



REPORT TO COUNCIL City of Sacramento

32

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www.CityofSacramento.org

STAFF REPORT
JULY 18, 2006

**Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council**

Title: Specialty Code Appeal Board Ordinances

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: It is recommended that Council: **1)** Adopt a) an **Ordinance** amending Chapter 2.48 of the City Code to create the Building and Fire Code Advisory and Appeals Board; b) an **Ordinance** adding Chapter 2.49 to create the Mechanical and Plumbing Code Advisory and Appeals Board; c) an **Ordinance** adding Chapter 2.50 to the City Code to create the Electrical Code Advisory and Appeals Board; **2)** Open an application period for a) the Building and Fire Code Advisory and Appeals Board to fill five (5) positions-opening 07-19-06, applications due on 08-18-06; b) Plumbing and Mechanical Advisory and Appeals Board to fill (3) positions-opening 07-19-06, applications due on 08-18-06; c).Electrical Code Advisory and Appeals Board to fill (3) positions-opening 07-19-06, applications due on 08-18-06

Contact: Carl Hefner, Assistant Chief Building Official, 808-8779; Robert Chase, Chief Building Official, 808-8024.

Presenters: Carl Hefner, Assistant Chief Building Official

Department: Development Services

Division: Building

Organization No: 4861

Description/Analysis

Issue: Development Services has devised a plan to provide an efficient method for resolution of disputes concerning alternate materials and methods of construction and to provide a timely process for appeals of orders or decisions of the Chief Building Official and Fire Marshal.

Committee/Commission Action: On August 22, 2005 the Development Oversight Commission passed a motion in support of the proposed modification to the existing Construction Code Advisory and Appeal Board. On June 8, 2006 the Law & Legislation Committee unanimously passed a motion to support the proposed modifications.

Policy Considerations: The proposals contained in this report are consistent with the Development Services Department's mission of "Getting the Customer

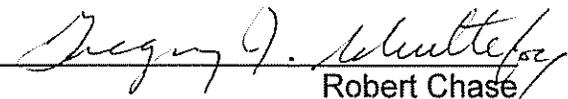
to Success” In addition it is consistent with the department’s Strategic Goal of “Promoting an appropriate regulatory environment” and mirrors our Success Measures of “predictable, timely, clear, and seamless.” Last, it is consistent with the City’s Three Strategic Plan Goals of increasing opportunities for safe and affordable housing and expanding economic development.

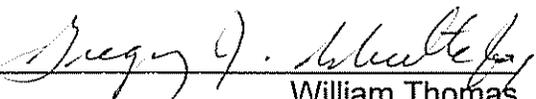
Environmental Considerations: This report is not related to a specific project therefore environmental review is not required.

Rationale for Recommendation: The current method of building code appeal is not well developed and no longer adequately meets the needs of our customers. As a result the current process creates difficulties and hardships for construction projects that can be avoided in the future with the recommended ordinance changes.

Financial Considerations: The members that serve on the Boards may receive a nominal stipend per meeting for their service. However, it is not expected to be a material amount significantly impacting the annual operational budget for the Development Services Department.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): No goods or services are being purchased under this report.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Robert Chase
Chief Building Official

Approved by: 
William Thomas
Director of Development Services

Recommendation Approved:

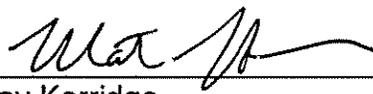

Ray Kerridge
City Manager

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Attachment 1**Background**

Title 2, Chapter 2.48 of the Sacramento City Code established the current Construction Codes Advisory and Appeals Board to consider code appeals where existing codes requirements created difficulties and hardships for construction projects. The Development Services Department has reviewed the current code appeal process, and has found that it is not well developed and no longer provides the best level of service to customers. Many development projects have been proposed for future construction in Sacramento; without an efficient appeals process in place, there may be significant limitations to the design of future buildings. Establishing a comprehensive code appeals process will streamline the processing of building, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permits for developers and owners. The proposed two (2) tiered appeal process will provide a reasonable and efficient review process for those applicants seeking interpretation of building regulations as well as approval of alternate designs, materials or construction methods.

