2010 California Green Building Standards Code: *Nation's First Mandatory Statewide Standards Code to Green Construction and Fight Climate Change*

Continuing to lead the way in the fight against climate change and protecting the environment, California adopted mandatory building regulations for all new construction in the state that will achieve major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, and water use. The CALGREEN Code is the nation's first statewide green building standards code and will take effect January 1, 2011.

In 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger directed the California Building Standards Commission to work with specified state agencies on the adoption of green building standards for residential, commercial, and public building construction for the 2010 code adoption process.

The 2010 Green Building Standards Code will require:

- 20 percent mandatory reduction in indoor water use, with voluntary goal standards for 30, 35 and 40 percent reductions;
- Separate water meters for nonresidential buildings' indoor and outdoor water use, with a requirement for moisture-sensing irrigation systems for larger landscape projects;
- Requiring diversion of 50 percent of construction waste from landfills, increasing voluntarily to 65 and 75 percent for new homes and 80 percent for commercial projects;
- Mandatory inspections of energy systems (i.e. heat furnace, air conditioner, mechanical equipment) for nonresidential buildings over 10,000 square feet to ensure that all are working at their maximum capacity according to their design efficiencies;
- Requiring low-pollutant emitting interior finish materials such as paints, carpet, vinyl flooring and particle board.

The CALGREEN Code is a comprehensive and uniform regulatory code for all residential, commercial, hospital and school buildings, ensuring that every new building in California is built using environmentally advanced construction practices. California's property owners can simply build according to the state's CALGREEN Code, at no cost for certification.

Having a mandatory code will allow California's builders to build to a certifiable green standard without having to pay costly fees for third-party programs. In addition to the mandatory regulations the CALGREEN Code also includes more stringent additional provisions that will help every builder, owner or local government to go even further. While the mandatory regulations will now be the law, local communities can take additional action to green their buildings that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency and conserve our natural resources.

The CALGREEN Code will be incorporated into the long-standing, established infrastructure to enforce its health, safety, fire, energy, and structural building codes, making verification of the green code for local building inspectors a simple transition. Like California's existing building code provisions that regulate construction projects throughout the state, the mandatory CALGREEN code provisions will be inspected and verified by local and state building departments.

Differences Between the California Green Building Standards Code and Point-Based Systems

The CALGREEN Code is a moniker to distinguish the California Green Building Standards Code from California's many other Building Codes. Unlike point-based certification systems that can be purchased, the CALGREEN Code mandates required field inspections using a public, transparent infrastructure that is stringent, successful, and cost-effective. The California Building Standards Commission is providing the industry a comprehensive blueprint on how to significantly reduce carbon output, maximize resources, and save property owners thousands of dollars in green certification fees.

Issues	California Green Building Standards Code	Point-Based Systems
Development process/Transparency	Public, regulatory; the state code regulations have been developed with a high degree of transparency and included California building industry and environmental group input	Guidelines have been developed by private entities through with membership driven commentary. Does not have ANSI consensus process approval.
Participation in development	Open public process that included government officials, building industry, environmental leaders and the public.	Private committee members
Collaboration	State agencies; local governments: cities, counties and special districts	Private committee members
Enforcement/Verification of Compliance	Field inspections required and will be enforced by government agencies to ensure that construction being completed to code.	Field inspections not required; paper audit used to award points.
Post construction certification required and cost of certification[1]	Certificate of occupancy; no additional costs	Yes: • LEED certification costs: as much as $30,000 to $50,000.
Local adoption	Mandatory, uniform statewide code, local jurisdictions may amend by law for specified reasons	Regulated by private entities, local adoption varies widely
Membership required	No	Yes
Units of Measure	Standards—the code contains regulations for building green	Points-based guidelines on graduated implementation of green

		practices
Authority	Statutory	Non-government, private organizations provide guidelines for fees
Rationale	To promote local jurisdictions' adoptions of the code to assist the state in meeting its greenhouse gas reduction goals; water and energy conservation and related resource efficiencies.	To promote green construction practices and local adoption through the purchase of a points-based guidelines system
Codes/programs needed for housing, commercial, schools, hospitals	One code for all occupancy types – residential, commercials, hospitals, schools	Various point-rated systems; there is a different set of guidelines for each occupancy covered
Additional books necessary for compliance	None	Multiple and costs for each varies
Integrated with other California building codes and regulations	Yes	No
Format of Instructional Materials	The code language and format follow existing state building code; industry and local jurisdictions familiar with this existing infrastructure	Guideline language that may require builders and businesses to purchase further LEED consultation and materials during construction

[1] Timothy M. Smith, et al., "Green Building Rating Systems: A Comparison of the LEED and Green Globes Systems in the U.S.," September 2006