

West's Annotated California Codes [Currentness](#)

Health and Safety Code ([Refs & Annos](#))

Division 13. Housing ([Refs & Annos](#))

▣ [Part 1.5. Regulation of Buildings Used for Human Habitation \(Refs & Annos\)](#)

→ [Chapter 1. General Provisions \(Refs & Annos\)](#)

→ **§ 17910. Short title**

This part is known as the “State Housing Law.”

### **§ 17911. Application of part**

The provisions of this part do not apply to any building regulated by Part 2 (commencing with [Section 18000](#)), Part 2.1 (commencing with [Section 18200](#)), or Part 6 (commencing with [Section 19960](#)) of this division, unless such parts specifically require such application.

### **§ 17912. Application of rules, regulations and building standards to existing buildings**

Rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this part and building standards published in the State Building Standards Code, relating to the erection or construction of buildings or structures, shall not apply to existing buildings or structures or to buildings or structures as to which construction is commenced or approved prior to the effective date of the rules, regulations, or building standards, except by act of the Legislature, but rules, regulations, and building standards relating to use, maintenance, and change of occupancy shall apply to all hotels, motels, lodginghouses, apartment houses, and dwellings, or portions thereof, and buildings and structures accessory thereto, approved for construction or constructed before or after the effective date of such rules, regulations, or building standards.

### **§ 17913. Uniform codes; notice of publication, approval and adoption; publication of information bulletins regarding enforcement; distribution of information**

(a) The department shall notify the entities listed in subdivision (c) of the dates that each of the uniform codes published by the specific organizations described in [paragraphs \(1\) to \(5\), inclusive, of subdivision \(a\) of Section 17922](#) are approved by the California Building Standards Commission pursuant to [Section 18930](#) and the effective date of the model codes as established by the California Building Standards Commission.

(b) The department may publish information bulletins regarding code enforcement as emergencies occur or at any other time the department determines appropriate.

(c) The department shall distribute the information described in subdivision (a), and may distribute the information described in subdivision (b), to the following entities:

(1) The building department in each county and city.

(2) Housing code officials, fire service officials, professional associations concerned with building standards, and any other persons or entities the department determines appropriate.

### **§ 17920. Definitions**

As used in this part:

(a) “Approved” means acceptable to the department.

(b) “Building” means a structure subject to this part.

(c) “Building standard” means building standard as defined in [Section 18909](#).

(d) “Department” means the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(e) “Enforcement” means diligent effort to secure compliance, including review of plans and permit applications, response to complaints, citation of violations, and other legal process. Except as otherwise provided in this part, “enforcement” may, but need not, include inspections of existing buildings on which no complaint or permit application has been filed, and effort to secure compliance as to these existing buildings.

(f) “Fire protection district” means any special district, or any other municipal or public corporation or district, which is authorized by law to provide fire protection and prevention services.

(g) “Labeled” means equipment or materials to which has been attached a label, symbol, or other identifying mark of an organization, approved by the department, that maintains a periodic inspection program of production of labeled products, installations, equipment, or materials and by whose labeling the manufacturer indicates compliance with appropriate standards or performance in a specified manner.

(h) “Listed” means all products that appear in a list published by an approved testing or listing agency.

(i) “Listing agency” means an agency approved by the department that is in the business of listing and labeling

products, materials, equipment, and installations tested by an approved testing agency, and that maintains a periodic inspection program on current production of listed products, equipment, and installations, and that, at least annually, makes available a published report of these listings.

(j) “Noise insulation” means the protection of persons within buildings from excessive noise, however generated, originating within or without such buildings.

(k) “Nuisance” means any nuisance defined pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with [Section 3479](#)) of Division 4 of the Civil Code, or any other form of nuisance recognized at common law or in equity.

(l) “Public entity” has the same meaning as defined in [Section 811.2 of the Government Code](#).

(m) “Testing agency” means an agency approved by the department as qualified and equipped for testing of products, materials, equipment, and installations in accordance with nationally recognized standards.

### **§ 17920.3. Substandard building; conditions**

Any building or portion thereof including any dwelling unit, guestroom or suite of rooms, or the premises on which the same is located, in which there exists any of the following listed conditions to an extent that endangers the life, limb, health, property, safety, or welfare of the public or the occupants thereof shall be deemed and hereby is declared to be a substandard building:

(a) Inadequate sanitation shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Lack of, or improper water closet, lavatory, or bathtub or shower in a dwelling unit.
- (2) Lack of, or improper water closets, lavatories, and bathtubs or showers per number of guests in a hotel.
- (3) Lack of, or improper kitchen sink.
- (4) Lack of hot and cold running water to plumbing fixtures in a hotel.
- (5) Lack of hot and cold running water to plumbing fixtures in a dwelling unit.
- (6) Lack of adequate heating.

- (7) Lack of, or improper operation of required ventilating equipment.
  - (8) Lack of minimum amounts of natural light and ventilation required by this code.
  - (9) Room and space dimensions less than required by this code.
  - (10) Lack of required electrical lighting.
  - (11) Dampness of habitable rooms.
  - (12) Infestation of insects, vermin, or rodents as determined by the health officer.
  - (13) General dilapidation or improper maintenance.
  - (14) Lack of connection to required sewage disposal system.
  - (15) Lack of adequate garbage and rubbish storage and removal facilities as determined by the health officer.
- (b) Structural hazards shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- (1) Deteriorated or inadequate foundations.
  - (2) Defective or deteriorated flooring or floor supports.
  - (3) Flooring or floor supports of insufficient size to carry imposed loads with safety.
  - (4) Members of walls, partitions, or other vertical supports that split, lean, list, or buckle due to defective material or deterioration.
  - (5) Members of walls, partitions, or other vertical supports that are of insufficient size to carry imposed loads with safety.
  - (6) Members of ceilings, roofs, ceilings and roof supports, or other horizontal members which sag, split, or buckle due to defective material or deterioration.

(7) Members of ceiling, roofs, ceiling and roof supports, or other horizontal members that are of insufficient size to carry imposed loads with safety.

(8) Fireplaces or chimneys which list, bulge, or settle due to defective material or deterioration.

(9) Fireplaces or chimneys which are of insufficient size or strength to carry imposed loads with safety.

(c) Any nuisance.

(d) All wiring, except that which conformed with all applicable laws in effect at the time of installation if it is currently in good and safe condition and working properly.

(e) All plumbing, except plumbing that conformed with all applicable laws in effect at the time of installation and has been maintained in good condition, or that may not have conformed with all applicable laws in effect at the time of installation but is currently in good and safe condition and working properly, and that is free of cross connections and siphonage between fixtures.

(f) All mechanical equipment, including vents, except equipment that conformed with all applicable laws in effect at the time of installation and that has been maintained in good and safe condition, or that may not have conformed with all applicable laws in effect at the time of installation but is currently in good and safe condition and working properly.

(g) Faulty weather protection, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) Deteriorated, crumbling, or loose plaster.

(2) Deteriorated or ineffective waterproofing of exterior walls, roof, foundations, or floors, including broken windows or doors.

(3) Defective or lack of weather protection for exterior wall coverings, including lack of paint, or weathering due to lack of paint or other approved protective covering.

(4) Broken, rotted, split, or buckled exterior wall coverings or roof coverings.

(h) Any building or portion thereof, device, apparatus, equipment, combustible waste, or vegetation that, in the opinion of the chief of the fire department or his deputy, is in such a condition as to cause a fire or explosion or provide a ready fuel to augment the spread and intensity of fire or explosion arising from any cause.

- (i) All materials of construction, except those which are specifically allowed or approved by this code, and which have been adequately maintained in good and safe condition.
- (j) Those premises on which an accumulation of weeds, vegetation, junk, dead organic matter, debris, garbage, offal, rodent harborages, stagnant water, combustible materials, and similar materials or conditions constitute fire, health, or safety hazards.
- (k) Any building or portion thereof that is determined to be an unsafe building due to inadequate maintenance, in accordance with the latest edition of the Uniform Building Code.
- (l) All buildings or portions thereof not provided with adequate exit facilities as required by this code, except those buildings or portions thereof whose exit facilities conformed with all applicable laws at the time of their construction and that have been adequately maintained and increased in relation to any increase in occupant load, alteration or addition, or any change in occupancy.

When an unsafe condition exists through lack of, or improper location of, exits, additional exits may be required to be installed.

- (m) All buildings or portions thereof that are not provided with the fire-resistive construction or fire-extinguishing systems or equipment required by this code, except those buildings or portions thereof that conformed with all applicable laws at the time of their construction and whose fire-resistive integrity and fire-extinguishing systems or equipment have been adequately maintained and improved in relation to any increase in occupant load, alteration or addition, or any change in occupancy.
- (n) All buildings or portions thereof occupied for living, sleeping, cooking, or dining purposes that were not designed or intended to be used for those occupancies.
- (o) Inadequate structural resistance to horizontal forces.

“Substandard building” includes a building not in compliance with [Section 13143.2](#).

However, a condition that would require displacement of sound walls or ceilings to meet height, length, or width requirements for ceilings, rooms, and dwelling units shall not by itself be considered sufficient existence of dangerous conditions making a building a substandard building, unless the building was constructed, altered, or converted in violation of those requirements in effect at the time of construction, alteration, or conversion.

#### **§ 17920.5. Local appeals board**

As used in this part “local appeals board” means the board or agency of a city or county which is authorized by the governing body of the city or county to hear appeals regarding the building requirements of the city or county. In any area in which there is no such board or agency, “local appeals board” means the governing body of the city or county having jurisdiction over such area.

#### **§ 17920.6. Housing appeals board**

As used in this part, “housing appeals board” means the board or agency of a city or county which is authorized by the governing body of the city or county to hear appeals regarding the requirements of the city or county relating to the use, maintenance, and change of occupancy of hotels, motels, lodginghouses, apartment houses, and dwellings, or portions thereof, and buildings and structures accessory thereto, including requirements governing alteration, additions, repair, demolition, and moving of such buildings if also authorized to hear such appeals. In any area in which there is not such a board or agency, “housing appeals board” means the local appeals board having jurisdiction over such area.

#### **§ 17920.7. Repealed by Stats.1990, c. 1083 (S.B.1830), § 6; Stats.1990, c. 1111 (A.B.2666), § 6**

#### **§ 17920.8. Exit identification near floor**

In addition to any other requirements for location of exit signs or devices in hotels, motels, or apartment houses, the State Fire Marshal shall adopt building standards establishing minimum requirements for the placement of distinctive devices, signs, or other means that identify exits and can be felt or seen near the floor. Exit sign technologies permitted by the model building code upon which the California Building Standards Code is based, shall be permitted. These building standards shall apply to all newly constructed occupancies subject to this section for which a building permit is issued, or construction is commenced, where no building permit is issued on or after January 1, 1989.

#### **§ 17920.9. Building standards; fire safety and fire resistant regulations; foam building systems; approved testing agency**

(a) The department shall propose adoption, amendment, or repeal by the California Building Standards Commission pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with [Section 18935](#)) of Part 2.5, of those regulations as are necessary for the provision of minimum fire safety and fire-resistant standards relating to the manufacture, composition, and use of foam building systems manufactured for use, or used, in construction of buildings subject to this part, mobilehomes subject to Part 2 (commencing with [Section 18000](#)), or factory-built housing subject to Part 6 (commencing with [Section 19960](#)), for the protection of the health and safety of persons occupying those buildings, mobilehomes, or factory-built housing. The department shall enforce building standards published in the California Building Standards Code relating to foam building systems, and other rules and regu-

lations adopted by the department or by federal law. Each manufacturer of foam building systems shall have any foam building system manufactured for use in any building, factory-built housing, or mobilehome listed and labeled by an approved testing agency certifying that the system meets fire safety and fire-resistant building standards published in the California Building Standards Code. The department shall consult with all available public and private sources to assist in the development of the building standards and other rules and regulations.

(b) The department shall make inspections of the manufacture of such foam building systems which it determines are necessary to insure compliance with the requirements of subdivision (a).

(c) No person shall sell, offer for sale, or use in construction of buildings subject to this part, mobilehomes subject to Part 2 (commencing with [Section 18000](#)), or factory-built housing subject to Part 6 (commencing with [Section 19960](#)), in this state, any foam building system, and no person shall sell or offer for sale in this state any such building, mobilehome, or factory-built housing of which a foam building system is a component, which foam building system does not comply with, or has not been listed and labeled by an approved testing agency certifying that the foam building system is in compliance with, the requirements of subdivision (a) on and after the 180th day after the building standards or other rules or regulations become effective.

This subdivision shall not apply to any buildings, mobilehomes, or factory-built housing constructed prior to the 180th day after those standards become effective.

(d) No person shall sell, offer for sale, or use in construction of any building subject to this part, a mobilehome subject to Part 2 (commencing with [Section 18000](#)), or factory-built housing subject to Part 6 (commencing with [Section 19960](#)), in this state, any foam building system, and no person shall sell or offer for sale in this state any such building, mobilehome, or factory-built housing of which a foam building system is a component, if the manufacturer thereof refuses to permit the department to conduct the inspections required by subdivision (b) on and after the 180th day after the building standards or other rules or regulations become effective.

(e) As used in this section:

(1) "Foam" means a material made by mixing organic polymers with air or other gases in a manner that forms a solid substance with holes filled with air or gas when the mixture is allowed to set.

(2) "Foam building system" means a system of building materials composed of, in whole or in part, of foam. It includes, but is not limited to, all combinations of systems such as those composed of foam inserted between and bonded to two boundary surface materials or those composed exclusively of foam.

(3) "Building standard" means building standard as defined in [Section 18909](#).

### § 17920.10. Lead hazards; violations; definitions

(a) Any building or portion thereof including any dwelling unit, guestroom, or suite of rooms, or portion thereof, or the premises on which it is located, is deemed to be in violation of this part as to any portion that contains lead hazards. For purposes of this part, “lead hazards” means deteriorated lead-based paint, lead-contaminated dust, lead-contaminated soil, or disturbing lead-based paint without containment, if one or more of these hazards are present in one or more locations in amounts that are equal to or exceed the amounts of lead established for these terms in Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 35001) of Division 1 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations or by this section and that are likely to endanger the health of the public or the occupants thereof as a result of their proximity to the public or the occupants thereof.

(b) In the absence of new regulations adopted by the State Department of Health Services in accordance with the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with [Section 11340](#)) of [Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code](#)) further interpreting or clarifying the terms “deteriorated lead-based paint,” “lead-based paint,” “lead-contaminated dust,” “containment,” or “lead-contaminated soil,” regulations in Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 35001) of Division 1 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations adopted by the State Department of Health Services pursuant to [Sections 105250](#) and [124150](#) shall interpret or clarify these terms. If the State Department of Health Services adopts new regulations defining these terms, the new regulations shall supersede the prior regulations for the purposes of this part.

(c) In the absence of new regulations adopted by the State Department of Health Services in accordance with the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act defining the term “disturbing lead-based paint without containment” or modifying the term “deteriorated lead-based paint,” for purposes of this part “disturbing lead-based paint without containment” and “deteriorated lead-based paint” shall be considered lead hazards as described in subdivision (a) only if the aggregate affected area is equal to or in excess of one of the following:

- (1) Two square feet in any one interior room or space.
- (2) Twenty square feet on exterior surfaces.
- (3) Ten percent of the surface area on the interior or exterior type of component with a small surface area. Examples include window sills, baseboards, and trim.

(d) Notwithstanding subdivision (c), “disturbing lead-based paint without containment” and “deteriorated lead-based paint” shall be considered lead hazards, for purposes of this part, if it is determined that an area smaller than those specified in subdivision (c) is associated with a person with a blood lead level equal to or greater than 10 micrograms per deciliter.

(e) If the State Department of Health Services adopts regulations defining or redefining the terms “deteriorated lead-based paint,” “lead-contaminated dust,” “lead-contaminated soil,” “disturbing lead-based paint without containment,” “containment,” or “lead-based paint,” the effective date of the new regulations shall be deferred for a minimum of three months after their approval by the Office of Administrative Law and the regulations shall take effect on the next July 1 or January 1 following that three-month period. Until the new definitions apply, the prior definition shall apply.