In order to determine the suitability of alternate designs, materials and methods of construction, as well as provide for a reasonable interpretation and application of building regulations, the Development Services Department proposes the creation of one (1) Building Code Administrative Appeals Board, one (1) Building and Fire Code Advisory and Appeals Board, one (1) Electrical Code Advisory and Appeals Board, and one (1) Mechanical and Plumbing Code Advisory and Appeals Board to provide fair and efficient processing of all specialty code permits. Members of each appeal entity shall be qualified to serve based on their experience and training in matters pertaining to building design, building construction, fire prevention, electrical system design and construction, plumbing system design and construction, mechanical system design and construction.

The power of the proposed Boards shall be to determine if a proposed design satisfactorily complies with the provisions of the applicable code(s) and that the material and/or method of work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed by the applicable code in suitability, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, safety and sanitation. The Boards may also hear and decide appeals of orders, decisions or determinations made by the Building Official and Fire Marshall relative to the application and interpretation of the codes, but do not have the authority to waive requirements of the codes.

For more information on boards and commission openings, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (916) 808-7200.

ORDINANCE NO.
ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL
ON DATE OF _____

**AMENDS SECTION 2.40.030 OF THE SACRAMENTO CITY CODE, AND
REPEALING AND RE-ENACTING CHAPTER 2.48 OF THE SACRAMENTO
CITY CODE TO CREATE THE BUILDING AND FIRE CODE ADVISORY
AND APPEALS BOARD**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:

SECTION 1.

Section 2.40.030 of the Sacramento City Code is amended to read as follows:

2.40.030 Applicability.

The provisions of this article shall apply to persons recommended to the Mayor by the personnel and public employees committee as appointees for positions on the City Council and the following boards and commissions:

Administration, investment and fiscal management board of the Sacramento city retirement system;
Building and fire code advisory and appeals board;
Civil service board;
Design review and preservation board;
Electrical code advisory and appeals board;
Housing code advisory and appeals board;
Mechanical and plumbing code advisory and appeals board;
Old Sacramento variance appeals board;
Planning commission;
Retirement hearing commission;
Sacramento city public facilities financing corporation;
Board of plumbing examiners.

SECTION 2.

Chapter 2.48 of the Sacramento City Code is hereby repealed in its entirety.

SECTION 3.

Chapter 2.48 is added to the Sacramento City Code, to read as follows:

Chapter 2.48

BUILDING AND FIRE CODE ADVISORY AND APPEALS BOARD

2.48.010 Board established.

The City of Sacramento Building and Fire Code Advisory and Appeals Board is hereby established.

2.48.020 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning given them in this section, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

“City” means the City of Sacramento.

“City Council” means the City Council of the City of Sacramento.

“Board” means the Building and Fire Code Advisory and Appeals Board.

“Mayor” means the Mayor of the City of Sacramento.

2.48.030 Powers and duties of Board.

A. The Board is established for the purpose of determining the suitability of alternate materials and methods of construction and providing reasonable interpretations of the following codes, as they are currently written or as they may be amended in the future:

1. 2001 California Building Code;
2. 2001 California Fire Code.

The Board’s powers and duties shall extend to any code or codes duly adopted by the California Building Standards Commission that supersedes the 2001 California Building and Fire Codes.

B. The Board may approve the use of any material, alternate design or method of construction not specifically prescribed by the applicable codes enumerated in this section, provided the Board finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the provisions of the applicable codes and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the applicable codes in suitability, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, safety, and sanitation. The

Board shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be submitted to substantiate any claims that may be made regarding its use.

C. The Board shall have no authority relative to interpretation of the administrative provisions of these codes nor shall the Board be empowered to waive requirements of these codes. Any cost for tests or research required by the Board to substantiate the claim of any appellant shall be the sole responsibility of the appellant.

2.48.040 Board Membership.

The Board shall consist of five members appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council, subject to the following requirements:

A. One member shall be a real estate developer who has completed at least two projects in California in the five years preceding appointment; each project must have a total valuation in excess of five million dollars.

B. One member shall be a California licensed general building contractor who has been a primary general contractor on construction projects in the City during the two years immediately preceding appointment;

C. One member shall be a California registered architect who has been licensed and has practiced in California for at least three years immediately preceding appointment;

D. One member shall be a California registered structural engineer who has been licensed and has practiced in California for at least three years immediately preceding appointment;

E. One member shall be a California licensed fire protection engineer who has been licensed and has practiced in California for at least three years immediately preceding appointment.

