



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



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IN THIS ISSUE:

Cal/EPA California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool
Cal/EPA Assistant Secretary for Local Programs and Emergency Response Don Johnson Retires
Unified Program Directory Tied to CERS

DTSC None

SWRCB None

Cal EMA None

OSFM California Code of Regulations Title 24 Rulemaking

California Environmental Protection Agency

California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool

A proposal for a valuable new tool to screen the environmental health of California's communities is being released by the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) for review and input by the general public and stakeholders. The draft California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) assess cumulative impacts of pollution in California communities by using existing environmental, health and socio-economic data to compare the cumulative impacts of environmental pollution on the state's communities. The release of the draft proposal will be followed by an August 7 meeting of the Cumulative Impacts and Precautionary Approaches (CIPA) Work Group and a series of five public workshops during the month of August. The Development of the tool stems from Cal/EPA's Environmental Justice Action Plan. The draft release implements and expands on Cal/EPA's December 2010 report, "Cumulative Impacts: Building A Scientific Foundation." The draft tool and supporting materials, including information about the workshops, are available at <http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/cipa073012.html>.

Unified Program Directory Tied to CERS

The web based Unified Program Directory search tool has been tied to the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) Regulatory Management functionality. This move links the local contact information entered into CERS by a CUPA or PA to the Unified Program Directory search tool, thereby keeping the directory updated automatically as information in CERS is changed by the CUPA or PA. The link to the new directory is: <http://cersapps.calepa.ca.gov/Public/Directory>.

Cal/EPA Assistant Secretary for Local Programs and Emergency Response Don Johnson Retires

Don Johnson, the Cal/EPA Assistant Secretary for Local Programs and Emergency Response and Agency's head of the Unified Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials Management Program (Unified Program), retires from 38 years of public service on August 10, 2012. Assistant Secretary Johnson has been the head of the Unified Program since its inception in 1994. He leaves behind one of the most successful environmental regulatory oversight consolidation programs in the state, covering the entire state through 115 certified local agencies and regulating almost 145,000 businesses. The current Unified Program Manager, Jim Bohon, will be the interim Acting Assistant Secretary until the position is permanently filled.

Department of Toxic Substances Control – None

State Water Resources Control Board – None

California Emergency Management Services - None

Office of State Fire Marshal

California Code of Regulations Title 24 Rulemaking

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), in conjunction with other state agencies, is in the process of developing and proposing building standards for the 2013 California Building Standards Codes. The general purpose is intended to update and codify a new edition of the California Building Standards Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24) that adopts by reference more current editions of the model codes as follows:

- Part 2 – 2013 California Building Code – 2012 International Building Code (IBC)
- Part 2.5 – 2013 California Residential Code – 2012 International Residential Code (IRC)
- Part 3 – 2013 California Electrical Code – 2011 National Electrical Code (NEC)
- Part 4 – 2013 California Mechanical Code – 2012 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC)
- Part 5 – 2013 California Plumbing Code – 2012 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC)
- Part 9 – 2013 California Fire Code – 2012 International Fire Code (IFC)

The intent is that the final adoption package would include amendments necessary to reasonably maintain a substantially equivalent level of fire and life safety in California. The State Fire Marshal is responsible for the coordination of the state's fire and life safety codes and must review proposed regulations of other state agencies that promote fire and panic safety before the regulations are submitted for approval. This adoption proposes to:

- Repeal the adoption by reference of the model codes and incorporate and adopt by reference in its place more recent addition of model codes for application and effectiveness in the 2013 California Building Standards Code pursuant to Health and Safety (H&S) Code 18928. H&S Code 18928 requires any state agency adopting model codes to adopt the most recent edition,
- Repeal certain amendments to the model codes and/or California building standards not addressed by the model code that are no longer necessary pursuant to H&S Code 18930(a)(7),
- Adopt new California building standards or necessary California amendments to the model codes that address inadequacies of the model codes as they pertain to California laws,
- Bring forward previously existing California building standards or amendments, which represent no change in their effect from the 2010 California Building Standards Code, and
- Codify non-substantive editorial and formatting amendments for the format based upon the more recent edition of the model codes.

The proposed code changes have been initially submitted to the California State Building Standards Commission (CBSC) in June 2012. The CBSC rulemaking process takes approximately one year to complete. The expected publication of the 2013 California Building Standards Code is July 2013 with an effective date of January 1, 2014.

The code advisory committee that will review and make recommendations to the building and fire codes will tentatively meet on August 14, 2012. Comment periods for the rulemaking packages will be noticed following the code advisory committee meetings. The timeline for the current code adoption cycle may be viewed on CBSC's website at:

<http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/bsc/documents/2012/TriennialCycleTimeline-RevisedMaster6-2012.pdf>

For additional information, please visit the OSFM Code Development and Analysis website at <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/codedevelopment.php> or visit the CBSC website at <http://www.bsc.ca.gov/codes/adoptcycle/2012Cycle.aspx>.