

ORDINANCE NUMBER O-19727 (NEW SERIES)

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE April 8, 2008

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO AMENDING CHAPTER 12, ARTICLE 9, DIVISION 3, OF THE SAN DIEGO MUNICIPAL CODE BY AMENDING SECTIONS 129.0303; BY AMENDING CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE 6, DIVISION 1, BY AMENDING SECTIONS 146.0103, 146.0104, 146.0105, AND 146.0106; BY AMENDING CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE 6, DIVISION 2, BY AMENDING SECTIONS 146.0202, 146.0204, AND 146.0207; AND ADOPTING THE 2007 CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL CODE AND ASSOCIATED MUNICIPAL CODE AMENDMENTS.

WHEREAS, the California Building Code, 2007 Edition, has been published by the California Building Standards Commission, and amended by the State Department of Housing and Community Development, the Division of the State Architect/Access Compliance, the State Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development and the State Fire Marshal; and

WHEREAS, every three years the City of San Diego adopts by reference the latest edition of the California Building Standards Code pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 17922; and

WHEREAS, this is done in coordination with the State of California's adoption of these codes, and this procedure provides an additional opportunity to modify local regulations based on local findings; and

WHEREAS, the State adopted the 2005 National Electrical Code (NEC) Code as the basis for the 2007 California Electrical Code; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance amends the San Diego Municipal Code so as to adopt by reference the 2007 Edition of the California Electrical Code (2005 NEC with State amendments); and

WHEREAS, Section 17958 of the California Health and Safety Code provides that the governing body of every city or county shall adopt ordinances or regulations imposing the same requirements as those contained in the California Building Code; and

WHEREAS, Sections 17958.5 and 17958.7 of the California Health and Safety Code provide that a city or county may make such changes or modifications to the requirements contained in the California Building Code which are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological or topographical conditions; and

WHEREAS, certain amendments have been recommended by the City of San Diego Board of Building Appeals and Advisors and the City of San Diego Planning Commission as changes or modifications in the requirements of the California Building Code which are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological and topographical conditions; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, as follows:

Section 1. Findings

The Council of the City of San Diego expressly finds and declares in accordance with California Health and Safety Code section 17958.5 that the amendments, additions, and deletions incorporate changes and modifications which are reasonably necessary because of the following local climatic, geological and topographical conditions:

1. Climatic

The City of San Diego experiences periods of high temperatures, accompanied by low humidity and high winds each year. These conditions create an environment in which the Fire Department commits large numbers of fire fighting resources to the control and extinguishment of wildland fires. During such periods, the limited available firefighting resources may have great difficulty controlling fires in structures. Years of drought and San Diego's semi-arid natural environment have increased the combustibility of vegetation. The hot dry weather in combination with Santa Ana winds creates very dangerous conditions to the region including the City of San Diego.

2. Geological

The City of San Diego is situated near three major earthquake faults, each capable of generating quakes with a magnitude of 7.0. These faults are the Elsinore Fault, Northeast of the City; the Rose Canyon Fault which extends from La Jolla Cove, through Rose Canyon and into downtown San Diego; and the Coronado Banks Fault which extends in a Northwest/Southeast direction, just off coast. The City of San Diego is subject to seismic events. Seismic events do three things simultaneously: 1. They disrupt the water supply and damage sprinkler systems; 2. They cause ignitions from a variety of sources; 3. They overwhelm the emergency response system instantly and on a large-scale. The most severe threat from earthquakes is damage to and the collapse of buildings and other structures due to ground movement. There is a distinct concern that fires may be caused by an earthquake because of damage to gas and power lines and the unavailability of sufficient water supply to control fires based on broken water mains.

3. Topographical

Access to vegetation is made difficult by terrain that includes hills, mountains and canyons creating a delay for emergency personnel in the extinguishment of a fire area.

The City of San Diego has over 900 linear miles of wildland urban interface, where back yards of homes meet the natural vegetation (coastal sage scrub and chaparral) in canyons.

Section 2. That Chapter 12, Article 9, Division 3, of the San Diego Municipal Code is amended by amending section 129.0303, to read as follows:

§ 129.0303 Exemptions from an Electrical Permit

An Electrical Permit is not required for the following work:

- (a) Minor work such as replacing fuses, replacing or repairing switches, circuit breakers, lampholders, luminaires, ballasts, or receptacles where the replacement is the same size and general type as the original equipment and the work is done in accordance with the provisions of this article;
- (b) through (c) [No change in text.]
- (d) Installation of remote-control switching devices on privately owned appliances when the devices are installed by the San Diego Gas and Electric Company or its authorized agents as part of the Peak-Shift energy conservation program, provided that specifications for the installations are approved in writing by the Building Official; or

- (e) Work done by employees of the City on City-owned or leased buildings.