2.48.050 Term of Office.

Members of the Board shall serve a term of three years. In order to establish staggered terms, the initial appointments of members shall include two members for a one-year term, two members for a two-year term, and one member for a three-year term, as determined by the City Clerk based on the drawing of lots. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms. In the event a vacancy occurs during the term of any member, the Mayor shall appoint, with the approval of the City Council, a successor to serve the unexpired term, subject to the requirements set forth in Section 2.48.040. A member shall hold office until his or her successor has been appointed. A successor appointed to complete an unexpired term shall be eligible to serve up to two consecutive terms in addition to the unexpired term.

2.48.060 Conflict of Interest and Financial Disclosure Statements.

The provisions of Article III of Chapter 2.16 of this Code governing conflicts of interest of board and commission members shall apply to members of the Board. In addition, all appointees to the Board shall be required to file statements disclosing financial interests pursuant to a conflict of interest code adopted for the Board.

2.48.070 Chairperson and Organization of the Board.

At its first meeting, and annually thereafter, the Board shall elect a Board chairperson and a vice-chairperson, each of whom shall hold office at the pleasure of the Board. During any absence of the chairperson from a meeting of the Board, the vice-chairperson shall be the acting chairperson until the chairperson returns. When there is a vacancy in the office of chairperson or vice chairperson, the Board shall fill that office from among its members. Staff support to the Board shall be provided by one or more city employees designated by the City Manager.

2.48.080 Board Meetings.

The Board shall establish a time and place for regular meetings to be held not less than once each month. The meetings shall be noticed and held in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code section 54950 et seq). The Board shall have the authority to notice and hold special meetings in the manner specified by the Ralph M. Brown Act.

2.48.090 Rules and Regulations.

The Board shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations for conducting its business and shall render all decisions and findings in writing to the appellant with a copy to the Building Official.

2.48.100 Quorum; Voting.

The quorum required for the Board to conduct business shall be three members. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and eligible to vote shall be necessary to approve any item.

2.48.110 Review by Building Official.

A. The Building Official shall establish policies and procedures that provide for Building Official review of staff-level decisions regarding the use of any material, alternate design or method of construction not specifically prescribed in the California Building Code or the California Fire Code. These policies and procedures shall require the Building Official to provide a written decision within ten calendar days of the filing of a completed request for Building Official review. A copy of the decision shall be delivered to the appellant personally or sent to him or her by certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested.

Requests for Building Official review shall be submitted on a form prescribed by the Building Official. Any person aggrieved by the Building Official's decision may appeal therefrom to the Board as provided in Section 2.48.120(A).

B. At any time within ten calendar days of the filing of a completed request for Building Official review, the Building Official may refer the request to the Board for determination. In such a case, a hearing before the Board shall be scheduled and conducted as set forth in Section 2.48.130.

C. In the event the Building Official does not issue a written decision or refer a request to the Board within ten calendar days of the filing of a completed request for Building Official review, the staff-level decision shall become a final decision from which any aggrieved person may appeal to the Board as provided in Section 2.48.120(A). The staff-level decision shall be deemed final on the eleventh calendar day following the filing of the completed request for review; provided, however, if the eleventh calendar day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the decision shall be deemed made on the next following business day.

2.48.120 Appeals to Board.

A. Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Building Official issued pursuant to Section 2.48.110(A) or a staff-level decision that becomes a final decision pursuant to Section 2.48.110(C) may appeal therefrom to the Board at any time within ten calendar days after receiving notice of the Building Official's decision or after the staff-level decision becomes final pursuant to Section 2.48.110(C). Such an appeal is taken by filing notice of appeal with the Building Official on a form provided by, and available from, the Building Official and payment of a fee as established by resolution of the City Council. All supporting documents must be submitted with the form at the time the appeal is filed. Upon receipt of any appeal file and the appeal fee pursuant to this section, a hearing before the Board shall be scheduled and conducted as set forth in Section 2.48.130

B. Notwithstanding Subsection (A), no person shall be allowed to appeal a staff-level decision regarding the use of any material, alternate design or method of construction not specifically prescribed in the California Building Code or the California Fire Code to the Board unless (1) the person submitted a completed request for Building Official review as required by Section 2.48.110(A) and (2) the Building Official failed to either provide a written decision or refer the request to the Board within ten calendar days of the filing of the completed request for review.

