



CCGO Press Release

March 18, 2005

CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION CLEARS THE WAY FOR ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE

CCGO's Code Development Committee, which worked hard for three years to improve the new International Building Code (IBC), is pleased to announce that an earlier setback to adoption of the code by the State of California has been overcome. After all our work to increase recognition of the importance of geologic considerations in the IBC, the California Building Standards Commission in July 2003 recommended adoption of the National Fire Protection Association 5000 building code which we had never heard of and which contained precious little mention of geologic or grading issues. Now, fortunately, the recommendation has been rescinded (see press release below), and the State is proceeding toward adoption of the IBC as the basis for the next California Building Code (CBC).

Code Development Committee Chair Betsy Mathieson and current CCGO Vice President Charles Nestle have both been working with the California Grading Officials Association on their efforts to have important grading code provisions included in the next CBC. In addition, Betsy and CCGO founder Bob Tepel are members of the Grading Standards Technical Advisory Committee of the California State Mining and Geology Board. The Committee is in the process of preparing an SMGB special publication on engineered grading.

For further information, or to join CCGO's Code Development Committee, contact Betsy Mathieson, emathieson@exponent.com or (510) 208-2011

Press Release from CALBO

From: CALBOInfo@aol.com
Date: Thu, 17 Mar 2005 17:59:49 EST
Subject: CBSC Rescinds 2003 Decision

CBSC Rescinds 2003 Decision - NFPA 5000 is nothing more than history!

SACRAMENTO – CALBO's lobbying efforts have paid off! On Wednesday, March 16, the California Building Standards Commission, under the leadership of Secretary Fred Aguiar, voted to accept the first recommendation of the Coordinating Council by rescinding the commission's July 29, 2003 decision to recommend the adoption of the NFPA 5000 building code. The 8-2 vote was taken after a long day of testimonies from building officials, disabled advocates, industry stakeholders and concerned citizens. Of the 11 voting members of the commission, only 2 chose to vote against the motion to rescind the 2003 decision. One commissioner departed early and did not cast a vote, however, it was fairly clear that he was not in support of the motion. Commissioner Jim Barthman made the official motion, and Commissioner Steve Jensen eagerly seconded it.

It is not necessary for the commission to take any further action to recommend the adoption of the IBC, IRC and IFC. Since the recommendation of the Coordinating Council was unanimous with all state agency council members voting in support of the IBC, IRC, and IFC, it was not necessary for the commission to take any further action. It was necessary, however, for the commission to rescind their 2003 decision in order to clear the way for the new codes. Since the 2003 decision of the Coordinating Council was not unanimous, the CBSC needed to take a vote then to give the state agencies direction as to which code to adopt. Commissioner Pernell made it clear that he would like to see progress reports and timelines by the May meeting so that we will have an idea as to when California may have its next building code in place. CALBO is strongly supportive of this request.

CALBO leadership would like to thank the MANY building officials and local building department representatives who made the journey to Sacramento yesterday. Over 60 local jurisdictions were represented from all points throughout California. These efforts were a true testament of our active and mobilized membership, nor did they go unnoticed by the commissioners.

Congratulations to everyone for a job well done - we did it! CALBO (California Building Officials) is a nonprofit 501(c)6 organization dedicated to promoting public health and safety in building construction through responsible legislation, education and building code development.