



# The WILLDAN Letter

News for California Building Departments

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## Legislation of Interest to Building Departments



The last date for introducing 2010 legislation was February 19, 2010. There are several new bills, and 2009 bills that remain active, that propose changes and new requirements that will impact local building departments if enacted. Listed herein are bills of current interest. However, it is very early in the legislative process and most bills will be amended during the process that may change their impact.

**AB 1693** proposes to amend the California Building Standards Law in the Health and Safety Code to eliminate the requirement for an annual code adoption cycle to occur between the triennial cycle that coincides with the publication of new model code editions. The bill will require one code adoption cycle for supplements to an existing edition of the code in Title 24, California Code of Regulations, instead of two annual cycles.

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**AB 1964** proposes to extend the mobilehome park inspections mandated by Health and Safety Code Section 18400 et seq, to January 1, 2019. The inspection requirements are now scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2012. Senate Bill 951 proposes a similar extension of the mobilehome park inspections.

**AB 2472** proposes to amend the Health and Safety Code to allow a city, county, or city and county, to adopt an experimental program that exempts buildings from the building standards in Title 24 in order to facilitate innovative sustainable building materials, methods, and designs.

**AB 2516** proposes to amend Section 12955.1 of the Health and Safety Code to required accessibility requirements in multistory dwelling units located within 1/2 mile of transit stations.

**SB 183**, amended six times during 2009, proposes to amend the Health and Safety Code to require State Fire Marshal certified carbon monoxide detection devices in existing single-family dwellings on or before January 1, 2011, and all other existing dwelling units on or before July 1, 2012. Given the requirement of Section R315 of the 2010 California Residential Code for Carbon Monoxide Alarms in dwellings on and after January 1, 2011, this bill will most likely be amended again.

The following bills are worthy of watching because of the subject matter. Amendments are possible and that may increase the impact on building departments: **SB 1227, AB 1001, AB 880, AB 828, AB 433, AB 2001, and AB 2373**. See all the listed bills at the legislature's website [leginfo.ca.gov/](http://leginfo.ca.gov/).



## What's Up With the State?

■ The 2009 Code Adoption Cycle reached the pinnacle point in the process with the approval of the proposed 2010 California Building Standards Code (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations) at the public hearings by the Building Standards Commission (BSC) on January 12 and 13, 2010. The next step in the process is for the new code to be published and made available to the public. The 2010 edition of Title 24 will be contained in all new binders replacing the 2007 edition now in effect. Once the document is available to the public the BSC will establish the publication date and the effective date. By law the effective date can be no sooner than 180 days following the publication date. According to the BSC website the planned effective date is January 1, 2011. The adopted text for the 2010 code may be viewed at the website of the BSC, [www.bsc.ca.gov](http://www.bsc.ca.gov). Look under the 2009 Code Adoption Cycle Highlights of the new Title 24 code include:

- California Residential Code in Part 2.5 based on the International Residential Code
  - Fire sprinkler system requirements for one and two family dwellings
  - Carbon Monoxide detection device requirements in dwellings
  - Mandatory requirements in the CalGreen Code (Part 11)
- The Office of the State Architect has updated the California Access Compliance Reference Manual. The Manual, issued on August 1, 2009 and updated on March 10, 2010, is available in PDF at the DSA website [www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov](http://www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov). This is a must have reference document for building departments and design professionals.

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Photos of projects plan-checked or inspected by Willdan



## Did you know?

Did you know those straw filled tubes on the ground at construction sites are called Wattles?

Wattles are commonly tubes of plastic netting filled with rice straw and used to control erosion.

Section 402.1 of the 2008 California Green Building Standards Code, in Part 11 of Title 24, California Code of Regulations, provides a definition of the term Wattles.

This new code is being referred to as the CalGreen Code. According to Section 406.2 of the CalGreen Code, the use of wattles is one acceptable means of controlling soil erosion that may be caused by site storm water runoff and harm public drainage systems and waterways.

