

1 [Building Code - Mandatory Seismic Retrofit Program - Wood-Frame Buildings; Optional
2 Evaluation Form Fee]

3 **Ordinance amending the Building Code to establish a Mandatory Seismic Retrofit**
4 **Program for wood-frame buildings of three or more stories or two stories over a**
5 **basement or underfloor area that has any portion extending above grade, and**
6 **containing five or more dwelling units where the permit to construct was applied for**
7 **prior to January 1, 1978, and the building has not been seismically strengthened;**
8 **establishing a fee for administering the program; adopting environmental findings and**
9 **findings of local conditions under California Health and Safety Code, Section 17958.7;**
10 **establishing an operative date; and directing the Clerk of the Board to forward the**
11 **legislation to specified State agencies.**

12 NOTE: Additions are single-underline italics Times New Roman;
13 deletions are ~~strike-through italics Times New Roman~~.
14 Board amendment additions are double-underlined;
15 Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough-normal~~.

16 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

17 Section 1. General Findings.

18 (a) At a duly noticed public hearing held on February 20, 2013, the Building Inspection
19 Commission considered this ordinance.

20 (b) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this
21 ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources
22 Code Section 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of
23 Supervisors in File No. 130119 and is incorporated herein by reference.

24 (c) In Section 19160 of the California Health & Safety Code, the State Legislature
25 declared that because of the generally acknowledged fact that California will experience
moderate to severe earthquakes in the foreseeable future, increased efforts to reduce

1 earthquake hazards should be encouraged and supported. California Health and Safety Code
2 Section 19161 authorizes each city, city and county, or county to assess the earthquake
3 hazard in its jurisdiction and to identify buildings that are potentially hazardous to life in the
4 event of an earthquake. Health and Safety Code Section 19162 authorizes the governing
5 body of any city, city and county, or county to establish by ordinance seismic retrofit standards
6 for these buildings.

7 (d) Among the potentially hazardous buildings identified in Health and Safety Code
8 Section 19161 are wood-frame, multi-unit residential buildings constructed before January 1,
9 1978 having soft, weak or open front wall lines (a "soft-story condition"). These conditions
10 generally arise in a building because the first story has perimeter walls that have large
11 openings for garage doors or windows, has few interior partitions, and/or is constructed of
12 materials that have deteriorated over time.

13 (e) In enacting Health and Safety Code Section 19160 et seq., the State Legislature
14 found that residential buildings with a soft-story condition are particularly vulnerable to severe
15 damage and collapse. Their collapse can ignite fires that threaten trapped occupants and
16 neighboring buildings in the event of an earthquake and could complicate emergency
17 response. In addition, these buildings are an important component of the State's housing
18 stock that are in jeopardy of being lost in the event of a major earthquake. Soft-story
19 residential buildings were responsible for 7,700 of the 16,000 housing units rendered
20 uninhabitable by the Loma Prieta earthquake and over 34,000 of the housing units rendered
21 uninhabitable by the Northridge earthquake. As noted in subsection (j) of Health and Safety
22 Code Section 19160, the Association of Bay Area Governments estimates that soft-story
23 residential buildings will be responsible for 66 percent of the uninhabitable housing following a
24 seismic event on the Hayward fault. In subsections (l) and (n) of Health and Safety Code
25 Section 19160, the Seismic Safety Commission recommended to the State Legislature that

1 any mandatory mitigation programs adopted significantly reduce unacceptable hazards in
2 buildings by 2020 and the Legislature stated its intent that local jurisdictions be encouraged to
3 address the seismic safety of soft-story residential buildings and to initiate efforts to reduce
4 the seismic risk in these vulnerable buildings.

5
6 Section 2. Findings of Local Conditions Under California Health and Safety Code
7 Section 17958.7.

8 (a) The Applied Technology Council (ATC) is a nonprofit organization that develops
9 and promotes state-of-the-art, user-friendly engineering resources and applications to mitigate
10 the effects of natural and other hazards on the built environment. Beginning in 1998, ATC was
11 contracted to perform a study called the San Francisco Community Action Plan for Seismic
12 Safety (CAPSS), which was initiated by the San Francisco Building Inspection Commission.
13 Under CAPSS, ATC, together with the CAPSS Public Advisory Committee, studied buildings
14 in San Francisco that are vulnerable to collapse or severe damage in an earthquake.

15 (b) The purpose of the CAPSS study was to develop earthquake safety policy
16 recommendations founded on clear technical bases. "Here Today, Here Tomorrow," ATC's
17 first policy report under CAPSS, was published in February 2009 and focused on the City's
18 wood-frame structures that have five or more residential units, three or more stories, and were
19 built before the adoption of codes regulating earthquake-resistant construction. It was
20 determined that the possible collapse of many of San Francisco's wood-frame, multi-story
21 buildings containing residential units represents one of the most significant earthquake
22 impacts to the City. The final CAPSS report, issued December 31, 2010, also addressed other
23 vulnerable building types that present risks to the people of the City and County of San
24 Francisco.

1 (c) In 2010, the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR)
2 published a white paper entitled "The Resilient City – Part I," containing SPUR's
3 recommendations regarding how San Francisco can prepare for and rebound quickly from a
4 major earthquake. As noted in the Preface to "Here Today – Here Tomorrow," there has been
5 significant cooperation and communication between the CAPSS Public Advisory Committee
6 and SPUR's hazard mitigation task force. The CAPSS recommendations were strongly
7 influenced by SPUR's vision of city-wide mitigation actions to be taken to assure San
8 Francisco's speedy recovery after a future earthquake .

9 (d) At the request of participants in the CAPSS project, in May 2009 the Federal
10 Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) commissioned ATC to prepare guidelines for the
11 seismic retrofit of so-called soft-story wood frame buildings. Technical advisors to the CAPSS
12 project had concluded that existing engineering procedures were not adequate to fully
13 evaluate the complex behavior of these vulnerable buildings, and were not necessarily
14 yielding optimal retrofit designs. Those advisors recommended that new evaluation and
15 design procedures were needed to ensure more reliable, cost-effective engineering practices
16 for evaluation and retrofit and to provide guidance for practical and enforceable retrofit
17 regulations.

18 (e) In May 2012 FEMA issued a guidelines document entitled FEMA P-807, Seismic
19 Evaluation and Retrofit of Multi-Unit Wood-Frame Buildings with Weak First Stories, which
20 details procedures for the analysis and seismic retrofit of vulnerable wood-frame buildings that
21 are common in Northern and Southern California and the Pacific Northwest. The guidelines
22 are suitable for implementation through model code provisions that ensure uniform application
23 and enforcement. The retrofit requirements contained in this Ordinance allow the use of
24 FEMA P-807 and other approved methodologies. The retrofit provisions of FEMA P-807 focus
25 on projects in which work is limited to the first story and the second floor diaphragm. Such

1 retrofits can improve performance and reduce risk of collapse but will not necessarily provide
2 a comprehensive building retrofit to a specific performance objective.

3 (f) In early 2010, then Mayor Newsom convened a Soft-Story Retrofit Task Force with
4 the aim of crafting a mandatory seismic retrofit program for weak-story buildings in San
5 Francisco, including consideration of a phased implementation program and possible
6 financing mechanisms. In 2011, Mayor Lee initiated the Earthquake Safety Implementation
7 Program (ESIP) to implement the recommendations of the CAPSS program, including
8 completing the development of an ordinance for retrofit of weak-story buildings. That work has
9 resulted in the mandatory seismic retrofit program established in this ordinance.

10 (g) There are approximately 4,300 wood-frame buildings in San Francisco that were
11 built before January 1, 1978, having five or more dwelling units and three or more stories. The
12 CAPSS analysis determined that at least 2,800 of these may have a weak-story condition or
13 similar vulnerability. These vulnerable buildings can be found throughout the City, most
14 notably in the Mission, Western Addition, Richmond, North Beach, and Marina
15 neighborhoods.

16 (h) California Health and Safety Code Section 19161(a)(2) has set January 1, 1978 as
17 a benchmark date for characterizing wood-frame, multi-unit residential buildings. This January
18 1, 1978 date supersedes the date of May 21, 1973 found in the San Francisco Building Code
19 that was previously used to distinguish obsolete structural designs from acceptable structures
20 of this building type. Under the California Health and Safety Code, buildings constructed after
21 January 1, 1978 are considered to have been designed to meet a life safety standard in the
22 design-basis earthquake, which has a two percent chance of occurring in any 50-year period.
23 In San Francisco, the design-basis earthquake is similar to a magnitude 7.9 earthquake on a
24 nearby segment of the San Andreas fault.

1 (i) Buildings located within the City's potential liquefaction zones may not perform as
2 well as buildings outside these mapped areas. These liquefaction zones are identified in the
3 Official Map of the State of California's Seismic Hazard Zones, which was signed by the State
4 Geologist and released on November 17, 2000. Notwithstanding these possible local
5 geological impacts, buildings in these areas will benefit significantly from the seismic retrofit
6 requirements of this ordinance.

7 (j) The CAPSS study estimates that as they now stand, 43 to 85 percent of the most
8 vulnerable multi-unit, wood-frame buildings would be posted with a red UNSAFE placard
9 ("red-tagged") following a magnitude 7.2 earthquake on a nearby segment of the San Andreas
10 fault, representing 1,200 to 2,400 red-tagged buildings. Red-tagged buildings are
11 uninhabitable and may not be occupied after an earthquake until they are either repaired or
12 replaced. A quarter of the red-tagged buildings, representing 300 to 850 multi-unit buildings,
13 would be expected to collapse. The CAPSS study estimates that with appropriate seismic
14 retrofit the overall rate of collapse in a 7.2 San Andreas fault earthquake drops dramatically.

15 (k) The CAPSS study found that about 58,000 people live in the subset of 2,800
16 buildings with the largest perimeter wall openings. These buildings house close to 2,000
17 businesses that employ an estimated 7,000 people. Without retrofit, the heavy damage that
18 these buildings are likely to sustain and the fires resulting from the earthquake would kill and
19 injure many people and disrupt many neighborhoods for years after an earthquake. This
20 disruption would displace tens of thousands of people from their homes and neighborhoods
21 and thus they could not contribute to bringing communities back to life. Small businesses
22 along neighborhood shopping streets would suffer severe impacts. Many of these buildings
23 contain rent-controlled apartments that might be rebuilt as condominiums rather than
24 apartment buildings or, if rebuilt as apartments, would be exempt from rent control. The
25

1 demographics and character of neighborhoods that experience substantial damage could
2 change significantly.

3 (l) A resilient city is a city that can rebound from a natural disaster and quickly resume
4 normal function. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the resiliency goals as identified
5 in the Community Safety Element of San Francisco's General Plan, as well as to protect the
6 health, safety, and welfare of San Francisco residents by reducing the possible collapse,
7 major structural damage, loss of housing stock, or risk of fire caused by an earthquake to the
8 most vulnerable wood-frame, residential buildings. This ordinance requires retrofits that will
9 greatly increase the probability of a building being safely occupiable within 24 hours of an
10 expected moderate earthquake, a measure of performance commonly referred to as "shelter-
11 in-place," using criteria that limit retrofit costs. This moderate earthquake has a magnitude of
12 7.2 on the Peninsula segment of the San Andreas Fault. For most of the City, the shaking
13 associated with this scenario is expected to occur at least once during the useful life of a
14 structure and more than once if the structure is renovated periodically to extend its useful life.

15 (m) As the CAPSS study showed, the seismic retrofitting of multi-unit, wood-frame
16 buildings as required by this ordinance would dramatically reduce the consequences of
17 earthquakes to San Francisco by substantially reducing the collapse hazard and allowing up
18 to 58,000 San Franciscans to remain in their homes rather than be relocated to temporary or
19 emergency housing. It would retain significant amounts of housing, preserve architectural and
20 cultural attributes, contribute to sustainability through conservation of energy and resources,
21 improve public safety, and shorten the time that the City requires to recover from large
22 earthquakes.

23
24 Section 3. The San Francisco Building Code is hereby amended by adding Chapter
25 34B, to read as follows:

1 **CHAPTER 34B**

2 **MANDATORY EARTHQUAKE RETROFIT OF WOOD-FRAME BUILDINGS**

3 **Section 3401B. Purpose and Intent.** *The purpose of this Chapter is to promote the health,*
4 *safety, and welfare of San Francisco residents as well as the ability of the City and County of San*
5 *Francisco to recover from a major earthquake by reducing the possibility of collapse, major structural*
6 *damage, or risk of fire caused by an earthquake to certain wood-frame buildings.*

7 *In furtherance of this purpose, this Chapter establishes seismic retrofit requirements intended to*
8 *significantly reduce the collapse risk of residential buildings with critically vulnerable lower stories*
9 *and to increase the likelihood that these buildings will be structurally safe to occupy shortly after an*
10 *earthquake. The engineering criteria established by this Chapter generally limit the structural retrofit*
11 *work to the ground story or to a basement or underfloor area that extends above grade where the most*
12 *critical vulnerabilities are typically located, thereby improving building performance while limiting*
13 *retrofit costs and impacts.*

14 **Section 3402B. Scope.** *This Chapter shall apply to existing buildings, including mixed-*
15 *occupancy buildings, that are Type V (wood-frame) construction of three or more stories or two stories*
16 *over a basement or underfloor area that has any portion extending above grade, and containing five or*
17 *more dwelling units and for which a permit for construction of a new building was applied for before*
18 *January 1, 1978 or which is determined by the Department to have been originally constructed before*
19 *January 1, 1978.*

20 **Exceptions:**

21 *1. A building that has been seismically strengthened to meet or exceed the standards of*
22 *Section 1604.11 of this Code or its predecessor provisions within 15 years prior to the operative date of*
23 *this Chapter is exempt from this Chapter upon the submittal of documentation showing that such work*
24 *was properly permitted, completed, and maintained as required by this Code, and that the Department*
25 *has approved such documentation.*

1 2. A building that has completed voluntary seismic strengthening under the provisions of
2 Administrative Bulletin AB-094 is exempt from the requirements of this Chapter.

3 **Section 3403B. Definitions.**

4 In addition to the definitions in Chapter 2 of this Code, the following definitions shall apply for
5 purposes of this Chapter:

6 **DWELLING UNIT.** A dwelling unit shall include any individual residential unit within either
7 an R-1 or an R-2 occupancy building. It shall also include a guestroom, with or without a kitchen,
8 within either a tourist or residential hotel or motel but shall not include a "housekeeping room." A
9 dwelling unit shall include an area that is occupied as a dwelling unit, whether such is approved or
10 unapproved for residential use.

11 **STORY.** The first story of any building shall be considered a story, whether or not previously
12 exempted from story count under an earlier edition of the San Francisco Building Code.

13 **Section 3404B. Compliance Requirements.**

14 **3404B.1. General.** The owner of each building subject to this Chapter shall comply with the
15 reporting requirements of this section. If the building is not exempt and does not meet the minimum
16 criteria specified in this Chapter, the owner shall cause the building to be retrofitted to conform to such
17 criteria according to the compliance deadlines set forth in Table 34B-A. Notice of the compliance
18 requirements shall be given by the Department pursuant to Section 3405B.4.

19 **3404B.2. Screening Form.** The owner of a building who has been notified that their building is
20 within the scope of this Chapter as well as all other owners of buildings that may be subject to this
21 Chapter shall engage an architect or engineer to submit to the Department within the time limits set
22 forth in Table 34B-A a properly completed Screening Form.

23 **Exception:** Buildings exempt based on the exception in Section 3402B, Exception 2 of this
24 Chapter may complete and submit the required Screening Form without engaging an architect or
25 engineer.

1 2. plans and other information as the Department may require that are sufficient
2 to support the Declaration below, and

3 3. a Declaration of whether the building satisfies the evaluation criteria given in
4 Section 3406B.2 of this Chapter.

5 **3404B.3. Compliance Tiers.** Each building not exempt from this Chapter shall be assigned to
6 one of the following Compliance Tiers:

7 1. Tier I: Buildings that contain a Group A, E, R-2.1, R-3.1 or R-4 occupancy on any
8 story.

9 2. Tier II: Buildings containing 15 or more dwelling units, except for buildings assigned
10 to Tier I or Tier IV.

11 3. Tier III: Buildings not falling within the definition of another tier.

12 4. Tier IV: Buildings that contain a Group B or M occupancy on the first story or in a
13 basement or underfloor area that has any portion extending above grade, and buildings that are in
14 mapped liquefaction zones, except for buildings assigned to Tier I.

15 **3404B.4. Application for a building permit.** For each non-exempt and non-complying building,
16 the owner or the owner's authorized agent shall submit to the Department an application for a building
17 permit accompanied by the necessary permit submittal documents indicating the proposed seismic
18 retrofit. A permit for this seismic retrofit work may include minor ancillary work but shall be separate
19 from any other permits for building alterations or repairs unless such work is triggered by or integral
20 to the seismic retrofit work. No work other than is required under current codes shall be triggered by
21 this seismic retrofit work.

22 **3404B4.1. Compliance deadlines.** Compliance deadlines for the submission of the
23 Screening Form, Optional Evaluation Form, building permit application, and for completion of seismic
24 retrofit work are given in Table 34B-A. No transfer of title shall alter the time limits for compliance.

1 **3404B4.2. Certificate of Final Completion and Occupancy.** *A Certificate of Final*
2 *Completion and Occupancy indicating completion of the required seismic retrofit work shall be*
3 *obtained upon completion of required seismic retrofit work.*

4 **3404B4.3. Damaged Buildings.** *Notwithstanding the provisions of the Table 34B-A*
5 *Compliance Deadlines, if an as-yet unretrofitted building subject to this Chapter suffers damage from*
6 *an earthquake or subsequent fire caused by the earthquake that renders the building uninhabitable,*
7 *results in structural damage that triggers retrofit under regulations adopted by the Department of*
8 *Building Inspection, or results in “disproportionate damage” as defined in this Code, such building*
9 *shall comply with the requirements of this Chapter and other applicable Sections of this Code within*
10 *one year of such damage. The Department may grant an extension of this time period for good cause.*
11 *Compliance with the provisions of this Chapter does not supersede the requirement to comply with*
12 *Section 3405.3 of this Code when otherwise required by this Code.*

13 **3404B.5. Historic Preservation.** *If any portion of the seismic retrofit work will be visible from*
14 *the exterior of the subject property and the San Francisco Planning Department determines that the*
15 *building is a historic resource, or if the interior of the building has been given landmark status, the*
16 *seismic retrofit work shall be conducted in accordance with guidelines developed by the San Francisco*
17 *Planning Department, taking into account provisions of the California Historical Building Code.*

18 **3405B. Program Implementation and Administration; Fee.**

19 **3405B.1. Administrative Bulletin.** *The Department shall prepare an Administrative Bulletin*
20 *detailing the procedural and implementation requirements for this Chapter. Such procedures shall be*
21 *generally consistent with the requirements set forth in this Chapter. The Administrative Bulletin may*
22 *require sign-posting and other public information that the Department determines is necessary or*
23 *appropriate.*

1 **3405B.2. Compliance Deadlines.**

2 **TABLE 34B-A**

3 **Compliance Deadlines (in years¹).**

4

<u>Compliance Tier</u>	<u>Submission of Screening Form and Optional Evaluation Form</u>	<u>Submittal of Permit Application with Plans for Seismic Retrofit Work</u>	<u>Completion of Work And Issuance of CFC2</u>
<u>I</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>II</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>III</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>IV</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>

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6
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8

9 ¹All time periods are in years measured from 90 days after the operative date of this Chapter.

10 ²All time limits and extensions of Chapter 1A of this Code are applicable, except that all work is
11 to be completed by December 31, 2020, as recommended in California Health & Safety Code Section
12 19160(l).

13 **3405B.3. Administrative Fee.** The fee for services provided by the Department under this
14 Chapter shall be the Standard Hourly Rate for Plan Review and Administration set forth in Table 1A-D
15 of this Code. There shall be no fee required for submittal or review of the Screening Form required by
16 Section 3404B.2. A minimum fee corresponding to two hours for plan review and administration is
17 payable upon submittal of a voluntary Optional Evaluation Form. Additional fees may be charged at
18 the Standard Hourly Rate for additional work and will be payable within 30 days of the Department's
19 notice that payment is due.

20 **3405B.4. Notice.**

21 **3405B.4.1. Service of notice on owner.** No later than 90 days after the operative date of
22 this Chapter, the Department shall send a notice in accordance with Section 102A.4.2 of this Code to
23 the owner of each building believed to be within the scope of this Chapter. The notice shall inform the
24 owner of the requirement to comply with the provisions of this Chapter, and shall be accompanied by a
25 Screening Form and an informational letter or brochure. Any person who believes that a building that

1 is within the scope of this Chapter has not been so identified by the Department may notify the
2 Department of the address or location of such building. If the Department determines upon review of
3 the building and/or building records that the building may be within the scope of this Chapter, the
4 Department shall provide notice to the owner as provided in this Section.

5 **3405B.4.2. Failure to give or receive notice.** If the owner of a building within the scope
6 of this Chapter has knowledge that they own such a building, then the failure of the Department to issue
7 the notice required by this Section, or the failure of the owner to receive such a notice, shall not relieve
8 the owner of the obligation to comply with the requirements of this Chapter within the time limits set
9 forth in Table 34B-A. For a building not known to the Department to be within the scope of this
10 Chapter and whose owner or owners have no knowledge that the building is within the scope of this
11 Chapter, the time limits set forth in Table 34B-A shall commence upon an owner having actual or
12 constructive notice that the building may be within the scope of this Chapter. In no case, however, shall
13 the final completion date be extended without the approval of the Board of Examiners after hearing an
14 appeal pursuant to Section 3405B.5.

15 **3405B.4.3. Notice to public on Department's website.** A list of the buildings by street
16 address and by block and lot for which notice has been given under this Section shall be maintained
17 and made public on the Department's website.

18 **3405B.5. Appeals.** The owner of any building subject to this Chapter may appeal to the Board
19 of Examiners any determination made by the Department with respect to compliance with the technical
20 requirements of this Chapter. Such appeal shall be in accordance with the provisions of Section 105A
21 of this Code. The time limits for compliance established by Table 34B-A shall not be extended during
22 any appeal period unless specifically approved by the Board of Examiners. Any person may appeal a
23 determination of the Director related to this Chapter to the Building Inspection Commission pursuant
24 to Chapter 77 of the San Francisco Administrative Code.

1 **3405B.6. Enforcement.** *Whenever any required action has not been completed within the time*
2 *limits set forth in Table 34B-A, the Department shall abate the violation in accordance with Section*
3 *102A of this Code.*

4 **3405B.6.1. Posting of notice.** *An enforcement action shall, in every case, include the*
5 *Department posting of the building with a standard Department notice stating as follows:*

6 "Earthquake Warning. This building is in violation of the requirements of the San Francisco
7 Building Code regarding earthquake safety."

8 *This notice shall not be removed until the building is in compliance with this Chapter. This notice shall*
9 *also be recorded against the title of the building. The Building Official shall cause a release of such*
10 *notice to be filed with the Assessor-Recorder's Office upon conformance with the requirements of this*
11 *Chapter.*

12 **3406B Engineering Criteria for Evaluation and Retrofit.**

13 **3406B.1. General.** *This Chapter requires that evaluation and/or retrofit of buildings within its*
14 *scope be undertaken using the engineering criteria established in this section.*

15 **3406B.2. Engineering Criteria.** *A proposed seismic evaluation and/or retrofit plan shall*
16 *demonstrate that the building satisfies one of the following:*

17 1. FEMA P-807, Seismic Evaluation and Retrofit of Multi-Unit Wood-Frame Buildings
18 With Weak First Stories, as detailed in an Administrative Bulletin to be prepared pursuant to 3406B.3
19 of this ordinance, with the performance objective of 50 percent maximum probability of exceedance of
20 Onset of Strength Loss drift limits with a spectral demand equal to 0.50 SMS, or

21 2. ASCE 41-13, Seismic Evaluation and Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings, with the
22 performance objective of Structural Life Safety in the BSE-1E earthquake, or

23 3. ASCE 41-06, Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings, with the performance
24 objective of Structural Life Safety in the BSE-1 earthquake with earthquake loads multiplied by 75
25 percent, or

1 4. for evaluation only, ASCE 31-03, Seismic Evaluation of Existing Buildings, with the
2 performance level of Life Safety, or
3 5. for retrofit only, 2012 International Existing Building Code (IEBC) Appendix A-4, or
4 6. any other rational design basis deemed acceptable by the Department that meets or
5 exceeds the intent of this Chapter.

6 **3406B.3. Alternative Retrofit Criteria.** A proposed seismic retrofit plan which fails to meet the
7 criteria of 3406B.2(1) or 3406B.2(5) shall be deemed to comply with this Chapter if, with the approval
8 of the Department, it satisfies the intent of FEMA P-807, Section 6.4.2 with a maximum acceptable
9 Onset of Strength Loss drift limit probability of exceedance of 70 percent.

10 **Exception:** Alternative retrofit criteria shall not apply to buildings in which the critical stories,
11 basements, or underfloor areas contain other than parking, storage, or utility uses or occupancies.

12 **3406B.4. Administrative Bulletin for Technical Requirements.** The Department shall develop
13 and publish one or more Administrative Bulletins that detail the technical requirements to be used for
14 the evaluation and retrofitting of buildings required to meet the criteria established in Section 3406B.2.

15 **3406B.5. Conformance Period.** Any building retrofitted in compliance with this Chapter and
16 properly maintained, shall not, within a period of 15 years after the operative date of this Chapter, be
17 identified as a seismic hazard pursuant to any local building standards adopted after the date of the
18 building seismic retrofit unless the building incurred disproportionate damage, or otherwise has been
19 damaged or altered so that it no longer meets the engineering criteria under which it was retrofitted.

20 **3406B.6.** Compliance with this Chapter does not supersede the requirements for compliance
21 with Section 3401.B when otherwise under Chapter 34 of this Code. A permit issued solely for
22 compliance with the provisions of this Chapter shall not be considered a “substantial change” or
23 “structural work” as defined in Chapter 34 and compliance with Section 3401.8 will not be
24 requirement by such work.
25

1 Section 4. The City intends to consider the creation of a voluntary special tax financing
2 program to provide financing for the seismic retrofit work required by Chapter 34B. Under this
3 program, the City would issue bonds on behalf of property owners to finance the required
4 seismic retrofit work on participating properties, and each participating property owner would
5 pay special taxes in an amount sufficient to pay its share of the debt service on the bonds.
6 The financing would be voluntary; only those property owners who elect to participate in the
7 program would receive the benefit of the financing and would be obligated to pay special
8 taxes. Such tax financing program does not obligate the City to pay the special taxes.
9

10 Section 5. Outreach and Assistance. (a) The Department, with the assistance of other
11 City agencies, intends to implement a comprehensive outreach and assistance program to
12 provide property owners, tenants, design professionals, contractors, and other interested
13 parties with information about the procedures and technical standards necessary to
14 implement the requirements of this Chapter. Information and assistance to be provided would
15 include, but not be limited to, notice of requirements and standards, assistance with
16 preparation of required forms and permit submittal documents, guidance on available finance
17 options, and general assistance in understanding and complying with the requirements of this
18 Chapter.

