

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
SUBJECT: MODEL CODE ADOPTION – AMENDMENTS TO FIRE
CODE
STAFF PRESENTER: MARK PEDROIA, SENIOR FIRE INSPECTOR
FIRE DEPARTMENT
AGENDA ACTION: ORDINANCE

ISSUE(S)

Shall the Council adopt by reference the most recent edition of the model California Fire Code as adopted and amended by the State of California (and further amended based on local conditions) for use in Chapter 18 of the Santa Rosa City Code, repeal existing sections not applicable to new codes and modify the Santa Rosa City Code to reflect the new model code?

BACKGROUND

1. Every 3 years the State of California updates the California Code of Regulations, Title 24 (CCR-T24), through the State code adoption cycle. The State of California adopts and publishes amendments to national model codes and updates codes specific to California during this cycle. Such model codes with State amendments and California specific codes go into effect in every City and County in the State of California 180 days after publication. The new 2013 CCR-T24 were published in July of 2013. The Health and Safety Code allows local jurisdictions to change or modify the State-adopted model codes based on local geologic, climatic, or topographic conditions.
2. Government Code section 50022.3 identifies the procedure for the adoption process of codes that established the requirement for first reading of the ordinance title and establishment of the public hearing date.

ANALYSIS

1. In January, 2013, the State of California Building Standards Commission adopted many of these codes with amendments and published them as California codes. The new California Code of Regulations, Title 24, was published in July, 2013. The codes adopted by the Building Standards Commission go into effect 180 days after publication by the State and must be

enforced by each City and County. The State also adopted in January 2013 the following California codes specific to California: California Fire Code.

Local jurisdictions may amend the codes only if determined reasonably necessary because of local topographic, geologic, or climatic conditions.

2. Staff participated in the Sonoma County Fire Prevention Officer's Fire Code Committee to create a consensus document to be utilized county-wide by cities, fire districts and the County in an effort to ensure uniformity in requirements.
3. The more significant amendments include, but are not limited to, the following: Re-inserts amendments and administrative changes previously established in the Santa Rosa City Code, but that now have revised code section numbers; re-inserts a clarification of the appeals process so that appeals of any orders, decisions or determinations made by the Fire Chief are brought to the City of Santa Rosa Board of Building Regulations Appeals; clarifies the fire sprinkler requirements applicable to additions, remodels, alterations or repairs by incorporating language from the Sonoma County Fire Prevention Officers consensus document and removes a local amendment that previously required increased fire flow and storage capacity of water supplies for firefighting in the areas designated as Wildland Urban Interface.
4. Staff has reviewed the new codes adopted by the State of California and prepared the ordinance for adoption of these codes with amendments into the Santa Rosa City Code.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Fire Department that the Council (1) introduce an Ordinance adopting by reference the 2013 California Fire Code with local amendments; and (2) adopt a resolution setting a public hearing on December 3, 2013, for adoption of the Ordinance.

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Attachments:

Ordinance

Resolution

Public Hearing Notice