

REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION



DATE: November 22, 2016

TITLE: Adoption of the 2016 California Fire Code with Amendments

Prepared by: Kevin Reinertson, Deputy Fire Marshal

Reviewed by: Jennifer Mizrahi, City Attorney

RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning Commission:

1. Receive public input on the proposed Ordinance.
2. Recommend that the City Council adopt Ordinance No. ____ amending Title 15, of the City of Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code by repealing and replacing Chapters 15.08, 15.24, and 15.56 and adopting, as modified, the California Building Standards Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24; the 2016 California Fire Code; and adopting other regulations relating to Building and Fire Prevention requirements.

DISCUSSION

The adoption of the 2016 California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9, as amended will ensure that minimum building standards are implemented to safeguard life, limb, health, property and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, location and maintenance of all buildings and structures within the City of Desert Hot Springs ("City").

In accordance with California Health and Safety Code Sections 17922 and 18935, the Building Standards Commission ("BSC") has approved the adoption of new model codes relating to fire and life safety ("Model Code"). The BSC has advised local jurisdictions that the State has adopted the 2016 Edition of the California Fire Code. Once the State Fire Marshal's Office has amended the Model Code to include California specific amendments, local jurisdictions are given 180 days to further amend the code by local ordinance.

The BSC has indicated that the above referenced codes will become effective at the local level on January 1, 2017. In order to include local amendments and adequately protect first responders, business community and citizens, it is suggested that we follow through with the adoption process.

Any amendments adopted by the City are not effective until copies of both the express findings and the amendments, with the amendments expressly marked and identified as to the applicable findings, have been filed with the California BSC.

If the City does not make amendments to the BSC, its provisions, without amendment, will become applicable to the City and will become effective 180 days after publication by the California BSC on January 1, 2017.

The City's Fire Officials are recommending certain amendments due to specific local conditions, as explained in more detail in Attachment "1" "Justifications for Amendments", attached hereto.

The adoption of the 2016 California Fire Code with amendments into the City Municipal Code shall provide for an orderly administration of the 2016 California Fire Code and the City Municipal Code by City Fire and Building Officials.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Justifications for Amendments to 2016 California Fire Code; and
2. Proposed Ordinance Amending Title 15 "Buildings and Construction" of The Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code to Repeal and Readopt Chapter 15.24 "California Fire Code" with Selected Appendices and Amendments and to Repeal Chapter 15.56 "NFPA 101 Life Safety Code" (**Blackline Copy**); and
3. Proposed Ordinance Amending Title 15 "Buildings and Construction" of The Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code to Repeal and Readopt Chapter 15.24 "California Fire Code" with Selected Appendices and Amendments and to Repeal Chapter 15.56 "NFPA 101 Life Safety Code" (**Clean Copy**).