



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

New Planning Code Summary:

Urban Agriculture

Code Changes: Sections 102.35, 204.1, 209.5, 227, 234.1, 234.2 and Articles 7 and 8

Case Number: Board File No. 10-1537

Initiated by: Mayor Newsom
Sponsored by: Mayor Lee, Supervisor Chiu

Effective Date: May 20, 2011

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The Way It Was:

Planning Code controls regarding food production / gardening / farming activities were antiquated, vague or non-existent, and did not necessarily reflect actual use characteristics or issues. In general the Planning Code lacked a clear and consistent method to regulate food production / gardening / farming activity throughout all the zoning districts in the City.

The Way It Is Now:

The Urban Agriculture Ordinance does the following:

- Creates a new Urban Agriculture use (Section 102.35) of differing intensities (Neighborhood Agriculture and Large Scale Urban Agriculture) for the production of food or horticultural crops
- Allows the limited sale and donation of food grown on site to occur, except from within a dwelling unit
- Establishes a set of physical and operational standards for the Neighborhood Agriculture use including:
 - Limiting its size to less than 1 acre
 - Requiring compost be setback 3 feet from dwelling units and decks
 - If fencing is used at the perimeter of the site, requiring it be wood, ornamental or allowing chain link if over half the area bordering a public right of way is covered by vegetation in 3 years
 - Limiting use of mechanized farm equipment to initial site preparation and requiring it be screened from view

- Allowing the sale of value added goods where the primary ingredients are grown on site in all districts except the Residential Districts (RH and RM)
- Defining Large Scale Agriculture as a use either one acre or larger in size or a parcel smaller than one acre but unable to meet the physical and operational standards for the Neighborhood Agriculture use
- Principally permitting Neighborhood Agriculture in every district
- Requiring Conditional Use authorization for Large Scale Urban Agriculture in every district except the C, M and PDR districts where it is principally permitted.

Link to signed legislation:

Board File No. 101537	Ord. No. 0066-11	Urban Agriculture: http://www.sfbos.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/bdsupvrs/ordinances11/o0066-11.pdf
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