

# Ordinance Fact Sheet

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**DATE:** May 13, 2019

**FROM:** CITY ATTORNEY

**SUBJECT:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA AMENDING PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 4, CHAPTER 4.32 REGARDING CONSTRUCTION TAX AND ADDING PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 14, CHAPTER 14.08 ENTITLED "MANDATORY SEISMIC STRENGTHENING PROVISIONS FOR EXISTING WOOD-FRAME BUILDINGS WITH SOFT, WEAK OR OPEN-FRONT WALLS"

**TITLE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE:**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA AMENDING PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 4, CHAPTER 4.32 REGARDING CONSTRUCTION TAX AND ADDING PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 14, CHAPTER 14.08 ENTITLED "MANDATORY SEISMIC STRENGTHENING PROVISIONS FOR EXISTING WOOD-FRAME BUILDINGS WITH SOFT, WEAK OR OPEN-FRONT WALLS"**

**PURPOSE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE:**

This ordinance codifies new regulations requiring the retrofit of wood soft-story residential buildings and also waives the construction tax for these projects.

**BACKGROUND:**

On February 25, 2019, the City Council approved proposed amendments to Title 14 of the Pasadena Municipal Code to create new regulations requiring the retrofit of wood soft-story residential buildings and also to amend Title 4, Chapter 4.32 to include a waiver of construction tax for buildings retrofitted pursuant to the proposed soft-story retrofitting regulations.

MEETING OF 05/13/2019

AGENDA ITEM NO. 19

**REASON WHY LEGISLATION IS NEEDED:**

The waiver of the construction tax and the new regulations requiring the retrofit of wood soft-story residential buildings are proposed to be included within Titles 4 and 14 of the Pasadena Municipal Code and an ordinance is required to amend Titles 4 and 14.

**PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT, OR GROUPS AFFECTED:**

The Building & Safety Division of the Planning Department oversees all aspects of the retrofit of wood soft-story residential buildings.

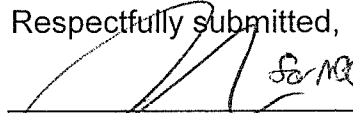
**ENVIRONMENTAL:**

The proposed amendment is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

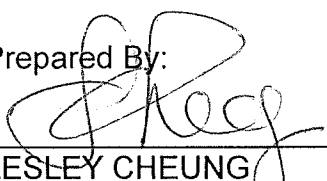
**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The proposed ordinance amendment will likely result in a cost to the City of an indeterminate amount. The cost of plan review and inspections will be fully recovered through plan check and building permit fees. However, the City will likely subsidize the staff costs for administering the program. Additionally, the City will be waiving the construction tax in the building permit fees for applicable projects.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHELE BEAL BAGNERIS  
City Attorney

Prepared By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LESLEY CHEUNG  
Assistant City Attorney

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
STEVE MERMELL  
City Manager