

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT County Fire	(2) MEETING DATE 11/26/2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Laurie Donnelly - 593-3422	
(4) SUBJECT Submittal of a Resolution Regarding Local Conditions; Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 16.10 of the San Luis Obispo County Code by Adopting and Amending the 2013 Edition of the California Fire Code and setting of December 3, 2013 as the date to hold a public hearing; and Request for Use of Alternative Publication Procedures as authorized by Government Code section 25124.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt the attached resolution regarding local conditions; 2. Introduce the attached ordinance and set December 3, 2013 as the date to hold a public hearing on an ordinance adopting and amending the 2013 Edition of the California Fire Code; 3. Authorize that the display advertisement of one-quarter page that was published in a newspaper of general circulation in the County no later than November 22, 2013, indicating the general nature of the proposed Ordinance amendments that will be considered on December 3, 2013, can act as the alternative publication; and 4. Authorize a one-quarter page display advertisement be placed in a newspaper of general circulation within 15 days after adoption of the proposed amendments by your Board. 			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? N/A
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ___) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ___)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Geoff O'Quest, Administrative Analyst			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) - All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: County Fire / Laurie Donnelly - 593-3422

DATE: 11/26/2013

SUBJECT: Submittal of a Resolution Regarding Local Conditions; Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 16.10 of the San Luis Obispo County Code by Adopting and Amending the 2013 Edition of the California Fire Code and setting of December 3, 2013 as the date to hold a public hearing; and Request for Use of Alternative Publication Procedures as authorized by Government Code section 25124.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt the attached resolution regarding local conditions;
2. Introduce the attached ordinance and set December 3, 2013 as the date to hold a public hearing on an ordinance adopting and amending the 2013 Edition of the California Fire code;
3. Authorize that the display advertisement of one-quarter page that was published in a newspaper of general circulation in the County no later than November 22, 2013, indicating the general nature of the proposed Ordinance amendments that will be considered on December 3, 2013, can act as the alternative publication; and
4. Authorize a one-quarter page display advertisement be placed in a newspaper of general circulation within 15 days after adoption of the proposed amendments by your Board.

DISCUSSION

Every three years, the model construction and fire codes are republished to incorporate all code changes accepted by majority vote of members attending the annual code development meetings. The State of California adopts and amends the most recent edition of the codes, which are subsequently published by the Building Standards Commission. The Commission completed the adoption process for the 2013 edition of the California Building Standards Code, also known as Title 24. As a result, the new codes (2013 California Building, Residential, Mechanical, Plumbing, Electrical, Energy, Green and Fire Codes) will become effective statewide on January 1, 2014.

The California Health and Safety Code allows the County to amend provisions of the California Building Standards Code due to local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions. The action recommended is the opportunity to include amendments to codes that address unusual local conditions in the unincorporated areas of the County of San Luis Obispo. The proposed ordinance contains the findings required to justify the proposed Fire Code modifications.

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The proposed ordinance will amend existing Chapters of the county code in order to bring it into alignment with the 2013 version of the California Fire Code. Changes made in the new version of the California Fire Code, and included in the proposed ordinance, are minor and of no significant impact.

Amendment changes for this adoption cycle are primarily for clarification. Staff recommends the following amendments to County code, in addition to those amendments which will adopt changes in the California Fire Code:

- In qualify structures, an increase in the allowable square footage before sprinklers are required.
- New tables in lieu of lengthy text in order to clarify the requirements for automatic sprinkler systems.
- Changes to the Fire Apparatus Access Road subchapter that allow the removal of less restrictive local amendments.
- Deferral of road design criteria to the County Public Works Department.
- Codification of existing standards for roof access and standpipes.
- Clarification of a procedure for public assemblage and events to ensure fire and life safety conditions keep our local events safe and successful.
- Minor editorial changes related to location within the code and numbering sections.

Past code adoptions by the County have included administrative and technical amendments to the construction codes to address special situations or conditions unique to the unincorporated areas of the County. Since there have been no changes in special "climatic, geologic, or topographic" conditions in County of San Luis Obispo, staff recommends that previous amendments be carried over to the new codes. Exhibit B illustrates actual text changes for all proposed amendments to the various codes. There are no new initiatives in this code adoption process; shaded text is either a continuation of an existing amendment to an adopted code or the incorporation of existing county code text into the new adopted code.

Note that the required display advertisement of one-quarter page has already been published in order to meet the 10 day noticing requirement for a hearing on an ordinance change. The recommendation to authorize this advertisement is coming to you after the advertisement has been placed in the newspaper because the scheduled date for the introduction of the ordinance was changed. Staff is asking that you ratify this action today.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The County Planning and Building Department will be affected by, and has been advised of, the changes to the California Fire Code. The County Public Works Department has been made aware of requested deferral of road design criteria to their responsibility. The noticing requirements for the ordinance amendment have been coordinated with the County Clerk's Office. County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form and legal effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial impacts.

RESULTS

Introduction of these amendments today will allow them to be heard on December 3, 2013 and become effective January 1, 2014. Adopting these amendments to County Code will improve the safety of the public and firefighters and reduce fire related loss to life, property and the environment.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Exhibit A Resolution and Findings
2. Exhibit B Clean Copy of Ordinance
3. Exhibit C Marked Up Version of Ordinance