C. Failure to properly file a written appeal as required under Subsection (A) will constitute a waiver of all right to an appeal hearing before the Board, and the decision of the Building Official or the staff-level decision will be final. Failure to properly and timely appeal pursuant to Subsection (A) also shall constitute a failure to exhaust administrative remedies and a bar to any judicial action pertaining to the staff-level decision or decision of the Building Official.

D. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter, the Board does not have jurisdiction to hear appeals of decisions relating to access for physically handicapped persons to public facilities and accommodations. Any staff-level decision that becomes a final decision pursuant to Section 2.48.110(C) or decision of the Building Official relating to access for physically handicapped persons to public facilities and accommodations shall be appealed to the Joint City/County Disabilities Appeals Board pursuant to Chapter 2.52 of the Sacramento City Code rather than the Board.

2.48.130 Hearings.

In the event the Building Official refers a request to the Board pursuant to Section 2.48.110(B), or upon receipt of any appeal filed and the appeal fee pursuant to Section 2.48.120, the Building Official calendar it for hearing as follows:

A. If the Building Official refers the request to the Board, or if the appeal is received by the Building Official, not later than fifteen calendar days prior to the next regular meeting of the Board, it shall be calendared for hearing at said meeting.

B. If the Building Official refers the request to the Board, or if the appeal is received by the Building Official, on a date less than fifteen calendar days prior to the next regular meeting of the Board, it shall be calendared for hearing at the next subsequent meeting of the Board.

The Building Official shall not later than ten calendar days prior to the hearing give notice of the time, place, and subject matter of the hearing to the person filing the appeal and each member of the Board. The hearing shall be conducted according to the rules and regulations adopted by the Board. The Board shall render all decisions and findings in writing. A copy of the decision shall be delivered to the appellant personally or sent to him or her by certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested.

2.48.140 Appeals to City Council.

A. Any person aggrieved by the decision rendered by the Board in an appeal hearing held pursuant to Section 2.48.130, may appeal the decision to the City Council in accordance with Chapter 1.24. The appeal shall be made by filing a written notice thereof with the City Clerk not later than ten calendar days after receiving notice of the decision of the Board. The City Council shall hold a hearing on the appeal and its decision thereon shall be final. Instead of hearing the appeal, the City Council may refer the matter to a hearing examiner pursuant to Chapter 1.24, in which case the hearing examiner's decision shall be final.

B. Failure to properly file a written appeal of the decision of the Board within ten calendar days of the decision will constitute a waiver of all right to an appeal hearing before the City Council, and the Board's decision will be final. Failure to properly and timely appeal the Board's decision also shall constitute a failure to exhaust administrative

remedies and a bar to any judicial action pertaining to the Board's decision.

2.48.150 Compensation.

Pursuant to City Charter Section 29, the Compensation Commission shall establish the compensation members of the Board receive for attending Board meetings.

2.48.160 General Requirements.

Unless specifically provided otherwise in this chapter, the general requirements set forth in Chapter 2.40 of this code, governing the appointment of board and commission members, attendance at board and commission meetings, voting, term limits and removal, shall apply to the Board. A member is subject to removal for good cause, neglect of duty or misconduct as provided in City Charter Section 232.

DATE PASSED FOR PUBLICATION:

DATE ENACTED:

DATE EFFECTIVE:

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

ORDINANCE NO.
ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL
ON DATE OF _____

**ADDS CHAPTER 2.49 TO THE SACRAMENTO CITY CODE TO CREATE
THE MECHANICAL AND PLUMBING CODE ADVISORY AND APPEALS
BOARD**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 2.49 is added to the Sacramento City Code, to read as follows:

Chapter 2.49

MECHANICAL AND PLUMBING CODE ADVISORY AND APPEALS BOARD

2.49.010 Board established.

The City of Sacramento Mechanical and Plumbing Code Advisory and Appeals Board is hereby established.

2.49.020 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning given them in this section, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

"City" means the City of Sacramento.

"City Council" means the City Council of the City of Sacramento.

"Board" means the Mechanical and Plumbing Code Advisory and Appeals Board.

"Mayor" means the Mayor of the City of Sacramento.

2.49.030 Powers and duties of Board.

The Board is established for the purpose of determining the suitability of alternate materials and methods of construction and providing reasonable interpretations of the following codes, as they are currently written or as they may be amended in the future:

A. 2001 California Mechanical Code;

B. 2001 California Plumbing Code.

The Board's powers and duties shall extend to any code or codes duly adopted by the California Building Standards Commission that supersedes the 2001 California Mechanical and Plumbing Codes.