### **§ 17921. Building standards; rules and regulations**

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), the department shall propose the adoption, amendment, or repeal of building standards to the California Building Standards Commission pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 4 (commencing with [Section 18935](#)) of Part 2.5, and the department shall adopt, amend, and repeal other rules and regulations for the protection of the public health, safety, and general welfare of the occupant and the public governing the erection, construction, enlargement, conversion, alteration, repair, moving, removal, demolition, occupancy, use, height, court, area, sanitation, ventilation and maintenance of all hotels, motels, lodging houses, apartment houses, and dwellings, and buildings and structures accessory thereto. Except as otherwise provided in this part, the department shall enforce those building standards and those other rules and regulations. The other rules and regulations adopted by the department may include a schedule of fees to pay the cost of enforcement by the department under [Sections 17952](#) and [17965](#).

(b) The State Fire Marshal shall adopt, amend, or repeal and submit building standards for approval pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 4 (commencing with [Section 18935](#)) of Part 2.5, and the State Fire Marshal shall adopt, amend, and repeal other rules and regulations for fire and panic safety in all hotels, motels, lodging houses, apartment houses and dwellings, buildings, and structures accessory thereto. These building standards and regulations shall be enforced pursuant to [Sections 13145](#) and [13146](#); however, this section is not intended to require an inspection by a local fire agency of each single-family dwelling prior to its occupancy.

#### **§ 17921.1. Hotplates**

Notwithstanding the provisions of [Section 17921](#), and except as provided for herein, the department shall not adopt or enforce any rule or regulation relating to the installation, maintenance, or use of a hotplate in a room of any building occupied on or prior to the effective date of this act, if all of the following conditions exist:

(a) The hotplate is used solely for the cooking or preparation of meals for consumption by not more than two occupants of the room.

(b) The hotplate contains not more than two burners or heating elements, and has been approved by a testing agency acceptable to the department.

- (c) The installation, maintenance, or use of a hotplate will not be, or is not, hazardous to life or property.
- (d) The hotplate rests on its own legs, is set not closer than six inches from any wall or projection thereof, and rests on an impervious surface.
- (e) The walls behind and adjacent to the hotplate are lined or backflashed with incombustible material equivalent to one-fourth-inch asbestos millboard; the backflashing extends from 12 inches below to 24 inches above the base of the hotplate; and there is 36 inches of clear and unobstructed space above the surface of the hotplate.
- (f) The area of such room is not less than 120 square feet in superficial floor area.
- (g) The room contains an approved sink with hot and cold running water.
- (h) All plumbing in the room complies with the provisions of this part and building standards published in the State Building Standards Code.
- (i) An approved storage cabinet is installed in the room wherein all food, dishes, and cooking and eating utensils are stored when not in use.
- (j) The bed, and any drapes, curtains, towels, or other readily combustible materials, in the room are located so that they do not come in contact with the hotplate.
- (k) The room complies with the provisions of this part and building standards published in the State Building Standards Code pertaining to window area, ventilation, ceiling height, and cubic airspace.
- (l) An approved method of heating is installed in or for the room and the hotplate is not used for the purpose of heating the room or installed within an unventilated area.
- (m) Toilet and bath facilities are installed and maintained in the building as required by this part and building standards published in the State Building Standards Code.

In the event of any structural addition or any alteration or reconstruction involving the floor area of any room the provisions of [Section 17921](#) shall apply.

Any city or county may enact an ordinance to prohibit the installation, maintenance, or use of a hotplate in any room.

“Approved,” when used in connection with any material, type of construction, or appliance in this section, means meeting the approval of the enforcement agency as the result of investigation and tests conducted by the agency or by reason of accepted principles or tests by national authorities, technical, health, or scientific organizations or agencies.

**§ 17921.3. Water closets and urinals; requirements; local enforcement**

(a) All water closets and urinals installed or sold in this state shall meet performance, testing, and labeling requirements established by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers standard A112.19.2-2003, or A112.19.14-2001, as applicable. No other marking and labeling requirements shall be required by the state. All water closets and urinals installed or sold in this state shall be listed by an American National Standards Institute accredited third-party certification agency to the appropriate American Society of Mechanical Engineers standards set forth in this subdivision. No other listing or certification requirements shall be required by the state.

(b)(1) All water closets sold or installed in this state shall use no more than an average of 1.6 gallons per flush. On and after January 1, 2014, all water closets, other than institutional water closets, sold or installed in this state shall be high-efficiency water closets.

(2) All urinals sold or installed in this state shall use no more than an average of one gallon per flush. On and after January 1, 2014, all urinals, other than blow-out urinals, sold or installed in this state shall be high-efficiency urinals.

(3) Each manufacturer selling water closets or urinals in this state shall have not less than the following percentage of models offered for sale in this state of high-efficiency water closets plus high-efficiency urinals as compared to the total number of models of water closets plus urinals offered for sale in this state by that manufacturer:

(A) Fifty percent in 2010.

(B) Sixty-seven percent in 2011.

(C) Seventy-five percent in 2012.

(D) Eighty-five percent in 2013.

(E) One hundred percent in 2014 and thereafter.

(4) Each manufacturer that sells water closets or urinals in this state shall inform the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, the department, and the California Building Standards Commission, in writing, of the percentage of models of high-efficiency water closets plus high-efficiency urinals offered for sale in this state as compared to the total number of models of water closets plus urinals offered for sale in this state by that manufacturer for each year 2010 to 2013, inclusive, by January 30 of that year.

(c) Any city, county, or city and county may enact an ordinance to allow the sale and installation of nonlow-consumption water closets or urinals upon its determination that the unique configuration of building drainage systems or portions of a public sewer system within the jurisdiction, or both, requires a greater quantity of water to flush the system in a manner consistent with public health. At the request of a public agency providing sewer services within the jurisdiction, the city, county, or city and county shall hold a public hearing on the need for an ordinance as provided in this subdivision. Prior to this hearing or to the enactment of the ordinance, those agencies responsible for the provision of water and sewer services within the jurisdiction, if other than the agency considering adoption of the ordinance, shall be given at least 30 days' notice of the meeting at which the ordinance may be considered or adopted.

(d) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), on and after January 1, 1994, water closets and urinals that do not meet the standards referenced in subdivision (b) may be sold or installed for use only under either of the following circumstances:

(1) Installation of the water closet or urinal to comply with the standards referenced in subdivision (b) would require modifications to plumbing system components located beneath a finished wall or surface.

(2) The nonlow-consumption water closets, urinals, and flushometer valves, if any, would be installed in a home or building that has been identified by a local, state, or federal governmental entity as a historical site and historically accurate water closets and urinals that comply with the flush volumes specified in subdivision (b) are not available.

(e)(1) This section does not preempt any actions of cities, counties, cities and counties, or districts that prescribe additional or more restrictive conservation requirements affecting either of the following:

(A) The sale, installation, or use of low-consumption water closets, urinals, and flushometer valves that meet the standards referenced in subdivision (a), (b), or (c).

(B) The continued use of nonlow-consumption water closets, urinals, and flushometer valves.

(2) This section does not grant any new or additional powers to cities, counties, cities and counties, or districts to promulgate or establish laws, ordinances, regulations, or rules governing the sale, installation, or use of low-consumption water closets, urinals, and flushometer valves.

(f) The California Building Standards Commission or the department may, by regulation, reduce the quantity of water per flush required pursuant to this section if deemed appropriate or not inconsistent in light of other standards referenced in the most recent version of the California Plumbing Code, and may refer to successor standards to the standards referenced in this section if determined appropriate in light of standards referenced in the most recent version of the California Plumbing Code.

(g) As used in this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) “Blow-out urinal” means a urinal designed for heavy-duty commercial applications that work on a powerful nonsiphonic principle.

(2) “High-efficiency water closet” means a water closet that is either of the following:

(A) A dual flush water closet with an effective flush volume that does not exceed 1.28 gallons, where effective flush volume is defined as the composite, average flush volume of two reduced flushes and one full flush. Flush volumes shall be tested in accordance with ASME A112.19.2 and ASME A112.19.14.

(B) A single flush water closet where the effective flush volume shall not exceed 1.28 gallons. The effective flush volume is the average flush volume when tested in accordance with ASME A112.19.2.

(3) “High-efficiency urinal” means a urinal that uses no more than 0.5 gallons per flush.

(4) “Institutional water closet” means any water closet fixture with a design not typically found in residential or commercial applications or that is designed for a specialized application, including, but not limited to, wall-mounted floor-outlet water closets, water closets used in jails or prisons, water closets used in bariatrics applications, and child water closets used in day care facilities.

(5) “Nonlow-consumption flushometer valve,” “nonlow-consumption urinal,” and “nonlow-consumption water closet” mean devices that use more than 1.6 gallons per flush for toilets and more than 1.0 gallons per flush for urinals.

(6) “Urinal” means a water-using urinal.

(7) “Wall-mounted/wall-outlet water closets” means models that are mounted on the wall and discharge to the drainage system through the wall.

(h) For purposes of this section, all consumption values shall be determined by the test procedures contained

in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers standard A112.19.2-2003 or A112.19.14-2001.

(i) This section shall remain operative only until January 1, 2014, or until the date on which the California Building Standards Commission includes standards in the California Building Standards Code that conform to this section, whichever date is later.

#### INOPERATIVE DATE

<For inoperative date of this section, see its terms.>

#### **§ 17921.4. Nonwater-supplied urinals; requirements**

(a) A nonwater-supplied urinal approved for installation or sold in this state shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

(1) Meet performance, testing, and labeling requirements established by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers standard A112.19.19-2006.

(2) Be listed by an American National Standards Institute accredited third-party certification agency to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers standard A112.19.19-2006.

(3) Provide a trap seal that complies with the California Plumbing Code.

(4) Permit the uninhibited flow of waste through the urinal to the sanitary drainage system.

(5) Be cleaned and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions after installation.

(6) Be installed with a water supply rough-in to the urinal location that would allow a subsequent replacement of the nonwater-supplied urinal with a water-supplied urinal if desired by the owner or if required by the enforcement agency.

(b) As used in this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Building" means any structure subject to this part, and any structure subject to the California Building Standards Law as set forth in Part 2.5 (commencing with [Section 18901](#)).

(2) “Water supply rough-in” means the installation of water distribution and fixture supply piping sized to accommodate a water-supplied urinal to an in-wall point immediately adjacent to the urinal location.

(c) Nothing in this section shall restrict the authority of the California Building Standards Commission to require any additional conditions on the installation and use of nonwater-supplied urinals.

**§ 17921.5. Renumbered § 17921.6 and amended by Stats.2007, c. 499 (A.B.715), § 4.**

**§ 17921.6. Cellular concrete; standards**

Except as provided in [Sections 18930](#) and [18949.5](#), the department shall prepare and adopt minimum standards regulating the use and application of cellular concrete as it determines are reasonably necessary for the protection of life and property.

**§ 17921.7. ABS plumbing pipe; manufacturing; use of approved resins and compounds; documentation; approval standards**

(a)(1) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(A) Acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (“ABS”) drain, waste, and vent plumbing pipe is used to drain or vent wastewater from kitchens, bathrooms, washers, and plumbing fixtures found in the home. ABS pipe is commonly used in residential construction, and ABS pipe has been installed in the foundations and walls of thousands of single-family homes, apartments, condominiums, and other residences throughout California.

(B) The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) has established specifications for the manufacture of ABS pipe, including a requirement that ABS pipe be made from virgin plastic resin. These specifications have been incorporated into the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), which is applicable to all occupancies throughout the state pursuant to [subdivision \(b\) of Section 18938](#), a provision of the California Building Standards Law (Part 2.5 (commencing with [Section 18901](#))).

(C) ABS pipe that does not meet ASTM requirements might, within a period of a decade or less, crack and leak wastewater and sewage, resulting in structural damage, vermin infestation, and severe health hazards for residents or occupants of buildings in which defectively manufactured ABS pipe has failed. One apparent cause of these mechanical failures of ABS pipe has been the use of nonvirgin, reprocessed plastic resin for the manufacture of ABS pipe.

(D) The continued use of this nonvirgin, reprocessed plastic resin by some ABS pipe manufacturers violates the requirements of the UPC and is also in violation of the building standards established in accordance with

the California Building Standards Law. The problem of the property damage inflicted on the public continues to worsen.

(E) Thousands of California residents either already have, or eventually will, experience serious damage to their homes, apartments, and condominiums, as well as threats to their health and safety, because of the sub-standard ABS pipe that has been installed, in violation of building standards, in structures throughout the state.

(F) There are currently no statutes or regulations that apply to the sale of defective plastic resin to ABS pipe manufacturers.

(2) It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature that both of the following occur:

(A) That a provision that addresses the important issues set forth in paragraph (1) be added to the State Housing Law.

(B) That the Department of Housing and Community Development expeditiously implement the provisions of Chapter 413 of the Statutes of 1993 that relate to this section.

(b) On and after the effective date of the act that adds this section, no person shall sell or offer for sale a plastic resin for use in the manufacture of ABS DWV pipe that does not meet the requirements of the listing pursuant to authority granted by subdivision (e).

(c)(1) Any and all plastic resin sold to an ABS DWV pipe manufacturer for use in ABS DWV pipe shall contain a certification that the plastic resin conforms to the requirements specified in the listing pursuant to subdivision (e).

(2) Any and all plastic resin sold to an ABS pipe manufacturer shall be accompanied by a document indicating the name and address of the manufacturer of that plastic resin, the date that the plastic resin was purchased by the seller, and specifications of the chemical and physical properties of the plastic resin. For a period of at least 10 years from the date of the sale of this plastic resin, the information required to be certified by this subdivision shall be kept onsite at the ABS pipe manufacturing plant, and available for inspection by the enforcement agency, at all times.

(d) No ABS DWV pipe that contains plastic resin that does not meet the requirements of the listing pursuant to subdivision (e) may be sold or offered for sale, or installed in any structure that is subject to this part.

(e) The listing agencies, as approved by the department, shall publish in each listing agreement with ABS

DWV pipe manufacturers a list of ABS resins and resin compounds used by that manufacturer and approved for use by the listing agency. The approval of ABS resins and resin compounds shall be based on nationally recognized standards. The listing agencies shall consult with the affected parties.

**§ 17921.9. CPVC plastic piping; alternative material; safe work practices**

(a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) The deterioration of copper piping has become a serious problem in various communities in the state.

(2) Chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC) plastic piping has been successfully used for many years in other states and in nations around the globe, and has also been widely used, in accordance with federal regulations, in mobilehome construction.

(3) The Department of Community Development of the City of Colton, acting pursuant to a good-faith belief that it was in compliance with state regulations, approved the use of CPVC piping as an alternative to copper piping in early 1993 when the department was confronted with widespread deterioration of copper piping systems in a tract in the western part of that city.

(4) The retrofitting of homes in Colton with CPVC piping has been successful.

(b) It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature in enacting this section to allow the use of CPVC piping in building construction in California as an alternate material under specified conditions.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the provisions of the California Plumbing Code that do not authorize the use of CPVC piping within California shall not apply to any local government that permitted the use of CPVC piping for potable water systems within its jurisdiction prior to January 1, 1996. Any local government that permitted the use of CPVC piping for potable water systems within its jurisdiction prior to January 1, 1996, shall require both of the following:

(1) That the CPVC piping to be used is listed as an approved material in, and is installed in accordance with, the 1994 edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code.

(2) That all installations of CPVC strictly comply with the interim flushing procedures and worker safety measures set forth in subdivisions (d) and (e).

(d) The following safe work practices shall be adhered to when installing both CPVC and copper plumbing

pipe in California after the effective date of the act that adds this section:

(1)(A) Employers shall provide education and training to inform plumbers of risks, provide equipment and techniques to help reduce exposures from plumbing pipe installation, foster safe work habits, and post signs to warn against the drinking of preoccupancy water.

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, “training” shall include training in ladder safety, safe use of chain saws and wood-boring tools, hazards associated with other construction trades, hazards from molten solder and flux, and the potential hazards and safe use of soldering tools and materials.

(2) Cleaners shall be renamed as primers, include strong warnings on the hazards of using primers as cleaners, and include dyes to discourage use as cleaners.

(3) Applicators and daubers shall be limited to small sizes.

(4) Enclosed spaces shall be ventilated with portable fans when installing CPVC pipe.

(5) Protective impermeable gloves shall be utilized when installing CPVC pipe.

(6) Employers shall provide onsite portable eyewash stations for all employees to allow for immediate flushing of eyes in the event of splashing of hot flux.

(7) Employers using acetylene torches shall ensure that the acetylene tanks are regularly maintained and inspected in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements. Fire extinguishers shall be kept in close proximity to the workplace.

