BIC Regular Meeting of March 15, 2023

Agenda Item 9d

Department of Building Inspection Legislative Update

Building Inspection Commission Meeting, June 21, 2023

DBI has compiled the following summary of legislation affecting the San Francisco Building Code from the Board of Supervisors, as well as from Code Advisory Committee meetings and recommendations.

UPDATES ON CURRENT AND UPCOMING LEGISLATION

Ordinances

File No. 230371-2 – Ordinance amending the Planning Code to 1) facilitate residential uses Downtown by authorizing the conversion of non-residential uses to residential use in C (Commercial) zoning districts, and exempting such projects from requirements for rear yard, open space, streetscape improvements, dwelling unit exposure, bike parking, dwelling unit mix, and Intermediate Length Occupancy controls, permitting live work units in such project, streamlining administrative approvals for projects in the C-3 zoning district, and modifying the dimensional limits on exemptions to height restrictions for mechanical equipment, elevator, stair, and mechanical penthouses; 2) economically revitalize Downtown by adding Flexible Workspace as a defined use, authorizing large scale retail uses in the C-3 zoning district, allowing window displays in the C-3 zoning district, allowing Flexible Workspace as an active ground floor commercial use along certain street frontages in C-3 zoning districts, allowing accessory storage in any C zoning district, allowing the temporary installation for 60 days of certain signs in the C-3-R district, allowing temporary non-residential uses in vacant spaces for up to one year, reducing density limits for Residential Dwelling Units and Senior Housing in the C-2 zoning districts east of or fronting Van Ness/South Van Ness Avenue and north of Townsend Street, principally permitting Laboratory, Life Science, Agricultural and Beverage Processing, and Animal Hospitals in C-2 zoning districts, principally permitting Senior Housing, Residential Care Facilities, Outdoor Entertainment, Open Recreation Areas, Animal Hospitals, and Trade Schools in the C-3 zoning district, allowing formula retail as a ground floor use on Market Street, principally permitting office and design professional uses on the second floor and higher in the C-3-R zoning district, and requiring consideration of office vacancy in consideration of granting exceptions in the Transit Center Commercial Special Use District; 3) streamline sign permitting citywide and in the C-3 districts by allowing for the repair and rehabilitation of certain neon signs, and exempting existing business signs in the C-3 zoning district from certain zoning controls; 4) streamline Historic Preservation review of administrative certificates of appropriateness, and minor permits to alter for awnings, and Qualifying Scopes of Work, as may be delegated by the Historic Preservation Commission; 5) provide alternatives to on-site open space in certain C-3 districts by allowing for payment of an in lieu fee as an alternative to providing open space; 6) facilitate residential adaptive reuse by amending the Building Code to add standards for adaptive reuse of non-residential buildings; and 7) principally permit formula retail and waive size limitations for such uses on a portion of Showplace Square Area (555-9th Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 3781, Lot No. 003); 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 making findings of public necessity, convenience, and welfare pursuant to Planning Code, Section 302.

STATUS: The Mayor and Board President introduced the proposed ordinance on April 12, 2023, which was assigned to the Land Use and Transportation Committee. The Building Inspection Commission recommended approval to the Land Use Committee on May 17, 2023, which recommended the ordinance to the full Board of Supervisors. The ordinance passed on first reading on June 13, 2023.

File No. 230447-2 — Ordinance amending the Building and Planning Codes to create a temporary amnesty program for unpermitted awnings that streamlines the application process to legalize awnings, waives applicable fees, and confers legal nonconforming status for awnings that do not comply with the Planning Code; 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 making findings of public necessity, convenience, and welfare pursuant to Planning Code, Section 302.

STATUS: The Mayor and Board President introduced the proposed ordinance on May 9, 2023, which was assigned to the Land Use and Transportation Committee. The Building Inspection Commission recommended approval to the Land Use Committee on May 17, 2023. The Land Use Committee recommended the ordinance to the full Board of Supervisors with amendments (none of which effect the Building Code).

File No. 230374 – Ordinance amending the Building Code to outline the site permit application process, define and limit the scope of Building Official review of site permits, and require simultaneous interdepartmental review of site permits; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

STATUS: The proposed ordinance was introduced on April 4, 2023 and assigned to the Land Use and Transportation Committee. The Code Advisory Committee recommended approval of the ordinance with modifications on May 24, 2023. The Building Inspection Commission recommended modifications to the ordinance to the Land Use Committee on June 13, 2023.

File No. 230745 – Ordinance amending the Building Code to increase fees charged by the Department of Building Inspection by 15 percent.

