

Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney  
Hydee Feldstein Soto

**REPORT NO.** R25-0621  
December 4, 2025

**REPORT RE:**

**DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER IX OF THE LOS ANGELES  
MUNICIPAL CODE TO INCORPORATE BY REFERENCE CERTAIN PORTIONS OF  
THE 2025 EDITION OF THE CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS CODE AND TO  
CARRY FORWARD EXISTING LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE, CLIMATIC,  
GEOLOGICAL, TOPOGRAPHICAL, OR ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES**

The Honorable City Council  
of the City of Los Angeles  
Room 395, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Council File No. 25-1217

Honorable Members:

This Office has prepared and now transmits for your consideration, approved as to form and legality, the enclosed draft ordinance. The draft ordinance would amend Chapter IX of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to incorporate by reference certain portions of the 2025 edition of the California Building Standards Code (CBSC) that are necessary to preserve the health, safety and welfare of persons within the City, and to carry forward existing local administrative, climatic, geological, topographical, or environmental changes. An urgency clause is included to ensure the ordinance takes effect by January 1, 2026, at the same time the 2025 CBSC takes effect. For the urgency clause to take effect, the ordinance must be passed by a vote of not less than three-fourths of all members of the City Council.

### Background and Summary of Ordinance Provisions

On October 28, 2025, the Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM) recommended to the City Council (Council) that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an ordinance to amend LAMC Chapter IX as outlined in the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (DBS) report dated October 17, 2025.

On November 4, 2025, Council requested that this Office prepare and present an ordinance to amend LAMC Chapter IX as outlined in the DBS report.

On December 3, 2025, Council requested this Office incorporate in the ordinance additional amendments recommended by a DBS communication dated November 6, 2025, with minor exceptions. The exceptions are listed as “[INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]” text in the draft ordinance.

This draft ordinance incorporates by reference certain portions of the 2025 edition of the CBSC; carries forward and reorganizes pre-existing local administrative, climatic, geological, topographical, or environmental changes; and contains an urgency clause pursuant to City Charter Section 253.

### Assembly Bill 130 and the Building Standards Moratorium

Assembly Bill (AB) 130, a budget trailer bill which took effect on June 30, 2025, imposed a moratorium on changes or modifications to the requirements contained in the CBSC. This moratorium, which extends from October 1, 2025, to June 1, 2031, is codified in Section 17958(b) of the Health and Safety Code.

The moratorium is subject to a number of exceptions. Section 17958(b)(1) provides that the City may make changes or modifications that are “substantially equivalent” to changes or modifications that were both previously filed by the City and were in effect as of September 30, 2025. Each of the changes to the CBSC in the proposed ordinance is substantially equivalent to a pre-existing change that was in effect as of September 30, 2025. The draft ordinance does not introduce any substantive new amendments to the CBSC, but rather clarifies, reinstates, or deletes previously adopted amendments to the CBSC. As such, these amendments are exempt from AB130’s moratorium.

### CEQA Determination

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to continuing administrative activities or organizational activities of government that will not result in specific direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, or the creation of government funding mechanisms or other governmental fiscal activities that do not commit to any specific project that may result in potentially significant environmental

impacts. Public Resources Code Section 21065 and State CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(2) and (b)(5). The draft ordinance makes various technical amendments to clarify, reinstate, or delete previously adopted amendments to the CBSC. On that basis, the proposed ordinance is not subject to CEQA.

Charter Findings Not Required

The enclosed draft ordinance relates to regulations and activities already within the authority of DBS, does not enact a new fee, and is not a land use ordinance. For this reason, this draft ordinance is not subject to approval by the City Planning Commission pursuant to Charter Section 558.

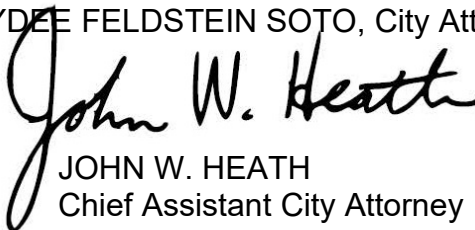
Council Rule 38 Referral

A copy of the draft ordinance was sent, pursuant to Council Rule 38, to the Planning Department and DBS with a request to report all comments directly to City Council at the time this matter is considered.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Deputy City Attorney Grant Hutchins at (213) 574-6983. A member of this Office will be available when you consider this matter to answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

HYDÉE FELDSTEIN SOTO, City Attorney

By   
JOHN W. HEATH  
Chief Assistant City Attorney

JWH:GH:jr