

March 9, 2004

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Support Adoption of the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Residential Code (IRC)

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The Orange Empire Chapter of the International Code Council (ICCOEC) is a professional organization whose members are building officials of thirty-four jurisdictions within Orange County, California. It also includes members from the building industry who share an interest in the building code, which governs building design in the State of California.

Last July, the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) selected the National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 5000 for adoption as the next California Building Code. This was done in spite of recommendations by all affected State agencies to adopt the IBC & IRC, except the State Fire Marshal who was in favor of the NFPA 5000 and IRC. Scores of building and fire officials from jurisdictions all across the state and building industry groups testified at the Commission hearings in favor of adopting the IBC to no avail. The ICCOEC believes this to be a serious mistake and respectfully requests that you delay the final adoption of the NFPA 5000 until new commissioners, representing the wishes and interests of all people in California, can be appointed to make the final selection of the new building code for California.

The IBC and IRC are a natural evolution of the building codes used in California for over 70 years and reflect the needs of both jurisdictional authorities and the vast majority of the construction industry. These codes have been used in Orange County since 1950, and it is the opinion of those in the building industry, enforcement officials, and local government that these codes best serve their needs and those of the public. In addition, the IBC and IRC have been chosen by 44 states and the Federal General Services Administration as their choice to regulate construction within their jurisdiction.

NFPA 5000 is the wrong code for California for the following reasons:

- NFPA lacks both a complete certification program and any building product evaluation service. Programs have been in place for several decades for the codes upon which the IBC and IRC are based.
- Selecting a code different from the IBC, which is adopted by other states, will add to the costs and confusion in the construction industry. It forces architects, engineers, contractors and builders to use different codes for the State of California than those used in the rest of the nation.

These, among other reasons, compel our organization to strongly urge you to delay the prior action of the CBSC and support for the IBC and IRC. We would be pleased to provide any additional information you or your staff might need.

Sincerely,

Faisal Jurdi, P.E., C.B.O., President

FJ/mg

C: Fred Aguiar, Secretary, State and Consumer Services
State and Consumer Services Agency
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95814-2719

Sunne McPeak, Secretary, Business, Transportation & Housing
Business, Transportation & Housing Agency
980 9th Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814-2719

Mike Chrisman, Secretary, Resources
Resources Agency
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814