STATUS: The Mayor introduced the proposed ordinance on June 6, 2023, which was assigned to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Hearings

File No. 230464 – Hearing to discuss San Francisco's efforts to prepare for, respond to, recover from a large earthquake, and a status update on pre-disaster hazard mitigation (retrofit programs under the Earthquake Safety Implementation Program), strengthening of city-owned buildings, and the Tall Buildings Safety Strategy, as well as post-disaster response (post-disaster building safety inspection and emergency response); and requesting the Department of Building Inspection, Office of Emergency Management, and Office of Resilience and Capital Planning to report.

STATUS: The hearing request was introduced on April 18, 2023 and was assigned to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee. The hearing has not been scheduled.

File No. 230302 – Hearing to review the monitoring and oversight of City and County of San Francisco contracts with Tenants and Owners Development Corporation (TODCO) and review the number of historical complaints filed against TODCO buildings; and requesting the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, Department of Building Inspection, and Planning Department to report.

STATUS: The hearing request was introduced on March 14, 2023 and was assigned to the Government Audit and Oversight Committee. The hearing has been postponed to July.

File No. 230147 – Hearing to review the Budget and Legislative Analyst's policy analysis report on repurposing commercial real estate for residential use to address the City's need to produce additional affordable and market rate housing and commercial vacancies, particularly in the Downtown office market.

STATUS: The hearing request was introduced on February 7, 2023 and was assigned to the Land Use and Transportation Committee. The hearing was held on April 3, 2023.

File No. 230331 – Hearing on emergency safety response, department coordination, and mitigation strategies on high-rise window breaks as a result of increased storms; and requesting the Department of Building Inspection, Department of Emergency Management, and Fire Department to report.

STATUS: The hearing request was introduced on March 28, 2023 and was assigned to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee. The hearing request has been filed and will not move forward.

File No. 221257 – Hearing regarding updates on the findings of the joint Department of Building Inspection (DBI) and Planning investigation into Building Code and Planning Code violations, including potential illegal conversions of the Twitter Headquarters located at 1355 Market Street as reported on by Forbes Magazine and potential labor and human rights violations of immigrant workers; and requesting Department of Building Inspection, the Zoning Administrator and Planning Enforcement, Office of Labor Standards Enforcement and Human Rights Commission to report.

STATUS: The hearing request was introduced on December 6, 2022 and was assigned to the Land Use and Transportation Committee. The hearing has not been scheduled.

File No. 210954 – Hearing to receive progress updates on the seismic retrofit plan options for 301 Mission Street (also known as the Millennium Tower), based on public documents obtained by the Board of Supervisors and archived in File No. 160975; and requesting the Department of Building Inspection and project sponsor to present.

STATUS: A follow-up hearing was held at the January 6, 2022 meeting of the GAO committee. At the conclusion of the hearing, the item was continued. The hearing request was filed and will not move forward.

File No. 210514 – Hearing on the oversight and safety of the construction conducted under the Mandatory Soft Story Retrofit Program to fully evaluate the concerns raised by the Structural Subcommittee of the Code Advisory Committee and the Structural Engineers Association of Northern California, specifically, but not limited to, the risk of gas pipe ruptures; and requesting the Department of Building Inspection, Structural Subcommittee of the Code Advisory Committee, Board of Examiners, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Structural Engineers Association of Northern California, and other subject matter experts to report. Assigned to Land Use and Transportation Committee.

STATUS: The hearing was held on June 7, 2021 and was continued to the call of the chair. On July 6, 2022, a request was filed with the Clerk of the Board to keep this item active.

Recently Passed Legislation

File No. 230212-2 – Ordinance amending the Planning, Building, and Fire Codes to codify the annual waiver of awning replacement fees and awning sign fees applied for during the month of May, to

annually waive fees for new awning installations applied for during the month of May, and to indicate that the Planning Code, Building, and Fire Code waivers pertaining to pedestrian street lighting as well as awning replacement, awning installation, and awning sign fees are keyed to permit application in May rather than permit issuance in May; 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 making findings of public necessity, convenience, and welfare pursuant to Planning Code, Section 302.

STATUS: The Board of Supervisors passed the ordinance on May 23, 2023 and it was signed by the Mayor on June 2, 2023.

File No. 230373 – Ordinance amending the Existing Building Code to require buildings with 15 or more stories constructed after 1998 to conduct and submit façade inspection reports; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

STATUS: The Board of Supervisors passed the ordinance on May 16, 2023 and it was signed by the Mayor on May 26, 2023.

