

Executive Overview Regarding CAC's

At the February 14, 2018 Code Adoption Committee meeting the committee made all of the Code Advisory Committee (CAC) member selections for the 2018 Triennial and the 2019 Intervening Cycles.

Intervening code adoption cycles usually have fewer agency submittals than a triennial code adoption cycle. This is mainly because model codes are only adopted during triennial cycles leaving the intervening cycles for clean-up, providing the state agencies a process to update the codes due to legislation, agency policy changes, or needed Title 24 regulatory updates and corrections.

Additionally, during intervening cycles the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) often has to form ad hoc CAC's (combining two CAC's into one ad hoc CAC). The 2019 Intervening cycle is no different. CBSC has formed two ad hoc committees, one combining the GREEN and PEME committees and a second combining BFO and SD-LF committees. The ACCESS and HF committees were not included in the ad hoc formation during this cycle.

Part of the reason CBSC combined the BFO and SD-LF CAC's was to address a major proposed change being considered during this cycle. The State Fire Marshal, The Division of the State Architect, The Department of Housing and Community Development and CBSC are proposing to adopt specific provisions related to Tall Wood and Mass Timber regulations due to former Governor Brown's Executive Order B-52-18. The Tall Wood and Mass Timber regulations were approved by the International Code Council and will be included in the 2021 International Building Code (IBC). However, California is seeking to early adopt the provisions to assist the statewide goal of increased wood use in construction and wood based product manufacturing. The combination of these two CAC's resulting in the BFO/SD-LF ad hoc committee will bring together the expertise to best address the complexity of the proposed tall wood/mass timber regulations.

While preparing for the 2019 Intervening Code Adoption Cycle pre-cycle activities, which include the code advisory committees process, it was brought to our attention that there were a couple members of the CAC's that would not be able to serve the second half of the CAC obligatory three-year commitment. Unfortunately, both of the members filled fire related positions.

Briton Rockafellow, Fire Official for ACCESS, PEME, and GREEN CAC's informed us of his retirement and would not be able to serve for the 2019 cycle. Additionally, we were informed that Cherly Domnitch, Fire Protection Engineer for the Health Facilities Committee was considering taking a job at the University of Davis (UCD) and therefore would not be able to serve as a voting member of the committee.

This information prompted CBSC staff to prepare a CAC supplemental application announcement to seek the interest of fire officials to apply to serve for one cycle (2019 Int. Cycle) as a fire official for the two CAC committees that were missing a voting member fire official as these fire positions will be critically important to the final outcome of the proposed regulations for tall wood and mass timber.

The initial application period was from November 6, 2019 to December 6, 2019. However, only one application was submitted from a very enthusiastic Fire Official named Jeffery Halpert, Glendale Fire Department. Mr. Halpert was highly recommended by the San Marcos Fire Marshal, Mr. Jason Nailon. Additionally, Mr. Halpert was very responsive to requests from CBSC to consider being selected for more than one committee.

During a December 5, 2019 California Building Officials/California Fire Chiefs meeting an announcement was made that CBSC was advertising for Fire Official positions on three Code Advisory Committees. This group requested a two-week application extension so additional fire officials could apply. CBSC staff made the decision to extend the application period to December 20, 2019, allowing time for interested parties to apply.

Additionally, just prior to end of the extended application period, Ms. Domnitch contact CBSC and informed us that she did not take the UCD position and was able to continue to serve as a fire engineer on the HF CAC. While we were pleased that Ms. Domnitch would be able to assist us, it did eliminate the need for a fire official for the HF committee.

However, the other two fire official vacancies, one for ACCESS and one for GREEN/PEME are still needed.

By the end of the extended application period CBSC received an additional 7 applications. Of these new applicants, only Janice Cheung was qualified to fill the vacancy as a fire official. All 6 of the remaining new applications were either employed by the UC system and therefore can't function as a voting member, or do not have the required work experience as a licensed fire protection engineer or fire official. Therefore, only Mr. Halpert and Ms. Cheung applications are included within your binder for your review and consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Nearman
Deputy Executive Director, California Building Standards Commission