(e) All of the following flushing procedures shall be adhered to when installing CPVC pipe in California after the effective date of the act that adds this section:

(1) When plumbing is completed and ready for pressure testing, each cold water and hot water tap shall be flushed starting with the fixture (basin, sink, tub, or shower) closest to the water meter and continuing with each successive fixture, moving toward the end of the system. Flushing shall be continued for at least one minute or longer until water appears clear at each fixture. This step may be omitted if a jurisdiction requires the building inspector to test each water system.

(2) The system shall be kept filled with water for at least one week and then flushed in accordance with the procedures set forth in paragraph (1). The system shall be kept filled with water and not drained.

(3) Before the premises are occupied, the hot water heater shall be turned on and the system shall be flushed once more. Commencing with the fixture closest to the hot water heater, the hot water tap shall be permitted to run until hot water is obtained. The time required to get hot water in a specific tap shall be determined and then the cold water tap at the same location shall be turned on for the same period of time. This procedure shall be repeated for each fixture in succession toward the end of the system.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the applicability of any existing law imposing liability on a manufacturer, distributor, retailer, installer, or any other person or entity under the laws of this state for liability.

(g) This section shall not be operative after January 1, 1998.

#### INOPERATIVE DATE

<This section became inoperative by its own terms after Jan. 1, 1998.>

#### **§ 17921.10. Environmentally preferable water using devices and measures; voluntary best practice and mandatory requirements**

(a) The standards proposed by the department pursuant to [Section 17921](#) may include voluntary best practice and mandatory requirements related to environmentally preferable water using devices and measures. The standards shall not unreasonably or unnecessarily impact the ability of Californians to purchase or rent affordable housing, as determined by taking account of the overall benefit derived from the standards.

(b) Nothing in this section shall in any way reduce the authority of the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to adopt standards and regulations or take other actions pursuant to Division 15 (commencing with [Section 25000](#)) of the [Public Resources Code](#).

#### **§ 17922. Administrative code rules and regulations; uniform housing code requirements; local requirements**

(a) Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, the building standards adopted and submitted by the department for approval pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with [Section 18935](#)) of Part 2.5, and the other rules and regulations that are contained in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, as adopted, amended, or repealed from time to time pursuant to this chapter shall be adopted by reference, except that the building standards and rules and regulations shall include any additions or deletions made by the department. The building standards and rules and regulations shall impose substantially the same requirements as are contained in the most recent editions of the following uniform industry codes as adopted by the organizations specified:

(1) The Uniform Housing Code of the International Conference of Building Officials, except its definition of “substandard building.”

(2) The Uniform Building Code of the International Conference of Building Officials.

(3) The Uniform Plumbing Code of the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials.

(4) The Uniform Mechanical Code of the International Conference of Building Officials and the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials.

(5) The National Electrical Code of the National Fire Protection Association.

(6) Appendix Chapter 1 of the Uniform Code for Building Conservation of the International Conference of Building Officials.

(b) In adopting building standards for approval pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with [Section 18935](#)) of Part 2.5 for publication in the California Building Standards Code and in adopting other regulations, the department shall consider local conditions and any amendments to the uniform codes referred to in this section. Except as provided in Part 2.5 (commencing with [Section 18901](#)), in the absence of adoption by regulation, the most recent editions of the uniform codes referred to in this section shall be considered to be adopted one year after the date of publication of the uniform codes.

(c) Except as provided in [Section 17959.5](#), local use zone requirements, local fire zones, building setback, side and rear yard requirements, and property line requirements are hereby specifically and entirely reserved to the local jurisdictions notwithstanding any requirements found or set forth in this part.

(d) Regulations other than building standards which are adopted, amended, or repealed by the department, and building standards adopted and submitted by the department for approval pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with [Section 18935](#)) of Part 2.5, governing alteration and repair of existing buildings and moving of apartment houses and dwellings shall permit the replacement, retention, and extension of original materials and the continued use of original methods of construction as long as the hotel, lodginghouse, motel, apartment house, or dwelling, or portions thereof, or building and structure accessory thereto, complies with the provisions published in the California Building Standards Code and the other rules and regulations of the department or alternative local standards adopted pursuant to [subdivision \(b\) of Section 13143.2](#) or [Section 17958.5](#) and does not become or continue to be a substandard building. Building additions or alterations which increase the area, volume, or size of an existing building, and foundations for apartment houses and dwellings moved, shall comply with the requirements for new buildings or structures specified in this part, or in building standards published in the California Building Standards Code, or in the other rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this part. However, the additions and alterations shall not cause the building to exceed area or height limita-

tions applicable to new construction.

(e) Regulations other than building standards which are adopted by the department and building standards adopted and submitted by the department for approval pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with [Section 18935](#)) of Part 2. 5 governing alteration and repair of existing buildings shall permit the use of alternate materials, appliances, installations, devices, arrangements, or methods of construction if the material, appliance, installation, device, arrangement, or method is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in this part, the building standards published in the California Building Standards Code, and the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this part in performance, safety, and for the protection of life and health. Regulations governing abatement of substandard buildings shall permit those conditions prescribed by [Section 17920.3](#) which do not endanger the life, limb, health, property, safety, or welfare of the public or the occupant thereof.

(f) A local enforcement agency may not prohibit the use of materials, appliances, installations, devices, arrangements, or methods of construction specifically permitted by the department to be used in the alteration or repair of existing buildings, but those materials, appliances, installations, devices, arrangements, or methods of construction may be specifically prohibited by local ordinance as provided pursuant to [Section 17958.5](#).

(g) A local ordinance may not permit any action or proceeding to abate violations of regulations governing maintenance of existing buildings, unless the building is a substandard building or the violation is a misdemeanor.

#### **§ 17922.1. Modification or change of regulation requirements; findings**

Notwithstanding [Section 17922](#), local agencies may modify or change the requirements published in the State Building Standards Code or contained in other regulations adopted by the department pursuant to [Section 17922](#) if they make a finding that temporary housing is required for use in conjunction with a filed mining claim on federally owned property located within the local jurisdiction and that the modification or change would be in the public interest and consistent with the intent of the so-called Federal Mining Act of 1872 (see [30 U.S.C., Sec. 22, et seq.](#)), [\[FN1\]](#) relating to the development of mining resources of the United States.

[\[FN1\]](#) 30 U.S.C.A. § 22 et seq.

#### **§ 17922.12. Graywater system standards**

(a) For the purposes of this section, “graywater” means untreated wastewater that has not been contaminated by any toilet discharge, has not been affected by infectious, contaminated, or unhealthy bodily wastes, and does not present a threat from contamination by unhealthful processing, manufacturing, or operating wastes. “Graywater” includes wastewater from bathtubs, showers, bathroom washbasins, clothes washing machines, and laundry tubs, but does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks or dishwashers.

(b) Notwithstanding Chapter 22 (commencing with [Section 14875](#)) of [Division 7 of the Water Code](#), at the next triennial building standards rulemaking cycle that commences on or after January 1, 2009, the department shall adopt and submit for approval pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with [Section 18935](#)) of Part 2.5 building standards for the construction, installation, and alteration of graywater systems for indoor and outdoor uses.

(c) In adopting building standards under this section, the department shall do all of the following:

(1) Convene and consult a stakeholder's group that includes members with expertise in public health, water quality, geology or soils, residential plumbing, home building, and environmental stewardship.

(2) Ensure protection of water quality in accordance with applicable provisions of state and federal water quality law.

(3) Consider existing research available on the environmental consequences to soil and groundwater of short-term and long-term graywater use for irrigation purposes, including, but not limited to, research sponsored by the Water Environment Research Foundation.

(4) Consider graywater use impacts on human health.

(5) Consider the circumstances under which the use of in-home graywater treatment systems is recommended.

(6) Consider the use and regulation of graywater in other jurisdictions within the United States and in other nations.

(d) The department may revise and update the standards adopted under this section at any time, and the department shall reconsider these standards at the next triennial rulemaking that commences after their adoption.

(e) The approval by the California Building Standards Commission of the standards for graywater systems adopted under this section shall terminate the authority of the Department of Water Resources to adopt and update standards for the installation, construction, and alteration of graywater systems in residential buildings pursuant to Chapter 22 (commencing with [Section 14875](#)) of [Division 7 of the Water Code](#).

**[§ 17922.2. Hazardous building ordinances and programs; building standards; local conditions; exceptions; study](#)**

(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this part, ordinances and programs adopted on or before January

1, 1993, that contain standards to strengthen potentially hazardous buildings pursuant to [subdivision \(b\) of Section 8875.2 of the Government Code](#), shall incorporate the building standards in Appendix Chapter 1 of the Uniform Code for Building Conservation of the International Conference of Building Officials published in the California Building Standards Code, except for standards found by local ordinance to be inapplicable based on local conditions, as defined in subdivision (b), or based on an approved study pursuant to subdivision (c), or both. Ordinances and programs shall be updated in a timely manner to reflect changes in the model code, and more frequently if deemed necessary by local jurisdictions.

(b) For the purpose of subdivision (a), and notwithstanding the meaning of “local conditions” as used elsewhere in this part and in Part 2.5 (commencing with [Section 18901](#)), the term “local conditions” shall be limited to those conditions that affect the implementation of seismic strengthening standards on the following only:

(1) The preservation of qualified historic structures as governed by the State Historical Building Code (Part 2.7 (commencing with [Section 18950](#))).

(2) Historic preservation programs, including, but not limited to, the California Mainstreet Program.

(3) The preservation of affordable housing.

(c) Any ordinance or program adopted on or before January 1, 1993, may include exceptions for local conditions not defined in subdivision (b) if the jurisdiction has approved a study on or before January 1, 1993, describing the effects of the exceptions. The study shall include socioeconomic impacts, a seismic hazards assessment, seismic retrofit cost comparisons, and earthquake damage estimates for a major earthquake, including the differences in costs, deaths, and injuries between full compliance with Appendix Chapter 1 of the Uniform Code for Building Conservation or the Uniform Building Code and the ordinance or program. No study shall be required pursuant to this subdivision if the exceptions for local conditions not defined in subdivision (b) result in standards or requirements that are more stringent than those in Appendix Chapter 1 of the Uniform Code for Building Conservation.

(d) Ordinances and programs adopted pursuant to this section shall conclusively be presumed to comply with the requirements of Chapter 173 of the Statutes of 1991. [\[FN1\]](#)

[\[FN1\]](#) Amending [Health and Safety Code §§ 17922, 18916, and 18941.5](#), and adding [Health and Safety Code § 18934.6](#).

**[§ 17922.3. Residential structure; movement into or within jurisdiction of local agency or the department; application of Section 17958.9](#)**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a residential structure that is moved into, or within, the jurisdiction of a local agency or the department, shall not be treated, for the purposes of Section 104 of the 1991 Edition of the Uniform Building Code, as a new building or structure, but rather shall be treated, for the purposes of this part, as subject to [Section 17958.9](#).

#### **§ 17922.5. Application for, and issuance of, building permit; prerequisites**

Any state or local agency which issues building permits shall require, as a condition of issuing any building permit where the working conditions of the construction would require an employer to obtain a permit from the Division of Occupational Safety and Health pursuant to Chapter 6 (commencing with [Section 6500](#)) of Part 1 of Division 5 of the Labor Code, that proof be submitted showing that the employer has received such a permit from the Division of Occupational Safety and Health.

An employer may apply for a building permit prior to receiving the permit from the Division of Occupational Safety and Health.

#### **§ 17922.6. Noise insulation standards and requirements**

(a) The Office of Noise Control in coordination with the department shall adopt and submit building standards for approval pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with [Section 18934](#)) of Part 2.5 of this division and shall adopt, amend, and repeal rules and regulations other than building standards which establish uniform minimum noise insulation requirements for hotels, motels, apartment houses, and dwellings other than detached single-family dwellings.

(b) Such requirements shall be based on performance in order to require compliance onsite where the hotel, motel, apartment house, or dwelling other than a detached single-family dwelling, is located.

(c) Such requirements shall be sufficient to protect persons within the hotel, motel, apartment house, or dwelling other than a detached single-family dwelling, from the effects of excessive noise, including, but not limited to, hearing loss or impairment and persistent interference with speech and sleep.

(d) The provisions of this section, the building standards published in the State Building Standards Code relating to noise insulation, and the other rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this section shall apply equally to those hotels, motels, apartment houses, and dwellings other than detached single-family dwellings, owned, operated, or maintained by any public entity. The department shall enforce such building standards published in the State Building Standards Code and such other rules and regulations with respect to any such hotel, motel, apartment house, or dwelling other than a detached single-family dwelling, which is not subject to the jurisdiction of any local building department.

(e) The provisions of this section, the building standards published in the State Building Standards Code relating to noise insulation, and the other rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this section shall not apply to detached single-family dwellings.

(f) Such other rules and regulations adopted by the Office of Noise Control shall become operative six months after their date of adoption.

(g) [Sections 17925](#), [17958](#), [17958.5](#), and [17958.7](#) shall not apply to the provisions of this section.

**§ 17922.7. Noise insulation standards; changes, modifications or additions by cities, counties and public entities**

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subdivisions (b) and (c), the governing body of every city, county, city and county, and public entity shall adopt ordinances or regulations imposing the same requirements as are published in the State Building Standards Code relating to noise insulation and as are contained in the other rules and regulations adopted pursuant to [Section 17922.6](#) within six months after the date of publication in the State Building Standards Code or the date of adoption of such other rules and regulations. The building standards relating to noise insulation published in the State Building Standards Code and the other rules and regulations adopted pursuant to [Section 17922.6](#) shall apply in any city, county, city and county, or to any hotel, motel, apartment house, or dwelling other than a detached single-family dwelling, which is owned, operated, or maintained by any public entity, if the appropriate governing body fails to adopt such ordinances or regulations within six months after such date of publication or adoption.

(b) In adopting such ordinances or regulations, the governing body of any city, county, city and county, or public entity may make such changes, modifications, or additions to the minimum requirements contained in such building standards relating to noise insulation published in the State Building Standards Code, or in the other rules and regulations adopted pursuant to [Section 17922.6](#), as such governing body determines are reasonably necessary due to local conditions. The governing body may also impose noise insulation standards on a case by case basis on new single-family detached dwellings, if the governing body determines that such standards are necessary due to substantial noise generated by airports, roadways, or commercial and industrial activities immediately surrounding or adjacent to such proposed dwellings. Any local noise insulation standards adopted for single-family detached dwellings shall not exceed comparable standards for multifamily housing. The governing body shall find that ordinances or regulations, adopted pursuant to this subdivision, will require the diminution [\[FN1\]](#) of the noise levels permitted by the building standards relating to noise insulation published in the State Building Standards Code and in the other rules and regulations adopted pursuant to [Section 17922.6](#).

(c) Prior to making such modifications, changes, or additions pursuant to subdivision (b), the governing body shall make an express finding that such modifications, changes, or additions are needed, which finding shall be available as a public record. A copy of such finding, together with the modification, change, or addition,

shall be filed with the Office of Noise Control.

[FN1]So in enrolled bill.

#### **§ 17922.8. Advisory committee**

The Office of Noise Control may appoint an advisory committee to assist the office in reviewing and revising the noise insulation standards previously adopted.

#### **§ 17922.9. Low and moderate income housing; FHA mortgage restriction on garage and house size; exemption from local requirements**

(a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the provision of an adequate level of affordable housing, in and of itself, is a fundamental responsibility of the state and that a generally inadequate supply of decent, safe, and sanitary housing affordable to persons of low and moderate income threatens orderly community and regional development, including job creation, attracting new private investment, and creating the physical, economic, social, and environmental conditions to support continued growth and security of all areas of the state.

The Legislature further finds and declares that many rural communities depend on mortgage financing available through the Farmers Home Administration and that the continued construction of affordable housing is a priority for the state. However, the Legislature, in requiring waiver of certain local requirements respecting adequacy of garages and carports and house size, does not endorse the restrictive Farmers Home Administration regulations that preclude financing of two-car garages and houses exceeding a maximum size.

The Legislature further finds and declares that inadequate housing supplies have a negative impact on regional development and are, therefore, a matter of statewide interest and concern.