File No. 230167 – Ordinance amending the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code to create a Permit Prioritization Task Force responsible for recommending permit prioritization guidelines to the Department of Building Inspection, the Planning Department, and the Department of Public Works, requiring those departments to review and update their permit prioritization guidelines periodically, and requiring the commissions that oversee each department to approve the department's permit prioritization guidelines; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

STATUS: The Board of Supervisors passed the ordinance on May 26, 2023. The Mayor returned the ordinance unsigned.

File No. 230134 – Ordinance amending the Police and Building Codes to require owners of certain residential construction projects to maintain a labor compliance bond at the time of issuance of the first construction document; and clarifying that the bonding requirement applies to projects that submitted an application for a building permit or a complete preliminary permit application pursuant to California Government Code, Section 65941.1, on or after June 6, 2022.

STATUS: The Board of Supervisors passed the ordinance on April 12, 2023 and the Mayor signed on April 21, 2023.

File No. 220878-2 — Ordinance amending the Planning and Building Codes to increase fines and penalties for violations of Planning and Building Code provisions; clarify that violations affecting more than one unit in a building constitute multiple violations for purposes of assessing penalties; adding factors to consider in determining the appropriate amount of civil penalties; establishing penalties for residential units merged, constructed, or divided without required permits or approvals; establishing penalties for violations involving illegal demolition and enhancement of penalty amounts for certain buildings by age or historic status; providing additional notices for Responsible Parties; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and making findings of consistency with the General Plan, and eight priority policies of the Planning Code, Section 101.1 and findings of public necessity, convenience, and welfare under Planning Code, Section 302.

STATUS: The ordinance passed on March 21, 2023 and the Mayor signed on March 28, 2023.

File No. 220815 – Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to add a definition of Tourist or Transient Use under the Residential Hotel Unit Conversion and Demolition Ordinance; to set the term of tenancy for such use at less than seven days, for two years after the effective date of this Ordinance, and, after that two-year period, at less than 30 days; to provide an amortization period applicable to hotels currently regulated under the Ordinance; to provide a process by which the owners or operators of regulated hotels can request that the amortization period be longer, on a case-by-case basis; to amend the definition of Permanent Resident, from a person who occupies a room for at least 32 days to one who occupies a room for at least 30 days; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

STATUS: The ordinance passed on March 14, 2023 and the Mayor signed on March 24, 2023.

File No. 230153 – Resolution urging the Planning Department to report on potential candidates for adaptive reuse in the Downtown core; urging the Planning Department and Department of Building Inspection to issue public facing criteria for members of the public and stakeholder property owners on potential office conversion to residential eligibility; and urging the Planning Department, City Controller and Treasurer Tax Collector to investigate private market restraints on adaptive reuse, including shareholder and REIT agreements that restrict conversion or the offering of commercial space for competitive rates, and local, state and federal tax policies that disincentivize the productive or adaptive reuse of properties that would otherwise be ripe for conversion.

STATUS: The resolution was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on February 14, 2023.

File No. 220970 – Ordinance amending the program established in Ordinance No. 143-21 waiving certain first-year permit, license, and business registration fees for certain businesses, retroactive to November 1, 2021, to 1) extend the program through June 30, 2023; 2) increase the gross receipts permissible for a business to qualify for the tax and fee waiver from \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000; 3) remove the requirement that the business be located on the ground floor 4) expand the business types covered by the waiver from commercial businesses in certain Planning Code categories to all commercial businesses; 5) extend the period for refunds to the later of one year from the date of payment or June 30, 2023; 6) revise the procedures for challenging Tax Collector determinations that a business improperly claimed a waiver under this Ordinance; 7) increase the gross receipts above which the waiver would be retroactively revoked from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 in the calendar year of, or in any calendar year during the three full calendar years following, the date the business commenced business within San Francisco or opened a new business location for commercial use; and 8) make other administrative and reporting changes, as defined herein.

STATUS: The ordinance was signed by the Mayor on November 17, 2022.

Note: Includes selected state bills that CALBO (California Building Officials) is tracking.

Bills that CALBO supports:

AB 468 (Quirk-Silva D) State building standards.

Introduced: 2/6/2023

Last Amended: 4/11/2023

Status: 6/14/2023-Referred to Coms. on HOUSING and JUD.

Location: 6/14/2023-S. HOUSING

Position: Support

AB 582 (Connolly D) Personal Income Tax: tax credits: fire-resistant home

improvements.

Introduced: 2/9/2023

Last Amended: 4/24/2023

Status: 5/18/2023-Joint Rule 62(a), file notice suspended. In committee:

Held under submission.

