



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

New Planning Code Change Summary:

Voluntary Soft-Story Seismic Upgrades on Wood-Frame Buildings

Case Number: Board File No. 09-1053TZ

Initiated by: Mayor Newsom

Effective Date: April 20, 2010

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The Way it Was:

The Planning Department charges fees for the review and processing of all permits. This includes permits for seismic upgrades to buildings. Currently there are no special requirements for soft-story, wood-frame buildings.

Currently there are no formal definitions in the Planning or Building Codes defining what qualifies as a soft-story wood-frame building.

The Way is Now:

The proposed Ordinance would amend Planning Code Section 355(a) (Permit Application (Fees)) to add Section (8), which would **waive all fees** for seismic upgrade work on soft-story, wood-frame buildings.

- This is a voluntary, not mandatory program.
- DBI's fees for similar work are also to be waived.
- This does **NOT** waive any other work associated with the seismic upgrades.
- If application has components that require additional Planning review, Section 311/312 notification, or requires a Planning Commission hearing, then the seismic work must be separated out for approval and fee waiver.
- DBI has issued *Administrative Bulletin AB-094: Definition & Design Criteria for Voluntary Seismic Upgrade of Soft-Story, Type V (wood-frame) Buildings*, dated May 12, 2009. Please refer to that Bulletin for details.

Link to signed legislation:

<http://www.sfbos.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/bdsupvrs/ordinances10/o0054-10.pdf>