The Board may approve the use of any material, alternate design or method of construction not specifically prescribed by the applicable codes enumerated in this section, provided the Board finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the provisions of the applicable codes and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the applicable codes in suitability, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, safety, and sanitation. The Board shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be submitted to substantiate any claims that may be made regarding its use.

The Board shall have no authority relative to interpretation of the administrative provisions of these codes nor shall the Board be empowered to waive requirements of these codes. Any cost for tests or research required by the Board to substantiate the claim of any appellant shall be the sole responsibility of the appellant.

2.49.040 Board Membership.

The Board shall consist of three members appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council, subject to the following requirements:

F. One member shall be a California registered mechanical engineer who has been licensed and has practiced in California for at least three years immediately preceding appointment;

G. One member shall be a California licensed plumbing contractor who has been licensed and has practiced in California for at least three years immediately preceding appointment;

H. One member shall be a California licensed mechanical contractor who has been licensed and has practiced in California for at least three years immediately preceding appointment.

2.49.050 Term of Office.

Members of the Board shall serve a term of three years. In order to establish staggered terms, the initial appointments of members shall include one member for a one-year term, one member for a two-year term, and one member for a three-year term, as determined by the City Clerk based on the drawing of lots. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms. In the event a vacancy occurs during the term of any member, the Mayor shall appoint, with the approval of the City Council, a successor to serve the unexpired term, subject to the requirements set forth in Section 2.49.040. A member shall

hold office until his or her successor has been appointed. A successor appointed to complete an unexpired term shall be eligible to serve up to two consecutive terms in addition to the unexpired term.

2.49.060 Conflict of Interest and Financial Disclosure Statements.

The provisions of Article III of Chapter 2.16 of this Code governing conflicts of interest of board and commission members shall apply to members of the Board. In addition, all appointees to the Board shall be required to file statements disclosing financial interests pursuant to a conflict of interest code adopted for the Board.

2.49.070 Chairperson and Organization of the Board.

At its first meeting, and annually thereafter, the Board shall elect a Board chairperson and a vice chairperson, who each shall hold office at the pleasure of the Board. During any absence of the chairperson from a meeting of the Board, the vice-chairperson shall be the acting chairperson until the chairperson returns. When there is a vacancy in the office of chairperson or vice chairperson, the Board shall fill that office from among its members. Staff support to the Board shall be provided by one or more city employees designated by the City Manager.

2.49.080 Board Meetings.

The Board shall establish a time and place for regular meetings to be held not less than once each month. The meetings shall be noticed and held in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code section 54950 et seq). The Board shall have the authority to notice and hold special meetings in the manner specified by the Ralph M. Brown Act.

2.49.090 Rules and Regulations.

The Board shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations for conducting its business and shall render all decisions and findings in writing to the appellant with a copy to the building official.

2.49.100 Quorum; Voting.

The quorum required for the Board to conduct business shall be two members. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and eligible to vote shall be necessary to approve any item.

2.49.110 Review by Building Official.

A. The Building Official shall establish policies and procedures that provide for Building Official review of staff-level decisions regarding the use of any material, alternate design or method of construction not specifically prescribed in the California Mechanical Code or the

California Plumbing Code. These policies and procedures shall require the Building Official to provide a written decision within ten calendar days of the filing of a completed request for Building Official review. A copy of the decision shall be delivered to the appellant personally or sent to him or her by certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested.

Requests for Building Official review shall be submitted on a form prescribed by the Building Official. Any person aggrieved by the Building Official's decision may appeal therefrom to the Board as provided in Section 2.49.120(A).

B. At any time within ten calendar days of the filing of a completed request for Building Official review, the Building Official may refer the request to the Board for determination. In such a case, a hearing before the Board shall be scheduled and conducted as set forth in Section 2.49.130.

C. In the event the Building Official does not issue a written decision or refer a request to the Board within ten calendar days of the filing of a completed request for Building Official review, the staff-level decision shall become a final decision from which any aggrieved person may appeal to the Board as provided in Section 2.49.120(A). The staff-level decision shall be deemed final on the eleventh calendar day following the filing of the completed request for review; provided, however, if the eleventh calendar day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the decision shall be deemed made on the next following business day.