Location: 5/17/2023-A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Position: Support

AB 1046 (Lowenthal D) Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act: exemptions.

Introduced: 2/15/2023

Last Amended: 6/7/2023

Status: 6/14/2023-From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR with recommendation: To Consent Calendar.

(Ayes 8. Noes 0.) (June 14). Location: 6/14/2023-S. APPR.

Position: Support

AB 1445 (Arambula D) The Neng Thao Drowning Prevention Safety Act.

Introduced: 2/17/2023
Last Amended: 5/1/2023

Status: 6/14/2023-From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended.

(Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (June 14). **Location:** 5/31/2023-S. ED.

Position: Support

Note: Includes selected state bills that CALBO (California Building Officials) is tracking.

AB 1505 (Rodriguez D) Seismic retrofitting: soft story multifamily housing.

Introduced: 2/17/2023 Last Amended: 5/18/2023

Status: 6/14/2023-Referred to Com. on RLS.

Location: 6/1/2023-S. RLS.

Position: Support

SB 356 (Archuleta D) Housing: Code Enforcement Incentive Program: Community Code

Enforcement Pilot Program.

Introduced: 2/8/2023

Last Amended: 4/24/2023

Status: 5/19/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/1/2023) (May be acted upon Jan 2024)

Location: 5/19/2023-S. 2 YEAR

Position: Support

SB 795 (Stern D) Energy: building energy efficiency: heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning equipment sale registry and compliance tracking system: electronic

statewide compliance documentation data repository.

Introduced: 2/17/2023 Last Amended: 4/27/2023

Status: 5/31/2023-In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

Location: 5/30/2023-A. DESK

Position: Support

SB 837 (Archuleta D) Energy: building energy standards: sealed and unvented attics.

Introduced: 2/17/2023 Last Amended: 4/26/2023

Status: 6/12/2023-June 14 set for first hearing canceled at the request of

author.

Location: 5/26/2023-A. U. & E.

Position: Support

Note: Includes selected state bills that CALBO (California Building Officials) is tracking.

Bills that CALBO opposes:

AB 42 (Ramos D) Tiny homes: fire sprinkler requirements.

Introduced: 12/5/2022 **Last Amended:** 6/8/2023

Status: 6/8/2023-From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-

referred to Com. on HOUSING. **Location:** 6/7/2023-S. HOUSING

Position: Oppose

AB 704 (Patterson, Jim R) Energy: building standards: photovoltaic requirements.

Introduced: 2/13/2023
Last Amended: 4/6/2023

Status: 5/19/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/19/2023) (May be acted upon Jan 2024)

Location: 5/19/2023-A. 2 YEAR

Position: Oppose

AB 1132 (Friedman D) Solar energy systems: permit fees.

Introduced: 2/15/2023

Status: 6/7/2023-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR.

(Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (June 7). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 6/7/2023-S. APPR.

Position: Oppose Unless Amend

AB 1532 (Haney D) Office conversion projects.

Introduced: 2/17/2023

Status: 4/28/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location

was H. & C.D. on 3/23/2023)(May be acted upon Jan 2024)

Location: 4/28/2023-A. 2 YEAR

Position: Oppose

SB 597 (Glazer D) Building standards: rainwater catchment systems.

Note: Includes selected state bills that CALBO (California Building Officials) is tracking.

Introduced: 2/15/2023

Last Amended: 3/21/2023

Status: 6/1/2023-Referred to Com. on H. & C.D.

Location: 6/1/2023-A. H. & C.D. **Position:** Oppose Unless Amend

Selected Bills on CALBO's Watch List:

AB 1114 (Haney D) Planning and zoning: housing development projects:

postentitlement phase permits.

Current Text: Amended: 4/13/2023 html pdf

Status: Status: 6/2/2023-In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

Summary:

Current law relating to housing development approval requires a local agency to compile a list of information needed to approve or deny a postentitlement phase permit, to post an example of a complete, approved application and an example of a complete set of postentitlement phase permits for at least 5 types of housing development projects in the jurisdiction, as specified, and to make those items available to all applicants for these permits no later than January 1, 2024. Current law defines "postentitlement phase permit" to include all nondiscretionary permits and reviews filed after the entitlement process has been completed that are required or issued by the local agency to begin construction of a development that is intended to be at least 2/3 residential, excluding discretionary and ministerial planning permits, entitlements, and certain other permits and reviews. These permits include, but are not limited to, building permits and all interdepartmental review required for the issuance of a building permit, permits for minor or standard off-site improvements, permits for demolition, and permits for minor or standard excavation and grading. This bill would modify the definition of "postentitlement phase permit" to also include all building permits and other permits issued under the California Building Standards Code or any applicable local building code for the construction, demolition, or alteration of buildings, whether discretionary or nondiscretionary.