(b) Notwithstanding any local ordinance, charter provision, or regulation to the contrary, if the applicant for a building permit for construction of a qualifying residential structure submits with the application a conditional loan commitment letter or letter of intent to finance issued by the Farmers Home Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture for the structure, the city, county, or city and county issuing the building permit shall not impose any requirement on the permit respecting the size or capacity of any appurtenant garage or carport or house size which exceeds the size or capacity that the Farmers Home Administration will finance under its then applicable regulations and policies. "Qualifying residential structure," as used in this section, means any single-family or multifamily residential structure financed by the Farmers Home Administration and which is restricted pursuant to federal law to ownership or occupancy by households with incomes not exceeding the income criteria for persons and families of low and moderate income, as defined by [Section 50093](#), or more restrictive income criteria.

(c) This section does not preclude a city, county, or city and county from requiring the provision of one uncovered, paved parking space located outside the required setback and outside the driveway approach to the garage or covered parking space plus a garage or covered parking space that does not exceed the size and capacity allowed for Farmers Home Administration financing. However, this setback requirement may not exceed the setbacks applicable to single-family dwelling units in the same zoning district that have two-car garages.

#### **§ 17923. Alternate materials and methods of construction; approval; tests to prove compliance**

(a) The provisions of [Section 17922](#) are not intended to prevent the use of any material, appliance, installation, device, arrangement, or method of construction not specifically prescribed by this part, the building standards published in the State Building Standards Code relating thereto, and the other rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, providing such alternate has been approved. The department may approve any such alternate if it finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and that the material, appliance, installation, device, arrangement, method, or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in this part, the building standards published in the State Building Standards Code relating thereto, and the other rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto in performance, safety, and for the protection of life and health.

(b) Whenever there is evidence that any material, appliance, installation, device, arrangement, or method of construction does not conform to the requirements of this part, the building standards published in the State Building Standards Code relating thereto, and the other rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, or in order to substantiate claims for alternates, the department may require tests as proof of compliance to be made at the expense of the owner or his agent.

#### **§ 17924. Promulgation of rules and regulations; adoption and submission of building standards**

Rules and regulations shall be promulgated pursuant to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with [Section 11340](#)) of [Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code](#), and no state department, officer, board, agency, committee, or commission shall have power pursuant to the provisions of this part to publish building standards, as defined in [Section 18909](#), but shall propose and submit those building standards as deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of this part for adoption and publishing pursuant to the provisions of Part 2.5 (commencing with [Section 18901](#)).

#### **§ 17925. Opposition to building standards, rules or regulations; hearing; determination; filing**

Except as provided in [Section 17922.6](#), any person, firm, corporation, or governmental agency that opposes the application of any applicable building standard published in the State Building Standards Code or any other rule or regulation adopted by the department within a particular local area may request a hearing before the

local appeals board regarding the matter. If the local appeals board determines after the hearing that because of local conditions or factors it is not reasonable for the building standard, rule, or regulation to be applied in the local area, the building standard, rule, or regulation shall have no application within that local area. A copy of the determination of the local appeals board, together with a report of the local conditions upon which the determination is based, shall be filed with the department pursuant to [Section 17958.7](#).

**§ 17926. Repealed by Stats.1975, c. 1124, p. 2739, § 5**

**§ 17927. Garage door springs**

The department shall propose the adoption, amendment, or repeal of building standards pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 4 (commencing with [Section 18935](#)) of Part 2.5, and the department shall adopt, amend, and repeal other rules and regulations for garage door springs for installation in garages which are accessory to apartment houses, hotels, motels, and dwellings as the department determines are reasonably necessary to prevent the death or injury of persons or damage to property resulting from the breaking of the garage door springs. Except as otherwise provided in this part, the department shall enforce building standards published in the California Building Standards Code relating to garage door springs and other rules and regulations adopted by the department pursuant to this section.

No garage door spring which violates the provisions of any building standard published in the California Building Standards Code relating to garage door springs or any other rule or regulation adopted by the department pursuant to this section shall be sold or offered for sale, or installed in any garage which is accessory to an apartment house, hotel, motel, or dwelling, on or after the date of publication of the building standard or the effective date of the rule or regulation.

**§ 17928. Green building guidelines and features**

(a)(1) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall, for building standards submitted to the California Building Standards Commission for adoption in the 2010 California Building Code or later, do all the following:

(A) Review relevant green building guidelines as deemed necessary by the department when preparing proposed building standards for submittal.

(B) Consider proposing as mandatory building standards those green building features determined by the department to be cost effective and feasible to promote greener construction.

(2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to supplant or otherwise change the existing process for ap-

proval and adoption of building standards through the California Building Standards Commission.

(b)(1) The department shall also summarize in a report to the Legislature no later than September 1 of each year, both of the following:

(A) Green building features proposed as building standards during the prior fiscal year.

(B) Green building guidelines reviewed pursuant to subdivision (a) during the prior fiscal year.

(2) For those items required by this subdivision already included in other reports provided to the Legislature or generally available, the department may fulfill this requirement by citing where that information can be found.

#### **§ 17930. Hearing**

Except as provided in [Section 18945](#), the director or the director's designee shall hear appeals brought by any person as to the application of any rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to this part, except a building standard published in the State Building Standards Code, to such person under any facts and circumstances presented to the director or the director's designee by the person alleging that the application or enforcement of any other rule or regulation by the department under the facts and circumstances is an erroneous or unlawful application or enforcement of the other rule or regulation by the department. Any appeal shall be submitted through the designated local agency.

Any appeal alleging erroneous or unlawful application by the department of a building standard published in the State Building Standards Code may be brought pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 5 (commencing with [Section 18945](#)) of Part 2.5.

The director or the director's designee shall not, however, hear any appeals regarding local regulations which have been adopted pursuant to [Sections 17958.5](#) and [17958.7](#).

#### **§ 17931. Rules pertaining to hearing appeals**

The department may promulgate rules pertaining to hearing appeals. All rules shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 3.5 (commencing with [Section 11340](#)) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

#### **§ 17932. Finality of decision**

A decision of the director or the director's designee made pursuant to [section 17930](#) is final, except for such action as may be taken by a court as permitted or required by law.

**§ 17933. Repealed by Stats.1968, c. 1018, p. 1970, § 5**

**§ 17934. Blank**

**§ 17935. Renumbered § 17931 and amended by Stats.1968, c. 1018, p. 1970, § 6**

**§ 17936. Blank**

**§§ 17937, 17938. Renumbered §§ 17930, 17932 and amended by Stats.1968, c. 1018, p. 1970, §§ 7, 8**

**§§ 17937, 17938. Renumbered §§ 17930, 17932 and amended by Stats.1968, c. 1018, p. 1970, §§ 7, 8**

**§ 17939. Repealed by Stats.1968, c. 1018, p. 1970, § 9**

**§ 17940. Repealed by Stats.1968, c. 1473, p. 2950, § 58**

**§ 17941. Repealed by Stats.1968, c. 1018, p. 1970, § 11**

**§ 17950. Apartment house, hotel and dwelling provisions**

The provisions of this part, the building standards published in the State Building Standards Code, or the other rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this part which relate to apartment houses, hotels, motels, and dwellings, and buildings and structures accessory thereto, apply in all parts of the state.

**§ 17951. Local fees; reimbursement of fees; alternate materials and construction methods; approval; evidence**

(a) The governing body of any county or city, including a charter city, may prescribe fees for permits, certificates, or other forms or documents required or authorized by this part or rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this part.

(b) The governing body of any county or city, including a charter city, or fire protection district, may prescribe fees to defray the costs of enforcement required by this part to be carried out by local enforcement

agencies.

(c) The amount of the fees prescribed pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) shall not exceed the amount reasonably required to administer or process these permits, certificates, or other forms or documents, or to defray the costs of enforcement required by this part to be carried out by local enforcement agencies, and shall not be levied for general revenue purposes. The fees shall be imposed pursuant to [Section 66016 of the Government Code](#).

(d) If the local enforcement agency fails to conduct an inspection of permitted work for which permit fees have been charged pursuant to this section within 60 days of receiving notice of the completion of the permitted work, the permittee shall be entitled to reimbursement of the permit fees. The local enforcement agency shall disclose in clear language on each permit or on a document that accompanies the permit that the permittee may be entitled to reimbursement of permit fees pursuant to this subdivision.

(e)(1) The provisions of this part are not intended to prevent the use of any manufactured home, mobilehome, multiunit manufactured home, material, appliance, installation, device, arrangement, or method of construction not specifically prescribed by the California Building Standards Code or this part, provided that this alternate has been approved by the building department.

(2) The building department of any city or county may approve an alternate material, appliance, installation, device, arrangement, method, or work on a case-by-case basis if it finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and that each such material, appliance, installation, device, arrangement, method, or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in the California Building Standards Code or this part in performance, safety, and for the protection of life and health.

(3) The building department of any city or county shall require evidence that any material, appliance, installation, device, arrangement, or method of construction conforms to, or that the proposed alternate is at least equivalent to, the requirements of this part, building standards published in the California Building Standards Code, or the other rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this part and in order to substantiate claims for alternates, the building department of any city or county may require tests as proof of compliance to be made at the expense of the owner or the owner's agent by an approved testing agency selected by the owner or the owner's agent.

#### **§ 17952. Enforcement; notice to city or county of violation; hearing; assessment of fees**

(a) In the event of nonenforcement of this part, or the building standards published in the California Building Standards Code, or the other rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this part, such provisions, building standards or other rules and regulations shall be enforced by the department in any city or county after the department has given written notice to the governing body of that city or county or fire pro-

tection district, as the case may be, of a violation of this part, those building standards, or the other rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this part and the city or county has failed to initiate proceedings to secure correction of the violation within 30 days of the date of that notice. The city or county or fire protection district may request a hearing before the department pursuant to [Section 17930](#) within the 30 days to show cause for nonenforcement. Enforcement by the department shall not be initiated until the decision of the department, adverse to the city or county or fire protection district, is rendered.

(b) In the event of enforcement by the department pursuant to subdivision (a), the costs incurred by the department for such enforcement shall be borne by such city, or county, or city and county, or fire protection district. The department may assess fees to defray the costs of enforcement, thereby reducing the cost to be borne by the city, county, city and county, or fire protection district, but the department need not assess such fees and may not require the city, county, city and county, or fire protection district to assess fees to offset department costs.

#### **§ 17953. Preliminary soil report; ordinance requiring; waiver**

Each city, county, and city and county shall enact an ordinance which requires a preliminary soil report, prepared by a civil engineer who is registered by the state, based upon adequate test borings or excavations, of every subdivision, where a tentative and final map is required pursuant to [Section 66426 of the Government Code](#).

The preliminary soil report may be waived if the building department of the city, county or city and county, or other enforcement agency charged with the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this part, shall determine that, due to the knowledge such department has as to the soil qualities of the soil of the subdivision or lot, no preliminary analysis is necessary.

#### **§ 17954. Soil investigation by lot; necessity; preparation; recommendations**

If the preliminary soil report indicates the presence of critically expansive soils or other soil problems which, if not corrected, would lead to structural defects, such ordinance shall require a soil investigation of each lot in the subdivision.

The soil investigation shall be prepared by a civil engineer who is registered in this state. It shall recommend corrective action which is likely to prevent structural damage to each dwelling proposed to be constructed on the expansive soil.

#### **§ 17955. Approval; building permit conditions; appeal**

The building department of each city, county, or city and county, or other enforcement agency charged with the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this part, shall approve the soil investigation if it determines that the recommended action is likely to prevent structural damage to each dwelling to be constructed. As a condition to the building permit, the ordinance shall require that the approved recommended action be incorporated in the construction of each dwelling. Appeal from such determination shall be to the local appeals board.

#### **§ 17956. Liability of public agency or employee**

A city, county, or city and county or other enforcement agency charged with the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this part, is not liable for any injury which arises out of any act or omission of the city, county or city and county, or other enforcement agency, or a public employee or any other person under [Section 17953](#), [17954](#), or [17955](#).

#### **§ 17957. Alternate procedure**

The governing body of any city, county, or city and county may enact an ordinance prescribing an alternate procedure which is equal to or more restrictive than the procedure specified in [Sections 17953](#), [17954](#), and [17955](#).

#### **§ 17958. Adoption of regulations or ordinances imposing requirements in Section 17922 by governing body of cities and counties**

Except as provided in [Sections 17958.8](#) and [17958.9](#), any city or county may make changes in the provisions adopted pursuant to [Section 17922](#) and published in the California Building Standards Code or the other regulations thereafter adopted pursuant to [Section 17922](#) to amend, add, or repeal ordinances or regulations which impose the same requirements as are contained in the provisions adopted pursuant to [Section 17922](#) and published in the California Building Standards Code or the other regulations adopted pursuant to [Section 17922](#) or make changes or modifications in those requirements upon express findings pursuant to [Sections 17958.5](#) and [17958.7](#). If any city or county does not amend, add, or repeal ordinances or regulations to impose those requirements or make changes or modifications in those requirements upon express findings, the provisions published in the California Building Standards Code or the other regulations promulgated pursuant to [Section 17922](#) shall be applicable to it and shall become effective 180 days after publication by the California Building Standards Commission. Amendments, additions, and deletions to the California Building Standards Code adopted by a city or county pursuant to [Section 17958.7](#), together with all applicable portions of the California Building Standards Code, shall become effective 180 days after publication of the California Building Standards Code by the California Building Standards Commission.

##### **§ 17958.1. Efficiency units**

Notwithstanding [Sections 17922, 17958, and 17958.5](#), a city or county may, by ordinance, permit efficiency units for occupancy by no more than two persons which have a minimum floor area of 150 square feet and which may also have partial kitchen or bathroom facilities, as specified by the ordinance. In all other respects, these efficiency units shall conform to minimum standards for those occupancies otherwise made applicable pursuant to this part.

“Efficiency unit,” as used in this section, has the same meaning specified in the Uniform Building Code of the International Conference of Building Officials, as incorporated by reference in Chapter 2-12 of Part 2 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.

### **§ 17958.2. Limited density owner-built rural dwellings; regulations; findings prior to operative effect; local variances**

(a) Notwithstanding [Section 17958](#), regulations of the department adopted for limited-density owner-built rural dwellings, which are codified in Article 8 (commencing with Section 74) of Subchapter 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 25 of the California Code of Regulations, shall not become operative within any city or county unless and until the governing body of the city or county makes an express finding that the application of those regulations within the city or county is reasonably necessary because of local conditions and the city or county files a copy of that finding with the department.

(b) In adopting ordinances or regulations for limited-density owner-built rural dwellings, a city or county may make any changes or modifications in the requirements contained in Article 8 (commencing with Section 74) of Subchapter 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 25 of the California Code of Regulations that it determines are reasonably necessary because of local conditions, if the city or county files a copy of the changes or modifications and the express findings for the changes or modifications with the department. No change or modification of that type shall become effective or operative for any purpose until the finding and the change or modification has been filed with the department.

### **§ 17958.3. Locking mail receptacles**

(a) All residential hotels, as defined by [paragraph \(1\) of subdivision \(b\) of Section 50519](#), shall provide a locking mail receptacle for each residential unit, consistent with the applicable standards for apartment housing mail receptacles in the United States Postal Service Domestic Mail Manual. Installation and maintenance of each mail receptacle shall meet all of the specifications and requirements of the United States Postal Service.

(b) Notwithstanding the date of construction of the residential hotel, each mail receptacle shall comply with the requirements of the Fair Housing Act ([42 U.S.C. Sec. 3601](#)).

(c) Notwithstanding [Sections 17922, 17958, and 17958.5](#), a city, county, or city and county may enact and enforce ordinances which provide greater protections, additional standards, and increased remedies with respect to the provision of a locking mail receptacle for each residential unit in a residential hotel.

(d) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2008.

#### **§ 17958.4. Window security bars; safety release mechanisms; state and local requirements; disclosure; application of ordinances**

(a) Any city, county, or city and county, may, by ordinance, establish a date by which all residential real property with security window bars on bedroom windows shall meet current state and local requirements for safety release mechanisms on security window bars consistent with the applicable standards in the 1995 edition of the California Building Standards Code, or, for safety release mechanisms on security window bars installed on or after January 1, 2008, the current edition of the California Building Standards Code, and any changes thereto made by the city, county, or city and county pursuant to [Section 17958](#).

(b) Disclosures of the existence of any safety release mechanism on any security window bar shall be made in writing, and may be included in existing transactional documents, including, but not limited to, a real estate sales contract or receipt for deposit, or a transfer disclosure statement pursuant to [Section 1102.6](#) or [1106.6a](#) of the Civil Code.

(c) Enforcement of an ordinance adopted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall not apply as a condition of occupancy or at the time of any transfer that is subject to the Documentary Transfer Tax Act, Part 6.7 (commencing with [Section 11901](#)) of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

#### **§ 17958.5. Local variances; annual report**

Except as provided in [Section 17922.6](#), in adopting the ordinances or regulations pursuant to [Section 17958](#), a city or county may make such changes or modifications in the requirements contained in the provisions published in the California Building Standards Code and the other regulations adopted pursuant to [Section 17922](#) as it determines, pursuant to the provisions of [Section 17958.7](#), are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions.

For purposes of this subdivision, a city and county may make reasonably necessary modifications to the requirements, adopted pursuant to [Section 17922](#), contained in the provisions of the code and regulations on the basis of local conditions.

#### **§ 17958.7. Local variances; findings; filing; rejection of modification**

(a) Except as provided in [Section 17922.6](#), the governing body of a city or county, before making any modifications or changes pursuant to [Section 17958.5](#), shall make an express finding that such modifications or changes are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological or topographical conditions. Such a finding shall be available as a public record. A copy of those findings, together with the modification or change expressly marked and identified to which each finding refers, shall be filed with the California Building Standards Commission. No modification or change shall become effective or operative for any purpose until the finding and the modification or change have been filed with the California Building Standards Commission.

(b) The California Building Standards Commission may reject a modification or change filed by the governing body of a city or county if no finding was submitted.

#### **§ 17958.8. Alterations and repairs; original materials and methods**

Local ordinances or regulations governing alterations and repair of existing buildings shall permit the replacement, retention, and extension of original materials and the use of original methods of construction for any building or accessory structure subject to this part, including a hotel, lodginghouse, motel, apartment house, or dwelling, or portions thereof, as long as the portion of the building and structure subject to the replacement, retention, or extension of original materials and the use of original methods of construction complies with the building code provisions governing that portion of the building or accessory structure at the time of construction, and the other rules and regulations of the department or alternative local standards governing that portion at the time of its construction and adopted pursuant to [Section 13143.2](#) and the building or accessory structure does not become or continue to be a substandard building.

#### **§ 17958.9. Apartment houses and dwellings; movement; retention of existing materials and methods of construction**

Local ordinances or regulations governing the moving of apartment houses and dwellings shall, after July 1, 1978, permit the retention of existing materials and methods of construction so long as the apartment house or dwelling complies with the building standards for foundation applicable to new construction, and does not become or continue to be a substandard building.

#### **§ 17958.11. Alternative building regulations; joint living and work quarters; geographic areas**

(a) Any city or county may adopt alternative building regulations for the conversion of commercial or industrial buildings, or portions thereof, to joint living and work quarters. As used in this section, “joint living and work quarters” means residential occupancy by a family maintaining a common household, or by not more than four unrelated persons, of one or more rooms or floors in a building originally designed for industrial or commercial occupancy which include (1) cooking space and sanitary facilities in conformance with local

building standards adopted pursuant to [Section 17958](#) or [17958.5](#) and (2) adequate working space reserved for, and regularly used by, one or more persons residing therein.

The alternative building regulations adopted pursuant to this section shall be applicable in those geographic areas specifically designated for such occupancy, or as expressly permitted by a redevelopment plan with respect to a redevelopment project area. The alternative building regulations need not impose the same requirements as regulations adopted pursuant to [Section 17922](#), except as otherwise provided in this section, but in permitting repairs, alterations, and additions necessary to accommodate joint living and work quarters, the alternative building regulations shall impose such requirements as will, in the determination of the local governing body, protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

(b) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that a substantial number of manufacturing and commercial buildings in urban areas have lost manufacturing and commercial tenants to more modern manufacturing and commercial premises, and that the untenanted portions of such buildings constitute a potential resource capable, when appropriately altered, of accommodating joint living and work quarters which would be physically and economically suitable particularly for use by artists, artisans, and similarly-situated individuals. The Legislature further finds that the public will benefit by making such buildings available for joint living and work quarters for artists, artisans, and similarly-situated individuals because (1) conversion of space to joint living and work quarters provides a new use for such buildings contributing to the revitalization of central city areas, (2) such conversion results in building improvements and rehabilitation, and (3) the cultural life of cities and of the state as a whole is enhanced by the residence in such cities of large numbers of persons regularly engaged in the arts.

(c) The Legislature further finds and declares that (1) persons regularly engaged in the arts require larger amounts of space for the pursuit of their artistic endeavors and for the storage of materials therefor, and of the products thereof, than are regularly found in dwellings, (2) the financial remunerations to be obtained from a career in the arts are generally small, (3) persons regularly engaged in the arts generally find it financially difficult to maintain quarters for their artistic endeavors separate and apart from their places of residence, (4) high property values and resulting rental costs make it particularly difficult for persons regularly engaged in the arts to obtain the use of the amount of space required for their work, and (5) the residential use of such space is accessory to the primary use of such space as a place of work.

It is the intent of the Legislature that local governments have discretion to define geographic areas which may be utilized for joint living and work quarters and to establish standards for such occupancy, consistent with the needs and conditions peculiar to the local environment. The Legislature recognizes that building code regulations applicable to residential housing may have to be relaxed to provide joint living and work quarters in buildings previously used for commercial or industrial purposes.

**§ 17959. Consideration of proposed universal design guidelines for home construction or home modifications; enhancement of full life cycle use of housing without regard to physical abilities or disabilities of**

### home's occupants or guests as part of state's guidelines or ordinances

(a) No later than December 31, 2003, the department shall consider proposed universal design guidelines for home construction or home modifications which may be submitted by the California Department of Aging, the California Commission on Aging, the Department of Rehabilitation, the office of the State Architect of the Department of General Services, the office of the State Fire Marshal, the California Building Standards Commission, or other state departments. Thereafter, the department, without significantly impacting housing cost and affordability, shall, in consultation with these agencies, develop guidelines and at least one model ordinance for new construction and home modifications that is consistent with the principles of universal design as promulgated by the Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University or other similar design guidelines that enhance the full life cycle use of housing without regard to the physical abilities or disabilities of a home's occupants or guests in order to accommodate a wide range of individual preferences and functional abilities. In developing these guidelines and model ordinances, the department also shall meet with, and solicit information from, individuals and organizations representing individuals and entities with interests in construction, local governments, the health and welfare of senior citizens and persons with disabilities, architects, and others with expertise in these design and living issues. The department shall ensure that at least three meetings subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with [Section 11120](#)) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of the Government Code) shall occur, that shall include opportunities for government agencies, individuals, and organizations identified in this subdivision to participate and comment on proposed guidelines or draft model ordinances.

(b)(1) In addition to the authority granted by [Sections 17958.5](#) and [18941.5](#), and for the purposes of this section, a city, county, or city and county may, by ordinance, make changes or modifications in addition to or in excess of the requirements contained in the California Building Standards Code adopted pursuant to [Sections 17922](#) and [18928](#) if the city, county, or city and county makes a finding that the changes and modifications are reasonably necessary and are substantially the same as the guidelines or model ordinances adopted pursuant to subdivision (a). In no case shall the changes or modifications be less restrictive than the requirements published in the California Building Standards Code.

(2) A city, county, or city and county adopting an ordinance pursuant to this subdivision shall file a copy of the ordinance and the findings with the department. No such ordinance shall become effective or operative for any purpose until the findings and the ordinance have been filed with the department. The department may review the findings and each ordinance to evaluate their consistency with this subdivision, and shall provide written comments to the adopting entity as to any such evaluation.

(c)(1) In a city, county, or city and county where a universal design ordinance has not been adopted pursuant to subdivision (b), developers of housing for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and other persons and families are encouraged, but not required, to seek information and assistance from the department and the California Department of Aging regarding the principles of universal design specified in subdivision (a) and consider those principles in their construction.

(2) The department, the California Department of Aging, and any other interested state agency also may, to the extent feasible, disseminate information to interested persons and entities in all parts of the state regarding the principles of universal design and their relationship to new construction and home modifications.

(d) Subdivision (b) shall become operative on January 1, 2005.

**§ 17959.1. Solar energy systems; approval of applications through issuance of building permits; denial; conditions imposed; health and safety standards; definitions**

(a) A city or county shall administratively approve applications to install solar energy systems through the issuance of a building permit or similar nondiscretionary permit. However, if the building official of the city or county has a good faith belief that the solar energy system could have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health and safety, the city or county may require the applicant to apply for a use permit.

(b) A city or county may not deny an application for a use permit to install a solar energy system unless it makes written findings based upon substantial evidence in the record that the proposed installation would have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety, and there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific, adverse impact. This finding shall include the basis for the rejection of potential feasible alternatives of preventing the adverse impact.

(c) Any conditions imposed on an application to install a solar energy system must be designed to mitigate the specific, adverse impact upon the public health and safety at the lowest cost possible.

(d)(1) A solar energy system shall meet applicable health and safety standards and requirements imposed by state and local permitting authorities.

(2) A solar energy system for heating water shall be certified by the Solar Rating Certification Corporation (SRCC) or other nationally recognized certification agency. SRCC is a nonprofit third party supported by the United States Department of Energy. The certification shall be for the entire solar energy system and installation.

(3) A solar energy system for producing electricity shall meet all applicable safety and performance standards established by the National Electrical Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and accredited testing laboratories such as Underwriters Laboratories and, where applicable, rules of the Public Utilities Commission regarding safety and reliability.

(e) The following definitions apply to this section:

(1) “A feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific, adverse impact” includes, but is not limited to, any cost effective method, condition, or mitigation imposed by a city or county on another similarly situated application in a prior successful application for a permit. A city or county shall use its best efforts to ensure that the selected method, condition, or mitigation meets the conditions of [subparagraphs \(A\) and \(B\) of paragraph \(1\) of subdivision \(d\) of Section 714 of the Civil Code](#).

(2) “Solar energy system” has the meaning set forth in [paragraphs \(1\) and \(2\) of subdivision \(a\) of Section 801.5 of the Civil Code](#).

(3) A “specific, adverse impact” means a significant, quantifiable, direct, and unavoidable impact, based on objective, identified, and written public health or safety standards, policies, or conditions as they existed on the date the application was deemed complete.

### **§ 17959.3. Passive solar energy design**

(a) It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage the use of passive solar energy design. The Legislature recognizes that building code regulations with regard to natural light and ventilation standards have to be modified to permit existing buildings to be retrofitted with passive solar energy.

(b) Notwithstanding [Section 17922](#), any city or county may by ordinance or regulation permit windows required for light and ventilation of habitable rooms in dwellings to open into areas provided with natural light and ventilation which are designed and built to act as passive solar energy collectors.

(c) On or before September 1, 1999, the department shall, after consulting with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, prepare, adopt, and submit building standards to implement the provisions of this section for approval as part of the California Building Standards Code pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with [Section 18935](#)) of Part 2.5.

### **§ 17959.4. Hardship cases; deferral of order of abatement**

The housing appeals board may, in cases of extreme hardship to owner-occupants or tenants of dwellings, provide for deferral of the effective date of orders of abatement. Any deferral of the effective date of an order of abatement under this section shall terminate upon any sale or transfer of the dwelling by the owner-occupant but shall not terminate upon the sale or transfer of the dwelling if the dwelling is occupied by a tenant other than the owner-occupant.

### **§ 17959.5. Variances**

The housing appeals board may, upon appeal or upon application by the owner, grant variances from local use zone requirements in order to permit an owner-occupant of a dwelling to construct an addition to a dwelling to meet occupancy standards relating the number of persons in a household to the number of rooms or bedrooms. This power of the housing appeals board shall be in addition to, and shall not otherwise affect, the powers of other governmental boards and agencies to allow local use zone variances.

**§ 17959.6. List of universal accessibility features by Department of Housing and Community Development for persons with disabilities; contents of list; compliance with building code; civil penalty for failure to comply; adoption of regulations to use and enforce section**

(a) Ninety days after the Department of Housing and Community Development certifies and makes available a standard form pursuant to subdivision (h), but in no event sooner than July 1, 2004, for housing developments for which a building permit application is submitted on or after that date, a developer of any new for-sale residential housing development, including, but not limited to, a single family dwelling, duplex, triplex, townhouse, condominium, or other homes, shall provide to a buyer a list of universal accessibility features that would make the home entrance, interior routes of travel, the kitchen, and the bathrooms fully accessible to persons with disabilities.

(b)(1)(A) The list shall include the features described in paragraphs (2) to (7), inclusive, and any others that the developer deems necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this section.

(B) To the extent that any of the features described in paragraphs (2) to (7), inclusive, are included in Chapter 11A of the California Building Code (Part 2 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations), they shall be listed consistent with, and shall be installed in a manner at least consistent with, that chapter. A developer that lists and installs materials and features in a manner at least consistent with Chapter 11A or successor chapters of the California Building Code, shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of this subparagraph. Other features shall be listed and installed in a manner appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this section.

(C) Notwithstanding subparagraph (B), the developer and buyer may agree in writing to different standards than those provided in subparagraph (B) if the different standards and their deviation from the standards in subparagraph (B) are clearly disclosed.

(2) General external adaptations:

(A) Accessible route of travel to the dwelling unit.

(B) Accessible landscaping of the side and rear yards.

(C) Accessible route from the garage or parking area to the dwelling unit primary and secondary entries.

(3) Doors, openings, and entries:

(A) Accessible primary front door, doorway, and threshold.

(B) Accessible interior doors and doorways.

(C) Accessible secondary exterior doors, doorways, and thresholds.

(D) Accessible levered handles on all specified doors.

(E) An entry door sidelight or high and low peephole viewers.

(F) Visual fire alarms and visual doorbells.

(G) Accessible sliding glass door.

(4) General interior adaptations:

(A) Accessible routes to at least one bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen from the primary entrance.

(B) Accessible switches, outlets, and thermostats.

(C) Visual fire alarms and visual doorbells.

(D) Rocker light switches.

(E) Closet rods and shelves adjustable from three feet to five feet six inches high.

(F) A residential elevator or lift.

(G) If provided, a service porch with accessible workspace, cabinets, and appliances.

(5) Kitchen:

- (A) Adequate accessible clear floorspace at appliances.
- (B) Repositionable sink and countertop workspaces.
- (C) Accessible cabinets and drawers, including pullout shelves, bread boards, and Lazy Susans.
- (D) Accessible sink features and controls.
- (E) Accessible built-in or provided appliances, including refrigerator, stove, oven, dishwasher, and countertop microwave or convection oven.
- (F) Enhancements such as a contrasting color edge at countertops, contrasting floor designs marking accessible routes and work areas, antiscald device on plumbing fixtures, and undercabinet lighting.

(6) Bathrooms and powder rooms (applicable to one or more bathrooms, at the option of the buyer):

- (A) Grab bar backing and grab bars in all requested locations.
  - (B) Accessible clear floorspace and turning circles.
  - (C) Accessible sink (lavatory) with adequate knee space and protection.
  - (D) Accessible toilet (water closet).
  - (E) Accessible roll-in shower in lieu of a standard tub or shower.
  - (F) Accessible faucet handles and an adjustable handheld showerhead.
  - (G) Enhancements such as a contrasting color edge at countertops, contrasting floor designs marking accessible routes and work areas, and antiscald device on plumbing fixtures.
- (7) Any other external or internal feature requested at a reasonable time by the buyer that is reasonably available and reasonably feasible to install or construct and makes the residence more usable for a person with dis-

abilities in order to accommodate any type of disability.

(c) For each feature on the list required by subdivision (b), the developer shall indicate whether the feature is standard, limited, optional, or not available.

(d) If a developer chooses to offer those features listed in subdivision (b) as modifications that may be made to a home, the developer shall indicate on the list required by subdivision (b) at what point in the construction process the buyer must notify the developer that the buyer wishes to purchase the features.

(e) If a local jurisdiction adopts a model ordinance developed pursuant to [Section 17959](#) that requires developers to provide standard or optional accessibility features in homes described in subdivision (b), a developer subject to that ordinance is required to include on the list required by subdivision (b) only those features beyond those required by the ordinance.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a developer to provide the features listed in subdivision (b) during the construction process or at any other time, unless the developer has offered to provide a feature and the buyer has requested it and agreed to provide payment.

(g) Any willful violation by a developer of this section shall be punishable by a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500).

