



News for California Building Departments

Issue #15, July - Sept. 2007

THE WILLDAN LETTER

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Previous Issues



In this newsletter you will find information useful to California Building Departments, including:

-  Basic information about green buildings
-  State plans for new green building regulations
-  Websites with green building information
-  Legislation for more water conserving plumbing fixtures and lighting bulbs
-  Dates of events and training
- ▶ And more....

IMPORTANT DATES

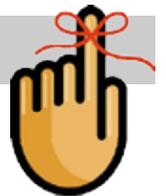
July 9-13, 2007: Education Week at Las Vegas. A combined event with CALBO and the Southern Nevada ICC Chapter. Details: www.calbo.org.

July 19, 2007: Public hearing by the Building Standards Commission. Watch for an agenda at BSD's website.

August 1, 2007: Last date to register for the ICC Annual Educational Conference Sept 30–Oct 3, 2007, at the Grand Sierra Resort Reno, NV. Details and registration: www.iccsafe.org

September 10-14, 2007: CALBO Education Week at Santa Maria. Details: www.calbo.org.

September 14, 2007: Last date to apply for the IAPMO certification exams held on 10/20/07 in Oakland, Oroville, Ontario, Sacramento and Ventura. Visit IAPMO,





DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know we are already enforcing green building requirements? Well, maybe not by the same name, but certainly water conservation standards for plumbing fixtures and the energy standards are part of a green building standard. And we are on the threshold of enforcing much more!



At this time there are bills in the California Legislature that if passed will mandate the adoption of more green building standards. Additionally, Governor Schwarzenegger has issued two Executive Orders establishing state efforts to create new green building standards.

The term “green building” or “sustainable building” refers to a building design that incorporates materials and practices that minimize the impact on the environment while creating healthier and more resource efficient buildings. The U.S. Green Building Council (GBC) has developed one voluntary standard. The GBC is a non-profit foundation, not a governmental agency. The stated purpose of the GBC is “to transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life.” The ANSI and ASHRAE are at work developing standards for green buildings.

WHAT'S UP WITH THE STATE?



The California Building Standards Commission has established a Green Building Code Advisory Committee including representatives from the design professions, building industry, general public, and interested government agencies. The Committee’s purpose is to advise the commission on matters relating to proposed green building standards. See the CBSC website for details.



- ▶ The 2007 Annual Building Code Adoption Cycle, which will produce a 2008 Supplement to the new 2007 editions of the California Building Standards Code in Title 24, is scheduled to begin on September 28, 2007. State agencies will submit proposed changes to the 2007 California Building Standards Code for review and approval by the California Building Standards Commission.
- ▶ On May 1, 2007, the State Fire Marshal conducted an open workshop to consider revisions to the California Building Code needed for safety of persons with disabilities during emergency egress. This is a result of the testimony by accessibility advocates at the January 30, 2007 public hearing by the Building Standards Commission. Advocates opposed proposed adoptions by the SFM because of alleged lack of safety for persons with disabilities during emergencies.

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USEFUL WEBSITES

[U.S. Green Building Council](#)

[U.S. Department of Energy](#)

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[California Energy Commission](#)

[California Energy Star Program](#)

[California Building Standards Commission](#)

[Environmental Building News](#)

[Global Green USA](#)

[California Green Action Team](#)

[Green Building Basics](#)



The GBC has developed the LEED program for commercial buildings (a standard for residential buildings is being developed) which is a green building rating system to evaluate the performance of a building’s design.

LEED is an acronym for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and has become a nationally recognized voluntary standard for the design, construction and operation of buildings. It includes standards for the site development, water conservation, energy efficiency, material selection and indoor environmental quality. When you hear that a new building is “LEED Certified” it means the designer applied for and was granted a GBC certification in recognition of the building’s design that met or exceeded the LEED standards.

Learn more about green buildings standards at the websites listed in our “Useful Websites” section.

LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO BUILDING DEPARTMENTS

By this time of the year, many legislative bills have taken on amendments. Some amendments refine the proposal while others are so substantial that the entire potential impact has changed. Such is the case with AB 723 that was to suspend CEQA for one year. After substantial amendment AB 723 is no longer a bill having impact on buildings.

Noteworthy bills still in the process and moving toward passage with impact on building departments follow.



 AB 715: If enacted will prohibit the sale or installation of toilets using more than 1.3 gallons per flush and urinals of 0.5 gallons per flush. Requirements will be phased-in over a period through January 2014. This bill is likely to be amended again.

 AB 722: If enacted will establish minimum energy efficiency standards for general service lamps (bulbs) beginning in January 2010, with increasing efficiency levels over a period extending to January 2016.

 AB 888: If enacted will require the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), to develop and adopt green building standards for specified nonresidential buildings by July 1, 2009. The development of the standards must include state, local and private interests. The standards must meet or encompass the standards of the U.S. Green Building Council.

 AB 1058: If enacted will require the CalEPA, to develop and adopt voluntary green building best practices and mandatory minimum standards for residential home construction by July 1, 2009. The development of the standards must include state, local and private interests.

▶ There are other bills worthy of watching including AB 747, AB 1096 and AB 1406. AB747 is on hold at this time but states the Legislature's intent to pass legislation addressing enforcement of accessibility standards.

WHAT'S UP ... *Continued from page 2*

▶ The Division of the State Architect has proposed Voluntary Certified Access Specialist program regulations. The proposed regulations are to implement Chapter 872 of the 2003 Statutes enacting Government Code sections 4459.5 through 4459.8 establishing a certified access specialist program. The public comment period began on June 8, 2007 and will close on July 23, 2007. There will be no public hearing unless specifically requested by the public in writing. The regulatory text and related documents may be obtained from DSA's website. Comments may be submitted directly through the DSA website.

OTHER NEWS

▶ The 2007 California Building Standards Code to be effective on January 1, 2008, is now available for purchase from the ICC, IAMPO, Builders Booksource and others.

 Doug Hensel, Assistant Deputy Director of the Division of Codes and Standards at HCD, has been appointed to the American National Standards Institute's Consensus Committee. The Committee is charged with developing the National Green Building Standard, which will be a benchmark for recognizing and rewarding green residential design and development practices.

▶ HCD has issued Information Bulletin #2007-02 announcing a 2007 Model Universal Design Checklist, which is an improvement to the original 2005 checklist. Health and Safety Code section 17959.6 requires builders of new for-sale residential dwellings to provide homebuyers a listing of provided universal design accessibility features. The 2005 and 2007 checklists provided by HCD are model checklists useable by homebuilders. See [HCD's website](#) for the checklists.