



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Bien Doan

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 09/24/24

APPROVED:

SUBJECT: SOFT STORY SEISMIC RETROFIT ORDINANCE

RECOMMENDATION

Approve staff recommendation with the following modification:

1. Allow property owners to submit a Natural Hazard Disclosure (NHD) Report for exemption if they are not located in a fault zone, hillside, or a liquefaction zone.

BACKGROUND

Creating an exemption for property owners in low-risk areas like non-fault zones, flatlands, and areas with low liquefaction risk could streamline the City of San Jose's efforts to allocate resources more effectively. This focused approach would enable the City to concentrate on high-risk properties that truly require intervention, thereby minimizing wasted funds.

Furthermore, such an exemption could alleviate financial pressures on small business renters in safer zones, preventing them from bearing costs that don't correspond to their actual risk levels. This could foster a more balanced economic environment, allowing businesses to thrive without the burden of unnecessary expenses related to risk mitigation.

Overall, this recommendation aligns resources with genuine needs and supports local economies in safer areas.