(h) The department may adopt regulations that it determines are necessary and appropriate for the use and enforcement of this section. The regulations may include, but not be limited to, providing specificity to any features not otherwise covered as mandatory features in Chapter 11A or 11B of the California Building Code, additional mandatory requirements for forms, and additional procedures for offer or acceptance of features. The department may develop, certify, and make available a standard form providing the information required by this section, except for costs, and that standard form shall be exempt from adoption pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with [Section 11340](#)) of [Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code](#)). A developer's use of a form substantially the same as that developed and distributed by the department shall be deemed to comply with this section.

(i) Pursuant to [Section 17959](#), upon adoption by the department of guidelines or a model ordinance that defines those features deemed to provide universal accessibility, those guidelines or that model ordinance shall supersede the features listed in subdivision (b).

(j) This section shall not be construed to require action by the California Building Standards Commission pursuant to the California Building Standards Law (Part 2.5 (commencing with [Section 18901](#)) of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code).

## **§ 17960. City or county building departments**

The building department of every city or county shall enforce within its jurisdiction all the provisions published in the State Building Standards Code, the provisions of this part, and the other rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this part pertaining to the erection, construction, reconstruction, movement, enlargement, conversion, alteration, repair, removal, demolition, or arrangement of apartment houses, hotels, or dwellings.

### **§ 17960.1. Plan-checking; contract with or employment of private entity**

(a) The governing body of a local agency may authorize its enforcement agency to contract with or employ a private entity or persons on a temporary basis to perform the plan-checking function.

(b) A local agency need not enter into a contract or employ persons if it determines that no entities or persons are available or qualified to perform the plan-checking services.

(c) Entities or persons employed by a local agency may, pursuant to agreement with the local agency, perform all functions necessary to check the plans and specifications to comply with other requirements imposed pursuant to this part or by local ordinances adopted pursuant to this part, except those functions reserved by this part or local ordinance to the legislative body. A local agency may charge the applicant fees in an amount necessary to defray costs directly attributable to employing or contracting with entities or persons performing services pursuant to this section which the applicant requested.

(d) When there is an excessive delay in checking plans and specifications submitted as a part of an application for a residential building permit, the local agency shall, upon request of the applicant, contract with or employ a private entity or persons on a temporary basis to perform the plan-checking function subject to subdivisions (b) and (c).

(e) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Enforcement agency" means the building department or building division of a local agency.

(2) "Excessive delay" means the enforcement agency of a local agency has taken either of the following:

(A) More than 30 days after submittal of a complete application to complete the structural building safety plan check of the applicant's set of plans and specifications which are suitable for checking . For a discretionary building permit, the time period specified in this paragraph shall commence after certification of the environmental impact report, adoption of a negative declaration, or a determination by the local agency that the project is exempt from Division 13 (commencing with [Section 21000](#)) of the [Public Resources Code](#).

(B) Including the days actually taken in (A), more than 45 days to complete the checking of the resubmitted corrected plans and specifications suitable for checking after the enforcement agency had returned the plans and specifications to the applicant for correction.

(3) “Local agency” means a city, county, or city and county.

(4) “Residential building” means a one-to-four family detached structure not exceeding three stories in height.

#### **§ 17960.5. Residential building standards; application to approved projects**

The building standards for residential buildings in Chapter 2-53 of Part 2, and Chapter 4-10 of Part 4, of Title 24 of the California Administrative Code effective July 13, 1982, shall not apply to the construction of new residential housing projects which received approval by an advisory agency or other appropriate local agency on or before June 15, 1982, provided application for the permits to construct single-family detached dwellings are submitted or filed on or before June 15, 1983, and the application for all other residential building permits are submitted or filed on or before December 31, 1983.

For the purposes of this section, “approval” includes, but is not limited to, approval or conditional approval of a tentative subdivision or tentative parcel map or parcel map pursuant to the Subdivision Map Act (Division 2 (commencing with [Section 66410](#)) of Title 7 of the Government Code), condominium plan or other permit for a residential housing project.

#### **§ 17960.10. List of agencies financing or assisting residential rehabilitation or repair activities for real property owners or renters; development of list by enforcement entity; inclusion of specified loan or grant programs; referrals**

The building department, housing department, or health department enforcing any of the provisions of this part may develop a list of public or publicly funded private agencies that finance or assist residential rehabilitation or repair activities for real property owners or renters. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the staff of that department may provide written or oral referrals to any of those financing or assistance agencies in conjunction with, or as a result of, any inspection, notice of violation, or other activity and may include on the list any loan or grant program operated by the city, county, or city and county employing that staff.

#### **§ 17961. City or county housing or building department, health department, or environmental agency; enforcement duties**

(a) The housing or building department or, if there is no building department acting pursuant to this section, the health department of every city, county, or city and county, or any environmental agency authorized pur-

suant to [Section 101275](#), shall enforce within its jurisdiction all of this part, the building standards published in the State Building Standards Code, and the other rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this part pertaining to the maintenance, sanitation, ventilation, use, or occupancy of apartment houses, hotels, or dwellings. The health department or the environmental agency may, in conjunction with a local housing or building department acting pursuant to this section, enforce within its jurisdiction all of this part, the building standards published in the State Building Standards Code, and the other rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this part pertaining to the maintenance, sanitation, ventilation, use, or occupancy of apartment houses, hotels, or dwellings. Each department and agency, as applicable, shall coordinate enforcement activities with each other and interested departments and agencies in order to avoid unnecessary duplication.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the health department of every city, county, or city and county, or any environmental agency authorized pursuant to [Section 101275](#) may, in addition to the local building department, if any, enforce within its jurisdiction the provisions of [Section 17920.10](#) and shall coordinate enforcement activities with other interested departments and agencies in order to avoid unnecessary duplication.

(c) The State Department of Health Services may enforce [Section 17920.10](#) if any local agency or department specified in subdivisions (a) and (b) enters into a written agreement, approved and published pursuant to local government procedures, with the State Department of Health Services to enforce that section, or provides the State Department of Health Services with a written request to enforce that section for a specific case following the identification of a lead poisoned child in that jurisdiction.

**§ 17961.5. Renumbered § 17962 and amended by Stats.1979, c. 1152, p. 4272, § 85**

**§ 17962. Fire protection provisions; enforcement**

The chief of any city or any county fire department or district providing fire protection services, and their authorized representatives, shall enforce in their respective areas all those provisions of this part, the building standards published in the State Building Standards Code relating to fire and panic safety, and those rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this part pertaining to fire prevention, fire protection, the control of the spread of fire, and safety from fire or panic.

**§ 17963. Repealed by Stats.1965, c. 546, p. 1875, § 4**

**§ 17964. Designation of department or officer**

By charter, ordinance, or resolution, a city, county, or city and county may designate and charge a department organized to carry out the purposes of this part, or an officer charged with the responsibility of carrying out this part, with the enforcement of this part, the building standards published in the California Building Standards Code, or any other rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this part for the protection of the public

health, safety, and general welfare as set forth in [Section 17921](#). However, this section shall apply to the duties and responsibilities enumerated in [Section 17962](#) only if, in the area involved, there is no city, county, or city and county fire department or district providing fire protection services. By March 1 of each year, the designated department or officer shall provide in writing to the department the name, address, telephone number, and contact person of the designated department or officer.

#### **§ 17965. Department of housing and community development**

Where there is no local enforcement agency charged with the enforcement of this part pursuant to [Section 17964](#), and to the extent that enforcement responsibility is not assigned to a local enforcement agency pursuant to [Section 17960](#), [17961](#), or [17961.5](#), the department shall enforce all the applicable provisions of this part, the building standards published in the State Building Standards Code, and other rules and regulations promulgated by the department pursuant to the provisions of this part, or alternative standards adopted by a city or county pursuant to this part, pertaining to apartment houses, hotels, or dwellings.

#### **§ 17966. Contracts for assistance**

Cities or counties or fire protection districts may contract with the department for assistance by the department in the enforcement of the applicable provisions of this part, the building standards published in the State Building Standards Code, and the other rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this part within such cities or counties. Such contracts shall contain provisions for the payment of the costs of such enforcement, or portions thereof, as may be determined by the department.

#### **§ 17967. Records and reports of local enforcement agencies; examination; copies**

The department may examine the records of the various city, city and county, or county departments charged with the enforcement of building standards published in the State Building Standards Code and the other rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this part and secure from them reports and copies of their records at any time. The department shall pay the cost of duplicating such records.

#### **§ 17970. Authority to enter and inspect premises**

Any officer, employee, or agent of an enforcement agency may enter and inspect any building or premises whenever necessary to secure compliance with, or prevent a violation of, any provision of this part, the building standards published in the State Building Standards Code, and other rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this part which the enforcement agency has the power to enforce.

#### **§ 17971. Authority of owner to enter premises to carry out instructions or perform work**

The owner, or authorized agent of any owner, of any building or premises may enter the building or premises whenever necessary to carry out any instructions, or perform any work required to be done pursuant to this part, the building standards published in the State Building Standards Code, and other rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this part.

#### **§ 17972. Limitations on authority to enter**

No person authorized by this article to enter buildings shall enter any dwelling between the hours of 6 o'clock p.m. of any day and 8 o'clock a.m. of the succeeding day, without the consent of the owner or of the occupants of the dwelling, nor enter any dwelling in the absence of the occupants without a proper written order executed and issued by a court having jurisdiction to issue the order.

#### **§ 17975. Displaced tenants by order to vacate; relocation benefits from owner; eligibility**

Any tenant who is displaced or subject to displacement from a residential rental unit as a result of an order to vacate or an order requiring the vacation of a residential unit by a local enforcement agency as a result of a violation so extensive and of such a nature that the immediate health and safety of the residents is endangered, shall be entitled to receive relocation benefits from the owner as specified in this article. The local enforcement agency shall determine the eligibility of tenants for benefits pursuant to this article.

##### **§ 17975.1. Payment of relocation benefits; timing; notice to tenant of entitlement to benefits**

(a) The relocation benefits required by this article shall be paid by the owner or designated agent to the tenant within 10 days after the date that the order to vacate is first mailed to the owner and posted on the premises, or at least 20 days prior to the vacation date set forth in the order to vacate, whichever occurs later.

(b) If there are fewer than 10 days between the first posting and mailing of the order to vacate and the vacation date, the relocation benefits shall be paid by the owner or designated agent to the tenant within 24 hours after the notice is posted and mailed. The local enforcement agency shall attempt to provide telephonic or written notice to the owner to notify the owner that the benefits are payable immediately. Failure to provide the notice as specified in this section shall not relieve the owner of any obligations imposed by this article.

(c) If a tenant is entitled to relocation benefits pursuant to [Section 17975](#), the local enforcement agency shall provide either telephonic or written notice to the tenant of his or her entitlement to the benefits. Written notice may be satisfied by posting a written notice on the premises stating that tenants may be entitled to relocation benefits.

##### **§ 17975.2. Relocation payment made available by owner or agent to tenant; amount; service deposits; re-**

### turn of security deposits

The relocation payment shall be made available by the owner or designated agent to the tenant in each residential unit and shall be a sum equal to two months of the established fair market rent for the area as determined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to [Section 1437f of Title 42 of the United States Code](#). In addition, the relocation payment shall include an amount, as determined by the local enforcement agency, sufficient for utility service deposits. The relocation benefits shall be paid by the owner or designated agent in addition to the return, as required by law, of any security deposits held by the owner. The relocation benefits shall be payable on a per residential unit basis.

### § 17975.3. Liability for failure to make timely payment of benefits

(a) Any owner or designated agent who does not make timely payment as specified in [Section 17975.1](#) shall be liable to the tenant for an amount equal to 1 1/2 times the relocation benefits payable pursuant to [Section 17975.2](#).

(b) Subdivision (a) shall not apply when relocation benefits are payable fewer than 10 days after the date the order to vacate is first mailed and posted on the premises, if the owner or designated agent makes the payment no later than 10 days after the order is first mailed and posted.

### § 17975.4. Tenants who caused or substantially contributed to condition giving rise to order to vacate; owner or agent not liable if structure unsafe due to natural disaster or event beyond control; discretion to pay; appeals process

(a) No relocation benefits pursuant to this article shall be payable to any tenant who has caused or substantially contributed to the condition giving rise to the order to vacate, as determined by the local enforcement agency, nor shall any relocation benefits be payable to a tenant if any guest or invitee of the tenant has caused or substantially contributed to the condition giving rise to the order to vacate, as determined by the local enforcement agency. The local enforcement agency shall make the determination whether a tenant, tenant's guest, or invitee caused or substantially contributed to the condition, giving rise to the order to vacate at the same time that the order to vacate the tenants is made.

(b) An owner or designated agent shall not be liable for relocation benefits if the local enforcement agency determines that the unit or structure became unsafe or hazardous as the result of a fire, flood, earthquake, or other event beyond the control of the owner or the designated agent and the owner or designated agent did not cause or contribute to the condition.

(c) In the situations described in subdivisions (a) and (b), the tenants of units within a multiunit structure who did not cause or substantially contribute to the uninhabitable condition shall be eligible for relocation benefits from the local enforcement agency that elects at its discretion to pay relocation payments in accordance with

[Section 17975.2](#) to those tenants.

(d) An owner or designated agent shall not be liable to make any payment as prescribed by this section if the local enforcement agency does not provide for an appeals process for the order to pay relocation benefits.

**§ 17975.5. Advance of benefits by local enforcement agency; lien against property; notice to owner prior to collection action of imposition of lien**

(a) If the owner or designated agent fails, neglects, or refuses to pay relocation payments to a displaced tenant or a tenant subject to displacement, except in the situations described in [Section 17975.4](#), the local enforcement agency may advance relocation payments as specified in [Section 17975.2](#). If the local enforcement agency, pursuant to locally adopted policies, offers to advance relocation payments in accordance with [Section 17975.2](#), the local enforcement agency shall be entitled to recover from the owner any amount paid to a tenant pursuant to this section except payments made pursuant to [subdivision \(c\) of Section 17975.4](#). The local enforcement agency shall also be entitled to recover from the owner or designated agent an additional amount equal to the sum of one-half the amount so paid, but not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), as a penalty for failure to make timely payment to the displaced tenant, and the local enforcement agency's actual costs, including direct and indirect costs, of administering the provision of benefits to the displaced tenant.

(b) Any amounts paid by the local enforcement agency, except pursuant to [subdivision \(c\) of Section 17975.4](#), and any applicable penalties and actual costs may also be placed as a lien against the property by the local enforcement agency by recording the lien in the county recorder's office of the county in which the real property is located.

(c) Any local enforcement agency that elects, at its own option pursuant to subdivision (a), to advance relocation payments to displaced tenants when the owner or designated agent fails, neglects, or refuses to pay relocation payments to displaced tenants, shall prior to instituting any action to collect from the owner or designated agent relocation benefits paid pursuant to this section, or to impose a lien therefor, send to the owner or designated agent by first-class mail, postage prepaid, at the owner's address as shown on the last equalized assessment roll, an itemized accounting of all benefits paid by the local enforcement agency to the owner's tenants, and any penalties or costs the local enforcement agency is seeking to recover as authorized pursuant to subdivision (a). If the owner or designated agent contends that not all of the benefits are chargeable to the owner or designated agent because the recipients were not displaced tenants, no benefits were payable pursuant to [Section 17975.4](#), or on other grounds, the owner or designated agent shall submit a written appeal to the director of the local enforcement agency within 20 days after receipt by the owner or designated agent of the itemized accounting. The director, or the director's designee, shall hold an administrative hearing for the purpose of determining the amount of benefits paid that are chargeable to the owner or designated agent, and any penalties or costs the local enforcement agency may recover pursuant to subdivision (a). The local enforcement agency shall provide an administrative appeal process for any appeal of a decision of the director or the director's designee. The final decision of the local appellate body shall be subject to [Section 1094.5 of the](#)

**Code of Civil Procedure.** If the owner fails to obtain a more favorable decision than that set forth in the itemized accounting, the owner or designated agent shall be liable to the local enforcement agency for the costs of the administrative hearing and appeal, not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000). The failure to receive the itemized accounting shall not relieve the owner of any obligation to the city or county.

(d) Nothing in this article shall be construed to require the local enforcement agency to pay any relocation benefits to any tenant, or assume any obligation, requirement, or duty of the owner pursuant to this article.

