



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

# H-4

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

333 W. Ocean Blvd. - Long Beach, CA 90802 - 562/570-6651 - FAX 562/570-6205

November 13, 2007

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

## RECOMMENDATION:

Declare Ordinance amending the California Building Standards Codes and the Uniform Housing Code read for the first time and laid over to the next regular meeting of the City Council for final reading; and adopt resolution making findings and determinations relating to the adoption of more restrictive Code provisions, where appropriate. (Citywide)

## DISCUSSION

Section 17958 of the California Health and Safety Code requires that the latest California Building Standards Codes apply to local construction 180 days after the Codes become effective at the State level. The California Building Standards Commission adopted the 2007 Edition of the California Building, Electrical, Mechanical and Plumbing Codes and the 1997 Edition of the Uniform Housing Code in July, 2007. Therefore, the State law requires that these codes become effective at the local level on January 1, 2008.

The California Building Standards Code is based on nationally recognized model codes. The 2007 California Building Code is based on the International Building Code. Historically, the California Building Code has been based on the Uniform Building Code. The International Building Code is used extensively throughout the nation; however, this is the first time it will be used in California.

State law requires that local amendments to the California Building Standards Codes and the Uniform Housing Code be enacted only when an express finding is made that such amendments are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological or topographical conditions.

Staff is recommending that the structural amendments enacted during the 2002 code adoption cycle be continued as well as new structural amendments. These amendments are adopted to protect the community from the hazards of future earthquakes and are being adopted by many of the jurisdictions in the area, including the City and County of Los Angeles. In addition, amendments are proposed to update the Municipal Code language to be consistent with the California Codes and to codify existing processes and procedures. Included with this ordinance are voluntary seismic upgrade provisions for owners wishing to improve the performance of their buildings during future earthquakes. The proposed amendments are detailed in the attached Ordinance and Resolution. The recommended amendments have been widely

circulated to industry, local individuals and groups. Staff has received few comments in response to the proposed ordinance. Minor changes to the ordinance resulted from this input.

The proposed amendments to the Building Code are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), pursuant to Section 15061 of the CEQA Guidelines, because the proposed amendments will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Assistant City Attorney Michael J. Mais reviewed this report on October 30, 2007, and prepared the attached Ordinance and Resolution for your consideration.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

State law requires that the effective date of the Ordinance be January 1, 2008.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

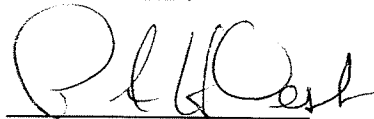


Suzanne Frick  
Director of Planning and Building

SF:LB:kmb

Attachment: Resolution  
Ordinance

APPROVED:



PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER