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CITY ATTORNEY

REPORT NO. R 13 - 0354
DEC 10 2013

REPORT RE:

**DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING
LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 93.0101, 93.0202, 93.0206, 93.0209,
93.0217, 93.0233, 93.0235, 93.0313, 93.0403, 93.0600 and 93.0700 TO MAKE
VARIOUS TECHNICAL CHANGES AND INCORPORATE PORTIONS
OF THE 2013 CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL CODE**

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. 13-1214

Honorable Members:

Pursuant to the request of City Council, this Office has prepared and now transmits for your consideration the enclosed draft ordinance, approved as to form and legality. The draft ordinance amends Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Sections 93.0101, 93.0202, 93.0206, 93.0209, 93.0217, 93.0233, 93.0235, 93.0313, 93.0403, 93.0600 and 93.0700 to make various technical changes and incorporate portions of the 2013 California Electrical Code.

Summary of Ordinance Provisions

On October 29, 2013, the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee considered reports from the Mayor and the Department of Building and Safety (DBS) relative to proposed ordinances to amend various sections of the LAMC

including the Electrical Code. At that meeting, the PLUM Committee requested that the City Attorney prepare and present ordinances to amend the various sections of the LAMC as outlined in the reports.

This draft ordinance makes various technical changes to the existing regulations in the Electrical Code. It also eliminates obsolete code sections, clarifies code sections, and updates code year references.

CEQA Determination

Under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 21065 and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2) and (b)(5), continuing administrative activities and organizational activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment are not CEQA projects. The ordinance is an administrative change to existing LAMC Sections 93.0101, 93.0202, 93.0206, 93.0209, 93.0217, 93.0233, 93.0235, 93.0313, 93.0403, 93.0600 and 93.0700. These changes make various technical changes to the existing regulations, eliminate obsolete code sections, and clarify code sections. These changes will not result in any direct or indirect physical change to the environment. Therefore, the ordinance is not subject to CEQA.

Council Rule 38 Referral

The draft ordinance was sent, pursuant to Council Rule 38, to the Department of Building and Safety.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Deputy City Attorney Kim Rodgers Westhoff at (213) 978-8242. She or another member of this Office will be present to answer any questions you may have when you consider this matter.

Very truly yours,

MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney

By 

DAVID MICHAELSON
Chief Assistant City Attorney

DM/KRW:zra
Transmittal

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending certain provisions of Article 3, Chapter IX of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to reflect local administrative changes and incorporate by reference portions of the 2013 Edition of the California Electrical Code (CEC).

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Section 93.0101 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

SEC. 93.0101. TITLE.

This ordinance shall be known as the "Los Angeles Electrical Code," a portion of the "Los Angeles Municipal Code." Wherever the word "Code" is used in this ordinance, it shall mean the "Los Angeles Electrical Code" and whenever "LAMC." is used, it shall refer to the "Los Angeles Municipal Code." References to the "CEC." and the "CBSC" shall mean the 2013 "California Electrical Code" and the 2013 "California Building Standards Codes" respectively.

Sec. 2. Subdivision 13 of Subsection (a) of Section 93.0202 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

13. The following electrical wiring:

(i) Non-required signaling circuits supplied by an approved Class 2 limited power source, capable of supplying not more than 30 volts and 100 volt-amperes; and

(ii) Non-required communication circuits which have the power limited in accordance with Section 725.121 of the CEC; and

(iii) Non-required amplifier output circuits which are permitted by Section 640.9(C) of the CEC to employ Class 2 or Class 3 wiring; and

(iv) Any non-required circuit which operates at 15 volts or less and does not generate, transmit, transform, utilize or control more than 25 watts or volt-amperes of electric power.

Provided the wiring for any of the above items is not located in any of the following locations:

a. Area classified as "**hazardous**" under Article 500 of the CEC; or

- b. Appurtenant to a required fire alarm and signaling system as classified under Article 760 of the CEC.; or
- c. Penetrating any fire-resistive wall or floor system; or
- d. In a plenum, duct or other space used for environmental air including access floors.

Sec. 3. Subdivision 17 of Subsection (a) of Section 93.0202 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

17. The replacement of defective smoke detectors in a single-family dwelling when the work is performed by a contractor with a valid Certificate of Registration pursuant to Section 91.1709.2. A Certificate of Compliance pursuant to Section 91.108.12 must be filed with the City in lieu of a permit.

Sec. 4. Subdivision 18 of Subsection (a) of Section 93.0202 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is added to read as follows:

18. Electric wiring in the Harbor District pursuant to Section 98.0102.1(a) of the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

Sec. 5. Subdivision 8 of Subsection (b) of Section 93.0206 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

8. Installation of a complicated electrical system as determined by the Department, such as, Emergency, Legally Required Standby, Fire Alarm and Signaling, and Gas Detection Systems, except for the following:

- (i) The addition of strobe power supplies and their attached devices connected to any existing fire control unit or panel.
- (ii) The installation of special extinguishing, central station monitoring systems, dialers, and their attached devices.
- (iii) The addition of any fire alarm and signaling devices connected to an existing addressable fire alarm and signaling system.

Sec. 6. Subsection (i) of Section 93.0206 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

- (i) A Plan Check may be expired within the time limit specified in Section 98.0603 of the LAMC.

Sec. 7. Section 93.0209 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

SEC. 93.0209. REVOCATION OF PERMITS.

Permits may be revoked as provided for in Section 98.0601.

Sec. 8. The Title of Section 93.0217 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

SEC. 93.0217. FEES FOR FIRE ALARM AND SIGNALING SYSTEM, COMMUNICATIONS, CONTROL OR SIGNAL SYSTEMS AND SMOKE DETECTORS.

Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of Section 93.0217 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

(a) The fees for installing, replacing or relocating each fire alarm and signaling system, communication, control or signal system equipment, or portion thereof, shall be as follows:

Number or Devices	Fees
1 to 10 total devices	\$48.00
11 to 40 devices	\$4.00 each
41 or more devices	\$3.00 each
Each control panel, standby power supply panel, annunciator panel or similar main piece of control equipment for one of the above systems	\$36.00

For the purpose of this subsection, devices shall include all signaling equipment, stations, power equipment such as damper actuators or door holding devices, communication jacks or outlets, control sensors, or switches or remote indicators, and smoke detectors that are part of fire alarm and signaling systems or process control systems.

EXCEPTION: Communications equipment installed, owned or operated and maintained by a communications public utility and exempt under the provisions of Section 93.0108(c).

Sec. 10. Subsection (g) of Section 93.0233 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

(g) In addition to the fees charged under Subsection (a) of Section 93.0217 and Subsection (b) of Section 93.0233, when replacing, installing or relocating each fire alarm and signaling system, communication, control or signal system equipment, or portion thereof, the Department may collect a plan check fee as specified in LAMC Section 98.0415(e).

Sec. 11. The Title and Subsection (a) of Section 93.0235 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code are amended to read as follows:

SEC. 93.0235. FEES FOR WITNESSING TESTS OF EMERGENCY SYSTEMS AND FIRE ALARM AND SIGNALING SYSTEMS.

(a) The fees for conducting or witnessing the original test of an Emergency System or Fire Alarm and Signaling System shall be collected as specified in Section 98.0412(f) for each inspector. The fees required by this subsection shall be in addition to the fees required elsewhere in the Code (see Section 93.0307(c) of this Code).

Sec. 12. Section 93.0313 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is added to read as follows:

SEC. 93.0313. WIRING STANDARDS.

By special permission, premises wiring not covered by this Code may be installed per recognized provisions of wiring standards approved by the Department.

Sec. 13. Paragraph 3 of Subsection (a) of Section 93.0403 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is added to read as follows:

3. No used, reconditioned, or refurbished molded or electronic trip molded case circuit breakers.

Sec. 14. The first unnumbered paragraph of Section 93.0600 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Chapter 1 of the 2013 CEC is adopted by reference for the purpose of providing definitions and requirements for electrical installations with the following additions and amendments and as specifically provided herein.

Sec. 15. Section 93.0600 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended by adding the definition of the terms "DESIGN LOAD" in proper alphabetical sequence to read as follows:

DESIGN LOAD. The maximum connected and expected future loads. This load shall not exceed the branch circuit, feeder or service respective overcurrent protective devices or conductor ratings.

Sec. 16. Section 93.0600 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended by deleting the term "FIRE WARNING SYSTEM," and replacing it with a new term and definition as follows:

FIRE ALARM AND SIGNALING SYSTEM. A system or portion of a system that consists of equipment and circuits arranged to monitor, supervise (or

unsupervised), and annunciate the status of the system by indicating appliances (i.e., bell, horn, speaker, light, or text display, etc.) as a result of the activation of any signal initiation device (i.e., manual pull station, water flow switch, smoke detector, heat detector, etc.); provide emergency communications systems (when installed or required); and to control emergency control functions (i.e., fan control, smoke damper operation, elevator recall, elevator power shutdown, door holder release, shutter release, door unlocking, etc.) when required. These systems may incorporate an approved means (such as a dialer) to inform the status of the system to a remote location.

Sec. 17. Section 93.0600 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended by deleting the term "RESIDENTIAL" in its entirety.

Sec. 18. Paragraph 1 of Section 93.0700 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

Chapters 1 through 9, Annex C, H, G and I of the 2011 Edition of the National Electrical Code (N.E.C.), as published by the National Fire Protection Association (N.F.P.A. 70-2011), the 2013 California Electrical Code and the California Building Standards Code are adopted by reference as part of the Code. When there is a conflict between the 2011 National Electrical Code, the 2013 California Electrical Code and the Los Angeles Municipal Code, Section 93.0105 shall prevail. Except as specified in Divisions 1 through 6 of Article 3, Chapter IX of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, all electrical installations and materials shall be in conformity with the 2013 California Electrical Code, as adopted by reference to be part of this Code and Sections 93.515.17 and 93.515.18 are added as provided here.

Sec. 19. Subsection 93.515-17 of Section 93.0700 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is renumbered to read as follows:

93.515.17. OIL AND GAS WELLS.

Sec. 20. Subsection 93.515-18 of Section 93.0700 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is renumbered to read as follows:

93.515.18. BULK-STORAGE PLANTS-TANKER LOADING DOCKS.

Sec. 21. **Urgency Clause.** The City Council finds and declares that this Ordinance is required for the immediate protection of the public peace, health and safety for the following reason: In order for the City of Los Angeles to facilitate a seamless transition with the State of California and its Electrical Code and maintain predictability and streamlined case processing for the benefit of economic development during distressed times, it is necessary to immediately adopt the foregoing exceptions, modifications and additions to the California Electrical Code. Additionally, the California Electrical Code becomes effective on January 1, 2014 and the amendments to that code as reflected herein must be adopted by the City Council and become effective as

soon as possible. The Council, therefore, with the Mayor's concurrence, adopts this ordinance to become effective upon publication pursuant to Los Angeles City Charter Section 253.

Sec. 22. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that this ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, **by a vote of not less than three-fourths** of all of its members, at its meeting of _____.

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT, Interim City Clerk

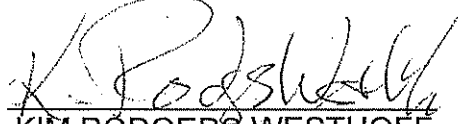
By _____ Deputy

Approved _____

Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality

MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney

By 
KIM RODGERS WESTHOFF
Deputy City Attorney

Date 12/10/13

File No. CF 13-1214