2.49.120 Appeals to Board.

A. Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Building Official issued pursuant to Section 2.49.110(A) or a staff-level decision that becomes a final decision pursuant to Section 2.49.110(C) may appeal therefrom to the Board at any time within ten calendar days after receiving notice of the Building Official's decision or after the staff-level decision becomes final pursuant to Section 2.49.110(C). Such an appeal is taken by filing notice of appeal with the Building Official on a form provided by, and available from, the Building Official and payment of a fee as established by resolution of the City Council. All supporting documents must be submitted with the form at the time the appeal is filed. Upon receipt of any appeal file and the appeal fee pursuant to this section, a hearing before the Board shall be scheduled and conducted as set forth in Section 2.49.130

B. Notwithstanding Subsection (A), no person shall be allowed to appeal a staff-level decision regarding the use of any material, alternate design or method of construction not specifically prescribed in the California Mechanical Code or the California Plumbing Code to the Board unless (1) the person submitted a completed request for Building Official review as required by Section 2.49.110(A) and (2) the Building Official failed to either provide a written decision or refer the request to the Board within ten calendar days of the filing of the completed request for review.

C. Failure to properly file a written appeal as required under Subsection (A) will constitute a waiver of all right to an appeal hearing before the Board, and the decision of the Building Official or the staff-level decision will be final. Failure to properly and timely

appeal pursuant to Subsection (A) also shall constitute a failure to exhaust administrative remedies and a bar to any judicial action pertaining to the staff-level decision or decision of the Building Official.

2.49.130 Hearings.

In the event the Building Official refers a request to the Board pursuant to Section 2.49.110(B), or upon receipt of any appeal filed and the appeal fee pursuant to Section 2.49.120, the Building Official shall calendar it for hearing as follows:

A. If the Building Official refers the request to the Board, or if the appeal is received by the Building Official, not later than fifteen calendar days prior to the next regular meeting of the Board, it shall be calendared for hearing at said meeting.

B. If the Building Official refers the request to the Board, or if the appeal is received by the Building Official, on a date less than fifteen calendar days prior to the next regular meeting of the Board, it shall be calendared for hearing at the next subsequent meeting of the Board.

The Building Official shall not later than ten calendar days prior to the hearing give notice of the time, place, and subject matter of the hearing to the person filing the appeal and each member of the Board. The hearing shall be conducted according to the rules and regulations adopted by the Board. The Board shall render all decisions and findings in writing. A copy of the decision shall be delivered to the appellant personally or sent to him or her by certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested.

2.49.140 Appeals to City Council.

A. Any person aggrieved by the decision rendered by the Board in an appeal hearing held pursuant to Section 2.49.130, may appeal the decision to the City Council in accordance with Chapter 1.24. The appeal shall be made by filing a written notice thereof with the City Clerk not later than ten calendar days after receiving notice of the decision of the Board. The City Council shall hold a hearing on the appeal and its decision thereon shall be final. Instead of hearing the appeal, the City Council may refer the matter to a hearing examiner pursuant to Chapter 1.24, in which case the hearing examiner's decision shall be final.

B. Failure to properly file a written appeal of the decision of the Board within ten calendar days of the decision will constitute a waiver of all right to an appeal hearing before the City Council, and the Board's decision will be final. Failure to properly and timely appeal the Board's decision also shall constitute a failure to exhaust administrative remedies and a bar to any judicial action pertaining to the Board's decision.

2.49.150 Compensation.

Pursuant to City Charter Section 29, the Compensation Commission shall establish the compensation members of the Board receive for attending Board meetings.

2.49.160 General Requirements.

Unless specifically provided otherwise in this chapter, the general requirements set forth in Chapter 2.40 of this code, governing the appointment of board and commission members, attendance at board and commission meetings, voting, term limits and removal, shall apply to the Board. A member is subject to removal for good cause, neglect of duty or misconduct as provided in City Charter Section 232.

DATE PASSED FOR PUBLICATION:

DATE ENACTED:

DATE EFFECTIVE:

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

ORDINANCE NO.
ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL
ON DATE OF _____

**ADDS CHAPTER 2.50 TO THE SACRAMENTO CITY CODE TO CREATE
THE ELECTRICAL CODE ADVISORY AND APPEALS BOARD**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 2.50 is added to the Sacramento City Code, to read as follows:

Chapter 2.50

ELECTRICAL CODE ADVISORY AND APPEALS BOARD

2.50.010 Board established.

The City of Sacramento Electrical Code Advisory and Appeals Board is hereby established.

