



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

MEMO

DATE: July 14, 2010  
TO: Historic Preservation Commission  
FROM: Tim Frye, Acting Preservation Coordinator, (415) 575-6822  
RE: ADA Policy

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At its June 16, 2010 hearing the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) reviewed and discussed draft policy "A" cited below that was developed at a meeting with Susan Mizner of the Mayor's Office on Disability (MOD), the Planning Department (Department), and Commissioners Damkroger and Martinez. The Department made several edits reflected in draft policy "B" to address concerns raised by Commissioners at the June 16 hearing. The Department believes that the additional language in draft policy "B" meets the goals of all parties and allows the MOD and the HPC the opportunity to collaborate in those rare cases where other means that deviate from the policy may be the only means feasible to provide access.

**Draft Policy A:** The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) recognizes the importance of access for people with disability and recognizes that Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires access in buildings that have City government services, programs, or activities. In order to ensure that sufficient public access is included in historic properties that house City government services, programs or activities, the HPC will not approve plans for such buildings until either the ADA Coordinator for the Department of Public Works, or the Compliance Officer from the Mayor's Office on Disability, has certified that the design of those areas open to the public are accessible to and useable by people with disabilities. As a matter of policy, the HPC will not accept wheelchair lifts in government owned buildings, even though allowed by the State Historic Building Code.

**Draft Policy B:** The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) recognizes the importance of access for people with disability and recognizes that Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires access in buildings that have City government services, programs, or activities. In order to ensure that sufficient public access is included in historic properties that house City government services, programs or activities, the HPC will not approve plans for such buildings until either the ADA Coordinator for the Department of Public Works, or the Compliance Officer from the Mayor's Office on Disability, has certified that the design of those areas open to the public are accessible to and useable by people with disabilities. As a matter of policy, the HPC will not accept wheelchair lifts in government owned buildings, even though allowed by the State California Historic Building Code when other means of access are determined feasible and the those means preserve the overall character of the Landmark property.