19 (b) The City intends that each landlord who files an application for certification of
20 capital improvement costs under Administrative Code §37.7(c)(3) concurrently provide written
21 notice of hardship application procedures to each affected unit, and sign a declaration under
22 penalty of perjury so attesting, and that City Administrative Code Chapter 37 "Residential Rent
23 Stabilization and Arbitration Ordinance" be amended within 12 months of the effective date of
24 this Ordinance to address this provision.
25

1 Section 6. Reporting. The Department shall maintain current information about
2 program implementation, including the number of buildings at each stage of compliance,
3 program administration and budget, and shall annually provide a report to the Mayor and the
4 Board of Supervisors.

5
6 Section 7. Undertaking for the General Welfare. In enacting and implementing this
7 ordinance, the City is assuming an undertaking only to promote the general welfare. It is not
8 assuming, nor is it imposing on its officers and employees, an obligation for breach of which it
9 is liable in money damages to any person who claims that such breach proximately caused
10 injury.

11
12 Section 8. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word
13 of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of any
14 court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining
15 portions of the ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have
16 passed this ordinance and each and every section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, and
17 word not declared invalid or unconstitutional without regard to whether any other portion of
18 this ordinance would be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional.

19
20 Section 9. Effective and Operative Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30
21 days after the date of passage and operative 60 days after the date of passage.

22
23 Section 10. This section is uncodified. In enacting this ordinance, the Board intends to
24 amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles, numbers,
25 punctuation, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent part of the Building Code that are

1 explicitly shown in this legislation as additions, deletions, Board amendment additions, and
2 Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under the official title
3 of the legislation.
4

5 Section 11. Directions to Clerk of the Board. The Clerk of the Board is directed to
6 forward this ordinance to the State Building Standards Commission after final passage, as
7 required by Health and Safety Code Section 17958.7. The Clerk is further directed to send a
8 copy of the finally-passed ordinance to the California Department of Housing and Community
9 Development for informational purposes, as required by Health and Safety Code Section
10 19165.
11

12 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
13 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

14 By: 
15 JUDITH A. BOYAJIAN
16 Deputy City Attorney

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City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Ordinance

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 130119

Date Passed: April 09, 2013

Ordinance amending the Building Code to establish a Mandatory Seismic Retrofit Program for wood-frame buildings of three or more stories or two stories over a basement or underfloor area that has any portion extending above grade, and containing five or more dwelling units where the permit to construct was applied for prior to January 1, 1978, and the building has not been seismically strengthened; establishing a fee for administering the program; adopting environmental findings and findings of local conditions under California Health and Safety Code, Section 17958.7; establishing an operative date; and directing the Clerk of the Board to forward the legislation to specified State agencies.

March 18, 2013 Land Use and Economic Development Committee - CONTINUED

March 25, 2013 Land Use and Economic Development Committee - AMENDED

March 25, 2013 Land Use and Economic Development Committee - RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED

April 02, 2013 Board of Supervisors - PASSED, ON FIRST READING

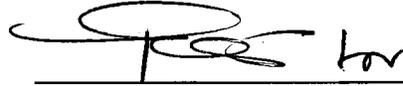
Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

April 09, 2013 Board of Supervisors - FINALLY PASSED

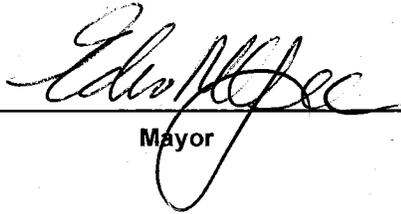
Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

File No. 130119

I hereby certify that the foregoing
Ordinance was FINALLY PASSED on
4/9/2013 by the Board of Supervisors of the
City and County of San Francisco.



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board


Mayor

Date Approved