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## **Energy Compliance Thoughts**

I have attended many energy code trainings during the 4 years I have worked as a Plans Examiner for a City Building Department in the State of California. Sometimes it is still a mystery to me as to what energy forms are required for environment, mechanical, electrical, fenestration, etc., for any given project whether it be res or non-res. Most designers don't know what to submit and they want the City to them what to submit and I don't feel knowledgeable enough to provide a confident answer half the time. Once forms are submitted, it is difficult to determine if the form is correct. A series of on-demand trainings should be prepared specifically geared for municipalities that teaches based on project type/scope of work what compliance forms are required, how to review those compliance forms, how to review installation forms, the acceptance forms, requirement for ATP inspectors. Also, the Cal. Energy Commission wants us to inspect all their requirements but don't provide additional funds for municipalities to hire inspectors solely dedicated to perform these complex energy compliance inspections. I think the HERS program is just an additional cost to the builder that does not provide more energy efficient buildings. HERS raters doctor the installation and acceptance forms to make it appear as if the building complies, all for money. I would like to see the energy commission get rid of the HERS program and assist municipalities to absorb and take that program over. Those programs, CBEC and EnerPRO, spit out numbers that are ridiculous, such as 0.01 watts per CFM, 35 plus seer & eer, 0.95 cool roof, R-49 continuous rigid insulation applied above roof decks and on exterior walls that would require 9" nails in the real world. If the plan checker misses that then no one will ever catch it.