

August 7, 2015

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
Attention: **Docket No. 15-BSTD-01**
Dockets Office
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED

15-BSTD-01

TN 76115

AUG 10 2015

Re: Adoption of 15-Day Language for the 2016 Energy Efficiency Building Standards

To Whom It May Concern:

For over 35 years, Richard Heath and Associates, Inc. (RHA) has operated energy retrofit programs in partnership with the majority of California's investor-owned and small multi-jurisdictional utilities. Lighting retrofits serve a key function within these audit and direct install programs, enabling agricultural customers, municipal governments, residents, and business owners to lower their energy use through strategic installation of "measures" that reduce energy use and decrease the overall burden of energy costs for owners and tenants of these properties.

As a stakeholder in the proceedings for Docket No. 15-BSTD-01, RHA respectfully submits the following comments related to the 15-Day Language of California's 2016 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Title 24 Part 6). It is our intent to specifically address the latest version of the proposed 15-Day Language dealing with lighting system Alterations and Modifications in Sections 141.0(b)2.I-L.

Although review of the 2016 language process has not necessarily resulted in all of the changes that members of the lighting retrofit industry had hoped, the new language has brought us much closer to those goals. In fact, the proposed 2016 language seems to result in greater energy savings, while somewhat loosening the chokehold the 2013 Code controls language placed upon the retrofit industry and programs. For that reason, RHA supports the proposed 2016 Lighting Alterations language, although there is still some modifications that would further reduce barriers for the retrofit programs.

While pleased with this increased savings result, since the 2013 Code went into effect, increased permitting requirements and compliance costs have reduced savings that our programs are able to achieve. As written, even the smallest lighting efficiency upgrades become unrealistic for owners and/or tenants of existing California small businesses. Like many other stakeholders in the proceedings, RHA feels that it is vital to adopt a general exception for smaller lighting retrofit projects. Specifically, RHA believes that these smaller projects that achieve a targeted savings threshold should not trigger Code. Even without this proposed exception, the 2016 language achieves substantially more energy savings than the 2013 Code, and also provides needed relief for lighting retrofit programs.

Until such time that the exception is granted, RHA requests that the Energy Commission consider streamlining the compliance process. By simplifying and automating the necessary documentation and submittals, local jurisdictions will be better able to process the projects in a timely manner, contractors will


be more likely to comply with requirements, and less efficient equipment will be replaced in conformance with the State's energy goals.

As Ecology Action has described in its correspondence with the Commission, the compliance process could be as simple as the following:

1. Wattages would be documented using a contractor work order that gives detailed, by-location descriptions of pre-existing and newly installed fixture types and wattages.
2. Simplified retrofit-specific compliance forms (including electronic versions) would be developed by the Commission for submittal by contractors to the local jurisdiction to facilitate compliance processing.

While recommending some additional attention to a workable compliance solution, RHA declares its full support of the proposed changes that are outlined in the 15-Day Language for 2016 Title 24 Part 6. We believe that the recommended language is reasonable and consistent with the goals for retrofit energy efficiency improvements, and realigns the intent of the 2013 Code with the state's efficiency goals. As such, the proposed 2016 Lighting Alterations and Modifications language should be adopted in its current form. To prevent further delay, RHA urges the Commission to consider rapid implementation of the revised 2016 language in order to promote energy savings in the lighting retrofit marketplace and allow existing retrofit programs to continue without further interruption.

Respectfully,



Dr. James O'Bannon
Chairman of the Board, Richard Heath & Associates, Inc.