These two sections of the 2008 CalGreen Code are adopted by the California Department of Housing and Community Development for application to Group R Occupancies, including hotels, motels, apartments, lodging houses, dwellings, dormitories, condominiums, shelters for homeless persons, and more as explained in Section 104. However, all the standards of the 2008 CalGreen Code are voluntary, unless adopted by local government as a mandatory standard. Presently over 40 California cities have some form of green building ordinance.

In January 2010 the California Building Standards Commission adopted a proposed 2010 CalGreen Code. The effective date of the 2010 CalGreen Code is planned for January 1, 2011 with mandatory statewide requirements. The mandatory provisions will apply to many common building occupancies, including housing occupancies. Building code enforcement personnel such as plan examiners and building inspectors should begin preparing for these new requirements.

The website of the California Building Standards Commission [www.bsc.ca.gov](http://www.bsc.ca.gov) provides an online copy of both the 2008 and 2010 editions of the CalGreen Code.



## Important Dates

**April 15, 2010:** California Building Standards Commission Hearing. An agenda will be available on the BSC website [www.bsc.ca.gov](http://www.bsc.ca.gov). This meeting is to be webcasted at [www.dca.ca.gov/stream/audiocast.asx](http://www.dca.ca.gov/stream/audiocast.asx).

**April 27, 2010:** CALBO Leadership & Advocacy Day. See details at the CALBO website [www.calbo.org](http://www.calbo.org).

**May 1, 2010:** Start of ICC Building Safety Month. See [iccsafe.org/](http://iccsafe.org/) for details.



## Other News & Things to Remember

■ Do you need residential fire sprinkler code training? One source is the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA), which offers seminars and online courses on the NFPA 13D. Review available training and register at the NFSA website [www.nfsa.org/](http://www.nfsa.org/). Look for the link to Seminars. Three one-day seminars are scheduled for April 20, 21 and 22, at the El Cerrito/Richmond F.D. Fire Training Facility, 3506 Cutting Blvd., Richmond, CA 94804.

Commemorating a  
30-year Legacy of Leadership



**BUILDING SAFETY MONTH**  
INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL FOUNDATION  
MAY 2010

■ The International Code Council and International Code Council Foundation has expanded Building Safety Week into a month-long Building Safety Month campaign beginning May 1, 2010. The goal is to “help create community-wide recognition and understanding

of building safety and sustainability and the critical role of codes and code officials.”

■ CALBO has established the dates for their Education Weeks in 2010. The dates are October 4-8, 2010 in San Ramon, and November 15-19, 2010 in Costa Mesa. Details are available at [www.calbo.org](http://www.calbo.org).

■ In February the International Code Council Foundation (ICCF) announced plans to offer a new professional development scholarship program entitled “Code of Honor.” The goal is to “ensure that the I-Codes continue to reflect the consensus view of officials at all levels of government by providing funding to voting governmental representatives seeking to attend Final Action Code Hearings.” Learn more about this new program at the ICC website [www.iccsafe.org/](http://www.iccsafe.org/).

## Useful Websites

State Fire Marshal - [osfm.fire.ca.gov](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov)

California Legislature - [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov)

Dept of Housing & Community Dev. - [www.hcd.ca.gov](http://www.hcd.ca.gov)

California Energy Commission - [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)

California Building Standards Commission - [www.bsc.ca.gov](http://www.bsc.ca.gov)

Division of the State Architect - [www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov](http://www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov)

State Laws - [leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html](http://leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html)

Office of Administrative Law - [www.oal.ca.gov](http://www.oal.ca.gov)

U.S. Green Building Council - [www.usgbc.org/](http://www.usgbc.org/)

Environmental Building News - [www.buildinggreen.com](http://www.buildinggreen.com)

Global Green USA - [www.globalgreen.org/](http://www.globalgreen.org/)

## What's Up With the State?

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■ HCD has updated the booklet A Guide to Housing Construction Codes. The updated booklet is dated March 2010 and is available in PDF at the HCD website [www.hcd.ca.gov/codes/](http://www.hcd.ca.gov/codes/). Look under the State Housing Law program, then under Information Bulletins, Notices, Booklets and Publications. The booklet provides information on the application of California Code of Regulations Titles 24 and 25 to housing occupancies. This is excellent training material for building department personnel and design professionals.



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