



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN  
FIRE CHIEF  
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

November 03, 2010

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

Dear Supervisors:

**PROPOSED 2011 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) request approval of the proposed ordinance amending the County Fire Code (Title 32) which adopts by reference, with certain changes and amendments, the 2010 California Fire Code, and adopting Title 32 as the Fire Code for the District. The ordinance also adopts certain, more stringent building standards and makes the required findings that these are necessary due to local climatic, geological, and/or topographical conditions in the County.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AND AS THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Introduce, waive reading, and schedule a public hearing for November 23, 2010, regarding the attached ordinance, amending Title 32 (Fire Code) of the Los Angeles County Code and adopting Title 32 as the District Fire Code.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD, ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 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 2010 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 January 1, 2011.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The enclosed ordinance, when adopted, will update and set forth provisions and regulations for the enforcement of the Fire Code 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, 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, 2011. Accordingly, it is recommended that your Board establish the operative date of the ordinance to be January 1, 2011. 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.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

No impact.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There will be minimal fiscal impact necessitated by training staff and implementing the new requirements 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.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

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

The proposed ordinance adopts by reference the 2010 California Fire Code, which incorporates by adoption the 2009 edition of the International Fire Code, and adds amendments that address the unique conditions existing in Los Angeles County. This ordinance repeals the incorporation of the 2007 California Fire Code into Title 32 and repeals, amends, and renumbers certain sections of Title 32. Certain previously adopted sections of Title 32 are unchanged, except for section number modifications which are necessary due to the changes in the International Fire Code, and therefore, remain in full force and effect. The proposed ordinance also adopts the 2011 Los Angeles County

Fire Code as the Fire Code for the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County.

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 (Fire Code) 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 2010 California State Fire Code and 2009 International Fire Code, which are both being incorporated by reference into Title 32, have also been provided to the Executive Office of the Board.

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

Per California Health and Safety Code, Section 13869.7, a copy of the proposed ordinance was sent to all the cities served by the District 30 days before the notice of the public hearing was 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 are 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 (Fire Code) of the Los Angeles County Code is exempt under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061 (b).

## **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 the Fire Code contain considerable changes to fire and life safety provisions and building standards which could affect local 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, was sent to all of the cities served by the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County on October 8, 2010 for their review and comment.

**CONCLUSION**

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

Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County  
Executive Office  
Business Operations

Chief Deputy Daryl L. Osby  
dosby@fire.lacounty.gov

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Michael Freeman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN  
FIRE CHIEF, FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

PMF:dr

Enclosures

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer  
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer  
Auditor-Controller  
County Counsel