Section 3. That Chapter 14, Article 6, Division 1, of the San Diego Municipal Code is amended by amending sections 146.0103, 146.0104, 146.0105, and 146.0106, to read as follows:

§ 146.0103 Interpretation of the Electrical Regulations

- (a) The language used in this article and in the 2007 California Electrical Code which is made a part of this article by reference, is intended to convey the common and accepted meaning familiar to the electrical industry.
- (b) [No change in text.]

§ 146.0104 Adoption of the 2007 California Electrical Code

- (a) The 2007 California Electrical Code published and amended by the California Building Standards Commission (BSC) and as amended by the California Department of Housing and Community Development [HCD]; the Division of the State Architect-Access Compliance [DSA/AC]; the State Office of Statewide Planning and Development [OSHPD3]; and the State Fire Marshal [SFM] is adopted by reference and made a part of this article as if fully set forth, except as otherwise provided in this article. The regulations so referenced are the standard for electrical installations regulated by this article. A copy of the 2007 California Electrical Code is on file in the office of the City Clerk as Document No. OO-_____.

- (b) When reference is made to the 2007 California Electrical Code, it shall be the 2007 California Electrical Code, California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 3 as published by the California Building Standards Commission and adopted by the City of San Diego.
- (c) Application. The amendments made by the state agencies to the model code and incorporated into the California Building Code are applicable only to those occupancies or uses which the state agency making the amendments is authorized to regulate, as listed in Article 089 of the 2007 California Electrical Code. The Building Official shall only enforce those amendments made by the following state agencies:
- (1) California Building Standards Commission.
 - (2) The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD , HCD 1/AC).
 - (3) Division of the State Architect, Access Compliance (DSA/AC).
 - (4) Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM).
 - (5) Office of Statewide Health, Planning and development (OSHPD3).
 - (6) California Energy Commission (CEC).

§146.0105 Portions of the 2007 California Electrical Code Not Adopted

The following sections or sub-sections of the 2007 California Electrical Code are not adopted by the City of San Diego.

(a) through (b) [No change in text.]

§ 146.0106 Sub-sections of the 2007 California Electrical Code That Have Been Adopted with Modifications

[No change in text.]

Section 4. That Chapter 14, Article 6, Division 2, of the San Diego Municipal Code, is amended by amending section 146.0202, 146.0204 and 146.0207, to read as follows:

§ 146.0202 Alterations, Additions, Relocations, and Conversions of Existing Wiring

(a) Additions, extensions, alterations, or removal of existing wiring installations shall be made in compliance with the provisions of this article.

(1) through (2) [No change in text.]

(3) Where the electrical system is upgraded at the owners initiative and the wall covering is not removed, the receptacle spacing requirements of the 2007 California Electrical Code, Article 210, section 52, shall not apply.

(b) through (c) [No change in text.]

§ 146.0204 Circuit Cards

A complete schedule of circuits, showing the number and arrangement of outlets on each circuit, shall be available at the time of rough wiring inspection. Circuit

cards furnished by the Development Services Department shall be used for this purpose. In lieu of a circuit card, an approved wiring plan may be used.

§ 146.0207 Limitation of Residential Current Utilization Outlets

(a) The number of current consuming outlets on one circuit shall not exceed the following:

(1) Four on an appliance circuit.

(2) Fifteen on a lighting circuit. In lieu of the maximum 15 outlets, when a circuit supplies only permanent luminaires, additional luminaires will be allowed when a calculation based on actual wattages is provided.

Section 5. All of the provisions of the San Diego Municipal Code adopted by the City of San Diego that are in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed

Section 6. That a full reading of this ordinance is dispensed with prior to its final passage, a written or printed copy having been available to the City Council and the public a day prior to its final passage.

Section 7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force on the thirtieth day from
and after its final passage.

APPROVED: MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE, City Attorney

By _____
Rachel Lipsky
Deputy City Attorney

RL:pev
02/06/08
03/03/08 COR.COPY
Or.Dept:DSD
O-2008-97
MMS #5831

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of San
Diego, at this meeting of _____.

ELIZABETH S. MALAND
City Clerk

By _____
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: _____
(date)

JERRY SANDERS, Mayor

Vetoed: _____
(date)

JERRY SANDERS, Mayor