#### **§ 17975.6. Time for owner to reimburse local enforcement agency for advancement of relocation benefits**

Notwithstanding subdivision (b) of Section 17975.1 and subdivision (a) of Section 17975.5, if there are fewer than 10 days between the first posting and mailing of the order to vacate and the vacation date, and if the local enforcement agency advances relocation benefits to any tenants, prior to the expiration of the 10-day period, the owner shall not be required to reimburse the local enforcement agency for a charge identified on the itemized accounting described in subdivision (c) of Section 17975.5 if the owner contests the charge within 30 days after the itemized accounting is mailed to the owner or designated agent pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 17975.5. The owner or designated agent shall pay the charge that was the subject of the appeal pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 17975.5 within 30 days after an adverse decision by the director of the local enforcement agency on the appeal is mailed to the owner.

#### **§ 17975.7. Cumulative remedies**

The remedies under this article are cumulative and in addition to any other remedies available under federal, state, or local law.

#### **§ 17975.8. Order for displacement to be accompanied by summary of article provisions**

Any order by a local agency that requires a tenant's displacement and is issued to an owner, designated agent, or tenant, shall be accompanied by a summary of the provisions of this article. Failure to provide a summary shall not relieve any person of the obligations imposed by this article.

#### **§ 17975.9. Legislative intent**

While it is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this article to provide an expedient means by which to provide relocation funds to tenants, nothing in this article shall be construed to limit the rights available to owners, designated agents, or tenants under any other provision of law. Furthermore, nothing in this article shall be construed to deprive an owner of procedural due process rights guaranteed by law, including, but not limited to, a right to file a judicial action against a local enforcement agency that has failed to proceed in a

manner required by law.

**§ 17975.10. Reimbursement under optional local program; potential for using funds from federally funded programs**

When seeking reimbursement under an optional local program intended to advance relocation payments to displaced tenants when the owner fails, neglects, or refuses to pay relocation payments to displaced tenants pursuant to the provisions of this article, the local code enforcement agency shall first explore the potential of using funds from any available federally funded program that provides tenant relocation assistance in cases of local code enforcement activities.

**§ 17980. Buildings in violation; notice to abate nuisance; instituting actions or proceedings; substandard buildings; repair or demolition; preferences; notice of violations; costs**

(a) If any building is constructed, altered, converted, or maintained in violation of any provision of, or in violation of any order or notice that gives a reasonable time to correct that violation issued by an enforcement agency pursuant to this part, the building standards published in the California Building Standards Code, or other rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this part, or if a nuisance exists in any building or upon the lot on which it is situated, the enforcement agency shall, after 30 days' notice to abate the nuisance or violation, or a notice to abate with a shorter period of time if deemed necessary by the enforcement agency to prevent or remedy an immediate threat to the health and safety of the public or occupants of the structure, institute any appropriate action or proceeding to prevent, restrain, correct, or abate the violation or nuisance.

(b)(1) Whenever the enforcement agency has inspected or caused to be inspected any building and has determined that the building is a substandard building or a building described in [Section 17920.10](#), the enforcement agency shall commence proceedings to abate the violation by repair, rehabilitation, vacation, or demolition of the building. The enforcement agency shall not require the vacating of a residential building unless it concurrently requires expeditious demolition or repair to comply with this part, the building standards published in the California Building Standards Code, or other rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this part. The owner shall have the choice of repairing or demolishing. However, if the owner chooses to repair, the enforcement agency shall require that the building be brought into compliance according to a reasonable and feasible schedule for expeditious repair. The enforcement agency may require vacation and demolition or may itself vacate the building, repair, demolish, or institute any other appropriate action or proceeding, if any of the following occur:

(A) The repair work is not done within the period required by the notice.

(B) The owner does not make a timely choice of repair or demolition.

(C) The owner selects an option which cannot be completed within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the enforcement agency, for any reason, including, but not limited to, an outstanding judicial or administrative order.

(2) In deciding whether to require vacation of the building or to repair as necessary, the enforcement agency shall give preference to the repair of the building whenever it is economically feasible to do so without having to repair more than 75 percent of the dwelling, as determined by the enforcement agency, and shall give full consideration to the needs for housing as expressed in the local jurisdiction's housing element.

(c)(1) Notwithstanding subdivision (b) and notwithstanding local ordinances, tenants in a residential building shall be provided copies of any of the following:

(A) The notice of any violation described in subdivision (a) that affects the health and safety of the occupants and that causes the building to be substandard pursuant to [Section 17920.3](#) or in violation of [Section 17920.10](#).

(B) An order of the code enforcement agency issued after inspection of the premises declaring the dwelling to be in violation of any provision described in subdivision (a).

(C) The enforcement agency's decision to repair or demolish.

(D) The issuance of a building or demolition permit following the abatement order of an enforcement agency.

(2) Each document provided pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be provided to each affected residential unit by the enforcement agency that issued the order or notice, in the manner prescribed by [subdivision \(a\) of Section 17980.6](#).

(d) All notices issued by the enforcement agency to correct violations or to abate nuisances shall contain a provision notifying the owner that, in accordance with [Sections 17274](#) and [24436.5 of the Revenue and Taxation Code](#), a tax deduction may not be allowed for interest, taxes, depreciation, or amortization paid or incurred in the taxable year. In addition, in Los Angeles County, the notice shall contain a provision notifying the owner that within 10 days of recordation of a notice of substandard conditions or similar document, the owner is required to comply with [Section 17997](#).

(e) The enforcement agency may charge the owner of the building for its postage or mileage cost for sending or posting the notices required to be given by this section.

**§ 17980.1. Buildings hazardous to life in event of earthquake; retrofitting; conditions; noncompliance; no-**

**tice; receiver; application; appointment; fees**

(a) If a building is identified by a city, city and county, or county pursuant to Article 4 (commencing with [Section 19160](#)) of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 13, or [Section 8875.2 of the Government Code](#) as being potentially hazardous to life in the event of an earthquake or is identified for any other reason to be hazardous to life in the event of an earthquake, or is identified as being in a condition that substantially endangers the health and safety of residents pursuant to [Section 17980.6](#), an order requiring the building to be retrofitted to local seismic building standards or repaired so as not to violate any law, regulation, or ordinance applicable to the maintenance and use of the building, may be executed by the enforcement agency or its agents or contractors if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) The hazardous condition is of a nature that would endanger the immediate health and safety of residents or the public in the event of an earthquake.

(2) The extent and nature of a hazardous condition related to seismic safety is such that it could be corrected with the application of current technology.

(3) Any abatement order of the enforcement agency is not complied with or not so far complied with as the enforcement agency may regard as reasonable, within the time therein designated.

(b) If the owner does not comply with the abatement order within a reasonable time after issuance of the order, the enforcement agency may, as an alternative to any other remedy permitted under law, seek the remedy provided by this section if the court finds the owner in violation of the abatement order and finds that the abatement order was issued in order to correct a hazardous condition which would endanger the immediate health and safety of residents or the public in the event of an earthquake or because of any violation of this part.

(c) After serving notice upon the owner not less than 48 hours prior to the filing of the application in accordance with the procedures for notice specified by this subdivision, the enforcement agency, in accordance with this section, Sections 17980.1 to [17980.3](#), inclusive, and Chapter 5 (commencing with [Section 564](#)) of Title 7 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure, may thereafter apply to the superior court in the county where the property is situated by petition for an order directing the owner and any mortgagees or lienors of record to show cause why an individual or group as proposed by the enforcement agency should not be appointed as a receiver, and why the receiver should not remove or remedy the condition and obtain a lien, as provided in [Section 17980.2](#), in favor of the enforcement agency against the property, with the lien having the priority as specified in [subdivision \(b\) of Section 17980.2](#), to secure repayment of the costs incurred by the receiver in removing or remedying the condition. The application shall contain all of the following:

(1) Proof by affidavit that an abatement order of the enforcement agency has been issued and served on the owner, mortgagees, and lienors in accordance with this section, and that the notice containing the same partic-

ulars as are required in the abatement order, including the work to be done, has been filed in the office of the county recorder in which mechanic's liens affecting the property would be filed.

(2) A statement that the abatement order has not been complied with or not so far complied with as the enforcement agency may regard as reasonable within the time period therein designated.

(3) A statement that a condition that constitutes a serious hazard and is a serious threat to life, health, or safety continues to exist upon the property, and a description of the property and the factors constituting the unsafe condition.

(4) A plan describing how the receiver shall perform the required work, and how rents, issues, and profits shall be collected and distributed among the owner, mortgagee, lienor, and enforcement agency or receiver, and including an estimate as to the costs of the required work, the approximate time when the repairs will be completed, a statement as to whether a displacement of any occupant is required, and provisions regarding assistance for displaced occupants.

(d) The order to show cause shall be returnable not less than five days after service is completed and shall provide for personal service of a copy thereof and the papers on which it is based on the owners and mortgagees of record and lienors. Alternative service may be made upon the owner by posting upon the property and thereafter mailing to the owner at the last known address, and upon the mortgagee or lienor by mailing to the address set forth in the recorded mortgage or lien and by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the premises are located. The service shall be completed on filing proof of service thereof in the office of the county clerk.

(e) On the return of the order to show cause, the proceeding regarding that order shall have precedence over every other business of the court, unless the court finds that some other pending proceeding, having a similar statutory precedence, shall have priority. If the court finds good cause therefor, and finds that the cost of repairs, when added to any valid encumbrances on the building, shall not exceed the projected value of the building when repaired, then the court shall appoint a receiver named in the application or another person deemed appropriate, in accordance with this section and [Section 17980.2](#). However, prior to the appointment of a receiver, if the owner or any mortgagee or lienor or other person having an interest in the property applies to the court to be permitted to remove or remedy the conditions, and demonstrates the ability promptly to undertake the work required, and posts security for the performance thereof within the time, and in the amount and manner deemed necessary by the court, then the court may, in lieu of appointing the receiver, issue an order permitting that person to perform the work within a time fixed by the court.

(f) If the conditions have not been satisfactorily remedied or removed within the time fixed in the abatement order, then the court shall appoint a receiver. If, after granting a court order permitting a person to perform the work, but before the time fixed by the court for the completion thereof, it appears to the enforcement agency that the person permitted to do the work is not proceeding in a timely fashion, the enforcement agency may

petition the court for a hearing to determine whether a receiver should be appointed immediately. On the failure of the owner, mortgagee, lienor, or other person having an interest in the property to complete the work in accordance with the provisions of the order, the costs of the receiver thereafter appointed in removing or remedying the condition, and for other charges herein provided for, shall be reimbursed, paid, or made subject to a lien pursuant to [Section 17980.2](#), or any combination of these.

(g) Upon the appointment of a receiver by the court, which shall include the posting of a bond by the receiver, pursuant to [subdivision \(b\) of Section 567 of the Code of Civil Procedure](#), a copy of the order making the appointment, authenticated by a certificate of the clerk of the court and particularly describing the property which is subject to the receivership, shall be recorded in each county in which any portion of the land is located. However, if the court determines that the receiver will be acting under the general direction of the enforcement agency, the receiver may be deemed a public officer pursuant to [Section 995.220 of the Code of Civil Procedure](#).

(h) In addition to the powers specifically requested by the enforcement agency for the receiver, the receiver shall be authorized to employ attorneys, accountants, contractors, architects, engineers, and other clerical and professional personnel to assist the receiver in the performance of these duties and responsibilities.

(i) Notwithstanding [Section 6103](#) or [27383 of the Government Code](#), a county clerk or county recorder, or clerk of the court may charge a fee to any party, including a public agency, for the cost, incurred pursuant to this section, of filing, recording, or authentication of documents at the request of that party.

#### **§ 17980.2. Lien for costs; fee; contents; recording; expenses**

(a) If the enforcement agency, in accordance with [Section 17980.1](#), shall desire that the receiver obtain a lien for costs incurred in connection therewith in favor of the enforcement agency, the enforcement agency, within five days after the service of the abatement order upon the owner, shall serve a copy of the abatement order upon the lienor and mortgagee of record personally or by registered mail, return receipt requested, at the address set forth in the recorded mortgage or lien. A notice addressed to the mortgagee and lienor shall be appended to the copy of the abatement order, stating that in the event the unsafe conditions are not removed or remedied in the manner and within the time specified in the abatement order, the enforcement agency may apply to the superior court for an order to show cause why a receiver shall not be appointed.

(b) The enforcement agency or a receiver appointed pursuant to this section and [Section 17980.1](#) may record a lien against the real property on which the building is located for the expenses necessarily incurred in the execution of the abatement order, for work done in carrying out the abatement order, and for the costs incurred by the county recorder in recording the lien. Notwithstanding [Section 6103](#) or [27383 of the Government Code](#), the county recorder may charge a fee to any party for the cost, incurred pursuant to this section, of recording the lien at the request of that party. Liens authorized by this subdivision shall specify the amount of the lien, the name of the agency or agencies on whose behalf the lien is imposed, the date of the abatement order or the

order of the court which required the work to be done, the name of the receiver, if any, appointed pursuant to [Section 17980.1](#), and the legal description assessor's parcel number, and the record owner of the real property. The lien shall be recorded in the office of the county recorder of any county in which all or any portion of the real property is located, and from the date of recording shall have the force, effect, and priority of a judgment lien. The enforcement agency may defer payment of the lien until the property is sold or the enforcement agency may require that the lien be paid in installments. The amount of the lien authorized by this subdivision shall in no event exceed the reasonable costs of repair, as determined pursuant to [Section 17980.3](#). Nothing in this section or in [Section 17980.3](#) shall authorize the forced sale of the property to secure payment of the judgment lien.

(c) Whenever the enforcement agency has incurred expense for which payment is due under this section, [Section 17980.3](#), or [17980.4](#), the enforcement agency may institute and maintain a suit against the owner of the building, and may recover the amount of that expense. In any case where expenditures have been made, or obligations incurred, by a receiver pursuant to [Section 17980.3](#), and these are not paid or reimbursed from rents and income of the building, the receiver may institute and maintain a suit against the owner to recover the deficiency. Upon the awarding of a money judgment in any action authorized by this section, until the same is paid or discharged, the judgment shall be a lien like other judgments, pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with [Section 697.010](#)) of Division 2 of Title 9 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(d) Unless, within six months after actual notice, proceedings to discharge the lien are undertaken by the party against whom, or against whose premises, a lien is claimed, the filing shall, as to all persons having actual notice, become conclusive evidence that the amount claimed in the lien, with interest, is due, and is a just lien upon the premises.

(e) Where there is more than one owner, except as the owners may have otherwise mutually agreed, any owner who removes or remedies the unsafe condition shall be entitled to recover a proportionate share of the total expense of the compliance from all other owners to whom the abatement order was issued.

### **§ 17980.3. Receiver; powers and duties; fees and commissions; discharge**

(a) Any receiver appointed pursuant to this section shall have all of the powers and duties conferred by this section, and [Sections 17980.1](#) and [17980.2](#), and shall have the powers and duties of a receiver appointed in an action to foreclose a mortgage on real property, as provided in Chapter 5 (commencing with [Section 564](#)) of Title 7 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The receiver, with all reasonable speed, shall remedy the unsafe condition and remove all the delinquent matters and deficiencies in the building, as specified in the abatement order. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the receiver shall have the power to let contracts therefor or incur expenses in accordance with the provisions of local laws, ordinances, rules, or regulations applicable to contracts for public works.

(b) If the conditions of the premises and repairs thereto significantly interfere with the peaceful enjoyment or

safe and sanitary use of the premises by any tenant, the receiver shall arrange for comparable temporary housing which is decent, safe, and sanitary for each tenant required to be relocated. The receiver shall pay relocation costs to each tenant as provided in [Section 7262 of the Government Code](#). The costs shall be limited to the time that the premises are being repaired. The receiver shall mail to the owner and tenants at least 30 days prior to completion of the repairs a notice that the unit will be available for occupancy. The tenant shall have 14 days from the date the receiver's notification was mailed to notify the landlord of his or her intent to reoccupy the dwelling unit. The tenant shall have seven days to reoccupy the unit once the unit is deemed habitable. Failure of the tenant to notify the owner and receiver of the tenant's intent to reoccupy the unit shall extinguish this right to reoccupy.

(c) The receiver shall be entitled to the same fees, commissions, and necessary expenses as receivers in actions to foreclose mortgages. These fees and commissions shall be paid into any fund created pursuant to [Section 17980.5](#). The receiver shall be liable only in the receiver's official capacity for injury to person and property by reason of conditions of the premises in a case where an owner would have been liable. The receiver shall not be liable in the receiver's personal capacity. Upon the request of the receiver, the enforcement agency or the department, or both, shall make their personnel and facilities available to the receiver for the purpose of carrying out the receiver's duties as the receiver, and the cost of these services shall be deemed a necessary expense of the receiver.

