is authorized by the California Health and Safety Code Sections 13217, 13235, 13143.5, 13145(f)(2), and 13146(f) and Section 66014 of the Government Code. All fees have been reviewed and approved by the County Auditor-Controller. The proposed ordinance also adopts the 2017 Los Angeles County Fire Code as the Fire Code for the District.

In accordance with the requirements of California Government Code Section 50022.3, your Board must schedule a public hearing after the first reading of the title of the adopting ordinance. Notices of the hearing shall be published pursuant to Government Code Section 6066. Per California Health and Safety Code, Section 13869.7, a copy of the proposed ordinance amending Title 32 and the District Fire Code to be adopted must be on file with the Executive Office of the Board at least 15 days preceding the public hearing. A copy of the 2016 California State Fire Code and 2015 International Fire Code, which are both being incorporated by reference into the Fire Code, have also been provided to the Executive Office of the Board.

State law allows the County and the District to adopt more restrictive building standards that are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, and/or topographical conditions. All of the amendments that constitute more restrictive building standards are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, and/or topographical conditions in the County of Los Angeles. Pursuant to State law, express findings for each amendment based upon climatic, geological, and/or topographical conditions are included in a table at the end of the ordinance listing the sections in the ordinance that are considered more restrictive building standards and makes the required findings necessary. The ordinance also contains various administrative changes that do not require any local findings.

Per California Health and Safety Code, Section 13869.7, the District must send the cities served by the District a copy of the proposed ordinance 30 days before the notice of the public hearing is published seeking public comments. Per California Health and Safety Code, Section 13869.7, the cities in the District may ratify, modify, or deny a fire protection district's adoption of more restrictive building standards. District amendments that contain more restrictive building standards must be ratified by the city in order for those amendments to be enforceable within the city's jurisdiction. Following approval by your Board, the District will work with each of the cities it serves to adopt and implement the new District Fire Code.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Adoption of this ordinance which amends Title 32 of the Los Angeles County Code is exempt under the provisions of the CEQA pursuant to Section 15061 (b)(3).

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Other departments will be required to comply with the provisions of the ordinance once it is operative. The revisions to Title 32 contain considerable changes to fire and life safety provisions and building standards, which could affect enforcement requirements of local municipalities. An informational letter, summary of primary changes, and a copy of the proposed ordinance, including the findings related to the more restrictive building standards being adopted, were sent to all of the cities served by the District for their review and comment more than thirty days prior to January 10, 2017.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval by your Honorable Board, please electronically submit a single Statement of Proceedings to the following:

Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County
Executive Office
Business Operations
Chief Deputy Dawnna Lawrence
Dawnna.Lawrence@fire.lacounty.gov

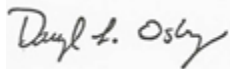
Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County
Prevention Services Bureau
Deputy Chief John Todd
John.Todd@fire.lacounty.gov

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

12/20/2016

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Daryl L. Osby". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

DARYL L. OSBY

FIRE CHIEF, FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

DLO:es

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer
Auditor-Controller
County Counsel