2.50.020 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning given them in this section, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

"City" means the City of Sacramento.

"City Council" means the City Council of the City of Sacramento.

"Board" means the Electrical Code Advisory and Appeals Board.

"Mayor" means the Mayor of the City of Sacramento.

2.50.030 Powers and Duties of Board.

The Board is established for the purpose of determining the suitability of alternate materials and methods of construction and providing reasonable interpretations of the 2003 California Electrical Code, as it is currently written or as it may be amended in the future.

The Board's powers and duties shall extend to any code or codes duly adopted by the California Building Standards Commission that supersede the 2003 California Electrical Code.

The Board may approve the use of any material, alternate design or method of construction not specifically prescribed by the applicable code enumerated in this section, provided the Board finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the provisions of the applicable code and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the applicable code in suitability, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, safety, and sanitation. The Board shall require that sufficient evidence or proof be submitted to substantiate any claims that may be made regarding its use.

The Board shall have no authority relative to interpretation of the administrative provisions of these codes nor shall the Board be empowered to waive requirements of these codes. Any cost for tests or research required by the Board to substantiate the claim of any appellant shall be the sole responsibility of the appellant.

2.50.040 Board Membership.

The Board shall consist of three members appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council, subject to the following requirements:

- A. One member shall be a California registered electrical engineer who has been licensed and has practiced in California for at least three years immediately preceding appointment;
- B. One member shall be a California licensed electrical contractor who has been licensed and has practiced in California for at least three years immediately preceding appointment;
- C. One member shall be an employee of an electrical testing laboratory who has been so employed for at least three years immediately preceding appointment.

2.50.050 Term of Office.

Members of the Board shall serve a term of three years. In order to establish staggered terms, the initial appointments of members shall include one member for a one-year term, one member for a two-year term, and one member for a three-year term, as determined by the City Clerk based on the drawing of lots. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms. In the event a vacancy occurs during the term of any member, the Mayor shall appoint, with the approval of the City Council, a successor to serve the unexpired term, subject to the requirements set forth in Section 2.50.040. A member shall hold office until his or her successor has been appointed. A successor appointed to complete an unexpired term shall be eligible to serve up to two consecutive terms in addition to the unexpired term.

2.50.060 Conflict of Interest and Financial Disclosure Statements.

The provisions of Article III of Chapter 2.16 of this Code governing conflicts of interest of board and commission members shall apply to members of the Board. In addition, all appointees to the Board shall be required to file statements disclosing financial interests pursuant to a conflict of interest code adopted for the Board.

2.50.070 Chairperson and Organization of the Board.

At its first meeting, and annually thereafter, the Board shall elect a Board chairperson and a vice chairperson, who each shall hold office at the pleasure of the Board. During any absence of the chairperson from a meeting of the Board, the vice-chairperson shall be the acting chairperson until the chairperson returns. When there is a vacancy in the office of chairperson or vice chairperson, the Board shall fill that office from among its members. Staff support to the Board shall be provided by one or more city employees designated by the City Manager.

2.50.080 Board Meetings.

The Board shall establish a time and place for regular meetings to be held not less than once each month. The meetings shall be noticed and held in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code section 55050 et seq). The Board shall have the authority to notice and hold special meetings in the manner specified by the Ralph M. Brown Act.

2.50.090 Rules and Regulations.

The Board shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations for conducting its business and shall render all decisions and findings in writing to the appellant with a copy to the Building Official.

2.50.100 Quorum; Voting.

The quorum required for the Board to conduct business shall be two members. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and eligible to vote shall be necessary to approve any item.

2.50.110 Review by Building Official.

A. The Building Official shall establish policies and procedures that provide for Building Official review of staff-level decisions regarding the use of any material, alternate design or method of construction not specifically prescribed in the California Electrical Code. These policies and procedures shall require the Building Official to provide a written decision within ten calendar days of the filing of a completed request for Building Official review. A copy of the decision shall be delivered to the appellant personally or sent to him or her by certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested. Requests for Building Official review shall be submitted on a form prescribed by the Building Official. Any person

aggrieved by the Building Official's decision may appeal therefrom to the Board as provided in Section 2.50.120(A).

B. At any time within ten calendar days of the filing of a completed request for Building Official review, the Building Official may refer the request to the Board for determination. In such a case, a hearing before the Board shall be scheduled and conducted as set forth in Section 2.50.130.

