



*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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July 17, 2008

## **State Officials Approve Green Building Standards** ***California Becomes First State in the Nation to Go Green***

SACRAMENTO – Today taking a monumental action, the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) approved the first set of Green Building standards by a unanimous vote. This action by the CBSC marks the first approval of Green Building standards by any state in the union. Many members of CALBO were in attendance at the commission hearing to witness the actions first hand.

“I am ecstatic to see California once again leading the way where code development and building standards are concerned,” commented CALBO President Jay Ebettar of Newport Beach. “I am also grateful to the many members of CALBO who worked side-by-side with state officials to represent the best interests of local building departments.”

Highlights of the newly approved standards include:

- **Energy Efficiency (July 2009):** The HCD standards require compliance with the California Energy Commission’s Residential Energy Efficiency Standards, which will increase the stringency of existing statewide energy standards by 20 percent. The new standards will make new California homes approximately 50 percent more energy-efficient than homes built to national energy standards.
- **Water Conservation (July 2011):** The HCD standards require a 20 percent reduction in overall water use within all new homes starting on July 1, 2011. While this new water-conserving building code will allow a variety of compliance options, it is anticipated that compliance with this requirement will commonly be met via installation of new super-low flow toilets and showerheads.
- **Air Quality, Moisture Control & Resource Conservation (January 2011):** There are 16 features in this remaining category that will become mandatory at the same time as the new 2010 edition of the California Building Code takes effect, currently projected to happen on January 1, 2011. Among these environmentally friendly features are requirements for low- or no-VOC (volatile

organic compound) adhesives, paints and coatings; high-efficiency air conditioning filters to better filter out dust and particulates; and always-on exhaust fans to ensure better fresh air circulation in the home.

The standards, developed by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, will be phased in to the state building code over the next three years.

Commissioner Stephen Jensen, active CALBO member from the City of Napa, suggested that the CBSC code advisory committees commence work on suggested adoption language for local jurisdictions to voluntarily utilize for local Green Building ordinances. Although his fellow commissioners were excited to concur with Commissioner Jensen's statements, CALBO First Vice President and State Code Committee Chair Stephan Kiefer offered CALBO's Green Building and State Code policy committees to immediately commence work on this item. Secretary Rosario Marin, CBSC Chair, eagerly accepted Mr. Kiefer's offer on behalf of CALBO.

"Today's actions of the CBSC are something that we can all be proud of," continued Elbettar. "The Golden State will once again make our neighbors *green* with envy."

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California Building Officials (CALBO) is a nonprofit 501(c)6 membership organization headquartered in Sacramento, California. CALBO's members, representing over 500 local California jurisdictions, are primarily responsible for enforcing building code requirements in an estimated 95% of the buildings constructed in California.