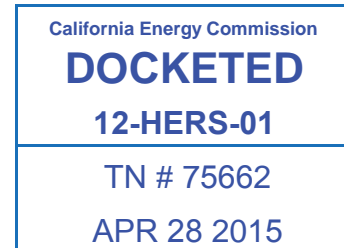


To: Rachael McDonald
California Energy Commission

From: Jeff Shields
General Manager, South San Joaquin Irrigation District

Subject: HERS Compliance Rater objectivity



Dear Mrs. McDonald,

This memo is in support of preserving the independence and professional integrity of HERS Compliance Raters as required under Title 20. The public is increasingly frustrated by conflicts growing out of California's regulatory agencies that are charged with protecting the public trust and assuring that industries that operate under their jurisdiction do so according to statute. As we have seen with the CPUC, relationships that are required to be independent and objective have become blurred by internal rationalization and/or staff interpretation of regulations. In the end it is the credibility of the regulatory agency that is tarnished for condoning a culture of conflicts of interest.

Pursuant to the CEC Residential Compliance Manual (CEC-400-2013-001-CMF) *"HERS rates must be independent entities from the builder or subcontractor installer of the energy efficiency features being installed and verified. They can have no financial interest in the installation of the improvements."* While there may be a convenience associated with a HERS rater engaging directly with a builder to secure a structural permit from the local government, there is also a perceived, if not legal, conflict created between the builders, rater and local jurisdiction.

I suspect that this issue has not been discussed in a public proceeding on the Commissions agenda. To that end, I would ask that the Commission take the opportunity to debate this issue during a public hearing.

Thank you for considering this communication. I am happy to come to Sacramento and discuss this in more detail should you wish to do so.