C. In the event the Building Official does not issue a written decision or refer a request to the Board within ten calendar days of the filing of a completed request for Building Official review, the staff-level decision shall become a final decision from which any aggrieved person may appeal to the Board as provided in Section 2.50.120(A). The staff-level decision shall be deemed final on the eleventh calendar day following the filing of the completed request for review; provided, however, if the eleventh calendar day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the decision shall be deemed made on the next following business day.

2.50.120 Appeal to Board

A. Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Building Official issued pursuant to Section 2.50.110(A) or a staff-level decision that becomes a final decision pursuant to Section 2.50.110(C) may appeal therefrom to the Board at any time within ten calendar days after receiving notice of the Building Official's decision or after the staff-level decision becomes final pursuant to Section 2.50.110(C). Such an appeal is taken by filing notice of appeal with the Building Official on a form provided by, and available from, the Building Official and payment of a fee as established by resolution of the City Council. All supporting documents must be submitted with the form at the time the appeal is filed. Upon receipt of any appeal file and the appeal fee pursuant to this section, a hearing before the Board shall be scheduled and conducted as set forth in Section 2.50.130.

B. Notwithstanding Subsection (A), no person shall be allowed to appeal a staff-level decision regarding the use of any material, alternate design or method of construction not specifically prescribed in the California Electrical Code to the Board unless (1) the person submitted a completed request for Building Official review as required by Section 2.50.110(A) and (2) the Building Official failed to either provide a written decision or refer the request to the Board within ten calendar days of the filing of the completed request for review.

C. Failure to properly file a written appeal as required under Subsection (A) will constitute a waiver of all right to an appeal hearing before the Board, and the decision of the Building Official or the staff-level decision will be final. Failure to properly and timely appeal pursuant to Subsection (A) also shall constitute a failure to exhaust administrative remedies and a bar to any judicial action pertaining to the staff-level decision or decision of the Building Official.

2.50.130 Hearings.

In the event the Building Official refers a request to the Board pursuant to Section 2.50.110(B), or upon receipt of any appeal filed and the appeal fee pursuant to Section 2.50.120, the Building Official shall calendar it for hearing as follows:

A. If the Building Official refers the request to the Board, or if the appeal is received by the Building Official, not later than fifteen calendar days prior to the next regular meeting of the Board, it shall be calendared for hearing at said meeting.

B. If the Building Official refers the request to the Board, or if the appeal is received by the Building Official, on a date less than fifteen calendar days prior to the next regular meeting of the Board, it shall be calendared for hearing at the next subsequent meeting of the Board.

The Building Official shall not later than ten calendar days prior to the hearing give notice of the time, place, and subject matter of the hearing to the person filing the appeal and each member of the Board. The hearing shall be conducted according to the rules and regulations adopted by the Board. The Board shall render all decisions and findings in writing. A copy of the decision shall be delivered to the appellant personally or sent to him or her by certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested.

2.50.140 Appeals to City Council.

A. Any person aggrieved by the decision rendered by the Board in an appeal hearing held pursuant to Section 2.50.130, may appeal the decision to the City Council in accordance with Chapter 1.24. The appeal shall be made by filing a written notice thereof with the City Clerk not later than ten calendar days after appellant receives notice of the decision of the Board. The City Council shall hold a hearing on the appeal and its decision thereon shall be final. Instead of hearing the appeal, the City Council may refer the matter to a hearing examiner pursuant to Chapter 1.24, in which case the hearing examiner's decision shall be final.

B. Failure to properly file a written appeal of the decision of the Board within ten calendar days of the decision will constitute a waiver of all right to an appeal hearing before the City Council, and the Board's decision will be final. Failure to properly and timely appeal the Board's decision also shall constitute a failure to exhaust administrative remedies and a bar to any judicial action pertaining to the Board's decision.

2.50.150 Compensation.

Pursuant to City Charter Section 29, the Compensation Commission shall establish the compensation members of the Board receive for attending Board meetings.

2.50.160 General Requirements.

Unless specifically provided otherwise in this chapter, the general requirements set forth in Chapter 2.40 of this code, governing the appointment of board and commission members, attendance at board and commission meetings, voting, term limits and removal, shall apply to the Board. A member is subject to removal for good cause, neglect of duty or misconduct as provided in City Charter Section 232.

DATE PASSED FOR PUBLICATION:
DATE ENACTED:
DATE EFFECTIVE:

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

