



California Energy Commission

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CABEC response to Patrick Splitt's petition for an emergency rulemaking on the 2013 Building Efficiency Standards, Docket No. 15-MISC-01.

To Whom It May Concern,

The California Association of Building Energy Consultants (CABEC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the enhancement of California's Title 24 Energy Standards. Our purpose includes support of our membership's ability to implement the code. As the Commission is aware there is a strong, and at times deeply frustrated consensus within our membership that the 2013 code rollout has been problematic. The problems come in many forms including but not limited to: software functionality, errors within Title 24 related forms, HERS registration mechanics, and confusing, conflicting or otherwise incorrect code language.

CABEC strongly believes in working through multiple channels to inform and constructively assist the Commission's effort to implement a functional and public-serving energy efficiency building Standard. CABEC views Patrick Splitt's petition for an emergency rulemaking procedure on the 2013 Building Efficiency Standards as a potentially constructive mechanism to repair codified flaws in the building efficiency Standard's language.

Much of the language that becomes codified is copied directly and without full review from prior code documentation, written unclearly or written with unintentional internal conflicts. This is particularly true in instances where the code references or relates to other sections. These codified errors and conflicts currently can't be corrected in a timely and functional manner. Even with the existing Standards review process, history has shown that such errors don't get discovered until after implementation. It takes hundreds of Title 24 professionals implementing the code and crowdsourcing its review before errors are caught. The reality in the market is that Title 24 professionals don't have the time or resources it would take to review the standards to the necessary detail until they're actively authoring Title 24 documentation for specific projects.

Therefore CABEC supports this, and other constructive efforts to improve code language, and to improve the process by which the energy efficiency code is adopted. CABEC is interested in actively participating in an emergency rulemaking procedure as an opportunity to improve the Title 24 Efficiency Standards.

Sincerely,

2015 CABEC Board of Directors

Matthew Christie, Sarah Pernula, Rosemary Howley, Jeff Pollock, Brian Selby, Tommy Young, Demian Vonder Kuhlen, Rick Cowperthwaite, Melinda Keller, and Russ King