Organization: CALBO

Position: Watch

AB 548 (Boerner D) State Housing Law: inspection.

Current Text: Amended: 4/13/2023 html.pdf **Status:** 6/14/2023-Referred to Com. on HOUSING.

Summary:

Current law authorizes an officer, employee, or agent of an enforcement agency to enter and inspect any building or premises whenever necessary to secure compliance with, or prevent a violation of, any provision of the State Housing Law, the building standards published in the State Building Standards Code, and other rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the provisions of the State Housing

Note: Includes selected state bills that CALBO (California Building Officials) is tracking.

Law that the enforcement agency has the power to enforce. Current law deems a building, portion of a building, or premises on which a building is located to be a substandard building if any one of specified conditions exists to the extent that it endangers the life, limb, health, property, safety, or welfare of the public or its occupants. Current law deems a building, portion of a building, or premises on which a building is located to be in violation of the State Housing Law if it contains lead hazards, as specified, that are likely to endanger the health of the public or the occupants. This bill would require local enforcement agencies to develop policies and procedures for inspecting a building with multiple units if an inspector or code enforcement officer has determined that a unit is substandard or is in violation of the State Housing Law, and the inspector or code enforcement officer determines that the defects or violations have the potential to affect other units of the building, as specified.

Organization: CALBO

Position: Watch **Priority:** High



Carl Nicita, Legislative Affairs Manager June 21, 2023

SF Board of Supervisors: Recently Passed Legislation

File No. 230212-2: Ordinance amending the Planning, Building, and Fire Codes to codify the annual waiver of awning replacement fees and awning sign fees applied for during the month of May, to annually waive fees for new awning installations applied for during the month of May.

Status: The Board of Supervisors passed the ordinance on May 23, 2023 and it was signed by the Mayor on June 2, 2023.

File No. 230373: Ordinance amending the Existing Building Code to require façade inspection reports for buildings constructed after 1998 with 15 or more stories.

Status: The Board of Supervisors passed the ordinance on May 16, 2023 and it was signed by the Mayor on May 26, 2023.

SF Board of Supervisors: Recently Passed Legislation

File No. 230167: Ordinance to create a Permit Prioritization Task Force to recommend permit prioritization guidelines to the Department of Building Inspection, the Planning Department, and the Department of Public Works and requiring the commissions that oversee each department to approve the department's permit prioritization guidelines.

Status: The Board of Supervisors passed the ordinance on May 26, 2023. The Mayor returned the ordinance unsigned.

File No. 230371-2: Ordinance amending the Planning Code to facilitate residential uses Downtown by authorizing the conversion of non-residential uses to residential use in C (Commercial) zoning districts; and facilitate residential adaptive reuse by amending the Building Code to add standards for adaptive reuse of non-residential buildings.

Status: The Building Inspection Commission recommended approval to the Land Use Committee on May 17, 2023, which recommended the ordinance to the full Board of Supervisors. The ordinance passed on first reading on June 13, 2023.

File No. 230447-2: Ordinance amending the Building and Planning Codes to create a temporary amnesty program for unpermitted awnings that streamlines the application process to legalize awnings, waives applicable fees, and confers legal nonconforming status for awnings that do not comply with the Planning Code.

Status: The Building Inspection Commission recommended approval to the Land Use Committee on May 17, 2023, which recommended the ordinance to the full Board of Supervisors with amendments (none of which effect the Building Code).

File No. 230374: Ordinance amending the Building Code to outline the site permit application process, define and limit the scope of Building Official review of site permits, and require simultaneous interdepartmental review of site permits.

Status: The Building Inspection Commission recommended modifications to the ordinance to the Land Use Committee on June 13, 2023.

File No. 230745: Ordinance amending the Building Code to increase fees charged by the Department of Building Inspection by 15 percent.

Status: The Mayor introduced the proposed ordinance on June 6, 2023 as part of her budget submittal, which was assigned to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

State Legislation

AB 1114 (Haney):

Making post-entitlement permits non-discretionary (ministerial). Status: Passed Assembly. Assigned to Senate Governance & Finance and Housing committees.

AB 468 (Quirk-Silva):

Making any building used as a habitable space subject to State Housing Law regardless of zoning designation or approved use. Status: Passed Assembly. Assigned to Senate Housing and Judiciary committees.



THANK YOU