(d) The receiver shall be discharged upon rendering a full and complete accounting to the court when the condition has been removed and the cost thereof and all other costs authorized by this section have been paid, reimbursed, or made subject to a lien pursuant to [subdivision \(b\) of Section 17980.2](#), or any combination of these. Upon the removal of the condition, the owner, the mortgagee, or any lienor may apply for the discharge of the receiver of all moneys not expended by the receiver for removal of the condition and all other costs authorized by this section.

#### **§ 17980.4. Action for recovery of expenses incurred by enforcement agency; remedies; criminal and civil liability of owner**

(a) Whenever the enforcement agency sues for the expenses involved in the execution of any order, it may join in the same suit and claim any civil remedy for the violation of any provisions of this chapter. Joint or several judgments may be had against one or more of the defendants in the suit, as they or any of them may be liable in respect of all or any of these claims. The expenses of executing the order, and any judgment in any abatement suit provided for in this chapter, and the several judgments that may be recovered for any of these expenses and judgments, until the same are paid or discharged, shall be a lien like other judgments, pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with [Section 697.010](#)) of Division 2 of Title 9 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(b) Nothing in this section or in [Sections 17980.1 to 17980.3](#), inclusive, shall be deemed to relieve the owner of any civil or criminal liability incurred or any duty imposed by reason of acts or omissions of the owner pri-

or to the appointment of any receiver, nor shall anything contained to those sections be construed to suspend during the receivership any obligation of the owner for the payment of taxes or operating and maintenance expenses of the dwelling or any obligation of the owner or any other person for the payment of mortgages or liens. The remedies pursuant to this section or [Sections 17980.1 to 17980.3](#), inclusive, shall be in addition to any other remedies provided by law.

#### **§ 17980.5. Special fund for implementation of §§ 17980.1 to 17980.4**

The local enforcement agency may establish and maintain a special fund for the purpose of implementing [Sections 17980.1 to 17980.4](#), inclusive.

#### **§ 17980.6. Violations; order or notice to repair; failure to correct; remedies of § 17980.7 applicable**

If any building is maintained in a manner that violates any provisions of this part, the building standards published in the State Building Standards Code relating to the provisions of this part, any other rule or regulation adopted pursuant to the provisions of this part, or any provision in a local ordinance that is similar to a provision in this part, and the violations are so extensive and of such a nature that the health and safety of residents or the public is substantially endangered, the enforcement agency may issue an order or notice to repair or abate pursuant to this part. Any order or notice pursuant to this subdivision shall be provided either by both posting a copy of the order or notice in a conspicuous place on the property and by first-class mail to each affected residential unit, or by posting a copy of the order or notice in a conspicuous place on the property and in a prominent place on each affected residential unit. The order or notice shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- (a) The name, address, and telephone number of the agency that issued the notice or order.
- (b) The date, time, and location of any public hearing or proceeding concerning the order or notice.
- (c) Information that the lessor cannot retaliate against a lessee pursuant to [Section 1942.5 of the Civil Code](#).

#### **§ 17980.7. Failure of owner to comply within a reasonable time with terms of order or notice pursuant to § 17980.6**

If the owner fails to comply within a reasonable time with the terms of the order or notice issued pursuant to [Section 17980.6](#), the following provisions shall apply:

- (a) The enforcement agency may seek and the court may order imposition of the penalties provided for under Chapter 6 (commencing with [Section 17995](#)).

(b)(1) The enforcement agency may seek and the court may order the owner to not claim any deduction with respect to state taxes for interest, taxes, expenses, depreciation, or amortization paid or incurred with respect to the cited structure, in the taxable year of the initial order or notice, in lieu of the enforcement agency processing a violation in accordance with [Sections 17274 and 24436.5 of the Revenue and Taxation Code](#).

(2) If the owner fails to comply with the terms of the order or notice to correct the condition that caused the violation pursuant to [Section 17980.6](#), the court may order the owner to not claim these tax benefits for the following year.

(c) The enforcement agency, tenant, or tenant association or organization may seek and the court may order, the appointment of a receiver for the substandard building pursuant to this subdivision. In its petition to the court, the enforcement agency, tenant, or tenant association or organization shall include proof that notice of the petition was served not less than three days prior to filing the petition, pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with [Section 415.10](#)) of Chapter 4 of Title 5 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure, to all persons with a recorded interest in the real property upon which the substandard building exists.

(1) In appointing a receiver, the court shall consider whether the owner has been afforded a reasonable opportunity to correct the conditions cited in the notice of violation.

(2) The court shall not appoint any person as a receiver unless the person has demonstrated to the court his or her capacity and expertise to develop and supervise a viable financial and construction plan for the satisfactory rehabilitation of the building. A court may appoint as a receiver a nonprofit organization or community development corporation. In addition to the duties and powers that may be granted pursuant to this section, the nonprofit organization or community development corporation may also apply for grants to assist in the rehabilitation of the building.

(3) If a receiver is appointed, the owner and his or her agent of the substandard building shall be enjoined from collecting rents from the tenants, interfering with the receiver in the operation of the substandard building, and encumbering or transferring the substandard building or real property upon which the building is situated.

(4) Any receiver appointed pursuant to this section shall have all of the following powers and duties in the order of priority listed in this paragraph, unless the court otherwise permits:

(A) To take full and complete control of the substandard property.

(B) To manage the substandard building and pay expenses of the operation of the substandard building and real property upon which the building is located, including taxes, insurance, utilities, general maintenance, and debt secured by an interest in the real property.

(C) To secure a cost estimate and construction plan from a licensed contractor for the repairs necessary to correct the conditions cited in the notice of violation.

(D) To enter into contracts and employ a licensed contractor as necessary to correct the conditions cited in the notice of violation.

(E) To collect all rents and income from the substandard building.

(F) To use all rents and income from the substandard building to pay for the cost of rehabilitation and repairs determined by the court as necessary to correct the conditions cited in the notice of violation.

(G) To borrow funds to pay for repairs necessary to correct the conditions cited in the notice of violation and to borrow funds to pay for any relocation benefits authorized by paragraph (6) and, with court approval, secure that debt and any moneys owed to the receiver for services performed pursuant to this section with a lien on the real property upon which the substandard building is located. The lien shall be recorded in the county recorder's office in the county within which the building is located.

(H) To exercise the powers granted to receivers under [Section 568 of the Code of Civil Procedure](#).

(5) The receiver shall be entitled to the same fees, commissions, and necessary expenses as receivers in actions to foreclose mortgages.

(6) If the conditions of the premises or the repair or rehabilitation thereof significantly affect the safe and sanitary use of the substandard building by any tenant, to the extent that the tenant cannot safely reside in his or her unit, then the receiver shall provide relocation benefits in accordance with subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (d).

(7) The relocation compensation provided for in this section shall not preempt any local ordinance that provides for greater relocation assistance.

(8) In addition to any reporting required by the court, the receiver shall prepare monthly reports to the state or local enforcement agency which shall contain information on at least the following items:

(A) The total amount of rent payments received.

(B) Nature and amount of contracts negotiated relative to the operation or repair of the property.

(C) Payments made toward the repair of the premises.

(D) Progress of necessary repairs.

(E) Other payments made relative to the operation of the building.

(F) Amount of tenant relocation benefits paid.

(9) The receiver shall be discharged when the conditions cited in the notice of violation have been remedied in accordance with the court order or judgment and a complete accounting of all costs and repairs has been delivered to the court. Upon removal of the condition, the owner, the mortgagee, or any lienor of record may apply for the discharge of all moneys not used by the receiver for removal of the condition and all other costs authorized by this section.

(10) After discharging the receiver, the court may retain jurisdiction for a time period not to exceed 18 consecutive months, and require the owner and the enforcement agency responsible for enforcing [Section 17980](#) to report to the court in accordance with a schedule determined by the court.

(11) The prevailing party in an action pursuant to this section shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and court costs as may be fixed by the court.

(12) The county recorder may charge and collect fees for the recording of all notices and other documents required by this section pursuant to Article 5 (commencing with [Section 27360](#)) of Chapter 6 of Division 2 of Title 3 of the Government Code.

(13) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit those rights available to tenants and owners under any other provision of the law.

(14) Nothing in this section shall be construed to deprive an owner of a substandard building of all procedural due process rights guaranteed by the California Constitution and the United States Constitution, including, but not limited to, receipt of notice of the violation claimed and an adequate and reasonable period of time to comply with any orders which are issued by the enforcement agency or the court.

(d) If the court finds that a building is in a condition which substantially endangers the health and safety of residents pursuant to [Section 17980.6](#), upon the entry of any order or judgment, the court shall do all of the following:

(1) Order the owner to pay all reasonable and actual costs of the enforcement agency including, but not limited to, inspection costs, investigation costs, enforcement costs, attorney fees or costs, and all costs of prosecution.

(2) Order that the local enforcement agency shall provide the tenant with notice of the court order or judgment.

(3)(A) Order that if the owner undertakes repairs or rehabilitation as a result of being cited for a notice under this chapter, and if the conditions of the premises or the repair or rehabilitation thereof significantly affect the safe and sanitary use of the premises by any lawful tenant, so that the tenant cannot safely reside in the premises, then the owner shall provide or pay relocation benefits to each lawful tenant. These benefits shall consist of actual reasonable moving and storage costs and relocation compensation. The actual moving and storage costs shall consist of all of the following:

(i) Transportation of the tenant's personal property to the new location. The new location shall be in close proximity to the substandard premises, except where relocation to a new location beyond a close proximity is determined by the court to be justified.

(ii) Packing, crating, unpacking, and uncrating the tenant's personal property.

(iii) Insurance of the tenant's property while in transit.

(iv) The reasonable replacement value of property lost, stolen, or damaged (not through the fault or negligence of the displaced person, his or her agent or employee) in the process of moving, where insurance covering the loss, theft, or damage is not reasonably available.

(v) The cost of disconnecting, dismantling, removing, reassembling, reconnecting, and reinstalling machinery, equipment, or other personal property of the tenant, including connection charges imposed by utility companies for starting utility service.

(B)(i) The relocation compensation shall be an amount equal to the differential between the contract rent and the fair market rental value determined by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development for a unit of comparable size within the area for the period that the unit is being repaired, not to exceed 120 days.

(ii) If the court finds that a tenant has been substantially responsible for causing or substantially contributing to the substandard conditions, then the relocation benefits of this section shall not be paid to this tenant. Each other tenant on the premises who has been ordered to relocate due to the substandard conditions and who is not substantially responsible for causing or contributing to the conditions shall be paid these benefits and

moving costs at the time that he or she actually relocates.

(4) Determine the date when the tenant is to relocate, and order the tenant to notify the enforcement agency and the owner of the address of the premises to which he or she has relocated within five days after the relocation.

(5)(A) Order that the owner shall offer the first right to occupancy of the premises to each tenant who received benefits pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3), before letting the unit for rent to a third party. The owner's offer on the first right to occupancy to the tenant shall be in writing, and sent by first-class certified mail to the address given by the tenant at the time of relocation. If the owner has not been provided the tenant's address by the tenant as prescribed by this section, the owner shall not be required to provide notice under this section or offer the tenant the right to return to occupancy.

(B) The tenant shall notify the owner in writing that he or she will occupy the unit. The notice shall be sent by first-class certified mail no later than 10 days after the notice has been mailed by the owner.

(6) Order that failure to comply with any abatement order under this chapter shall be punishable by civil contempt, penalties under Chapter 6 (commencing with [Section 17995](#)), and any other penalties and fines as are available.

(e) The initiation of a proceeding or entry of a judgment pursuant to this section or [Section 17980.6](#) shall be deemed to be a "proceeding" or "judgment" as provided by [paragraph \(4\) or \(5\) of subdivision \(a\) of Section 1942.5 of the Civil Code](#).

(f) The term "owner," for the purposes of this section, shall include the owner, including any public entity that owns residential real property, at the time of the initial notice or order and any successor in interest who had actual or constructive knowledge of the notice, order, or prosecution.

(g) These remedies shall be in addition to those provided by any other law.

(h) Nothing in this section or in [Section 17980.6](#) shall impair the rights of an owner exercising his or her rights established pursuant to Chapter 12.75 (commencing with [Section 7060](#)) of [Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code](#).

**§ 17980.8. Administrative determination of unsafe or substandard condition; abatement or other exercise of authority; owner exclusive remedy; judicial review standard; application of section**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a determination that an unsafe or substandard condition exists

in any building, or upon the lot upon which it is situated, has been made in an administrative proceeding conducted under this part, including any code incorporated by [Section 17922](#), the enforcement agency may abate the nuisance as provided in this part or exercise any other authority conferred upon it by this part, subject only to the exclusive remedy of the owner to challenge the administrative determination pursuant to [Section 1094.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure](#). The court may exercise its independent judgment on the evidence to determine whether the findings are supported by the weight of the evidence. This section shall apply only to administrative proceedings commenced on or after January 1, 1990.

**§ 17980.9. City of Los Angeles or City of San Diego; inspection of vacant single-family dwellings; action to correct violations or abate nuisances; tax notice; reimbursement of costs**

Notwithstanding [Section 17980](#), whenever the enforcement agency inspects any vacant single-family dwelling within the City of Los Angeles or the City of San Diego pursuant to this chapter, all of the following shall apply:

(a) If a nuisance exists in any vacant single-family dwelling or upon the lot on which it is situated, the enforcement agency shall, after 15 days' notice to abate the nuisance, institute any appropriate action or proceeding to prevent, restrain, correct, or abate the nuisance.

(b)(1) Whenever the enforcement agency has inspected or caused to be inspected any vacant single-family dwelling and has determined that the building is a substandard dwelling, the enforcement agency shall, after giving 15 days' notice to the owner, commence proceedings to abate the violation by repair, rehabilitation, or demolition of the building. The owner shall have the choice of repairing or demolishing. However, if the owner chooses to repair, the enforcement agency shall require that the building be brought into compliance according to a reasonable and feasible schedule for expeditious repair. The enforcement agency may require demolition or may itself repair, demolish, or institute any other appropriate action or proceeding, if any of the following occur:

(A) The repair work is not done as scheduled.

(B) The owner does not make a timely choice of repair or demolition.

(C) The owner selects an option that cannot be completed within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the department, for any reason, including, but not limited to, an outstanding judicial or administrative order.

(2) In deciding whether to repair as necessary, the enforcement agency shall give preference to the repair of the building whenever it is economically feasible to do so without having to repair more than 50 percent of the dwelling, as determined by the enforcement agency, and shall give full consideration to the needs for housing as expressed in the local jurisdiction's housing element.

(c) All notices issued by the enforcement agency to correct violations or to abate nuisances shall contain a provision notifying the owner that, in accordance with [Sections 17274 and 24436.5 of the Revenue and Taxation Code](#), a tax deduction may not be allowed for interest, taxes, depreciation, or amortization paid or incurred in the taxable year.

(d) The enforcement agency may charge the owner of the building for its postage or mileage cost for sending or posting the notices required to be given by this section.

**§ 17980.10. Jurisdiction to abate nuisance through repairs, razing or removal; expense statement; liability of property owner**

(a) An enforcement agency that properly declares any dwelling a nuisance and, using the notice requirements and procedures specified in Subchapter 1 (commencing with [Section 1](#)) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Title 25 of the California Code of Regulations, confirms the declaration by resolution of its governing board shall be deemed to have acquired jurisdiction to abate the nuisance by repairing or causing to have repairs made to the property, by razing or removing the dwelling or in any other way causing the nuisance to be abated.

(b) The enforcement agency shall keep an itemized account of all of the expenses involved in abating the nuisance, including the razing or removing of the dwelling. The enforcement agency shall cause to be posted conspicuously on the property where the nuisance was abated, repairs were made, or where the dwelling was razed or removed, an expense statement. This statement shall be verified by the officer of the enforcement agency in charge of doing the work, showing the reasonable gross and net expense of the abatement actions taken by the agency, including the expense of inspections; repairs, if any; the cost of the razing or removing of the building, if applicable; and any other costs of abatement, together with a notice of the time and place when and where the statement shall be submitted to the governing board of the enforcement agency for approval and confirmation. In addition to being posted on the property, this statement shall be sent by certified mail to each owner and other interested party, as specified in Subchapter 1 (commencing with [Section 1](#)) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Title 25 of the California Code of Regulations.

(c) At the meeting noticed pursuant to subdivision (b), the governing board shall consider any objections or protests, if any, that may be raised by the property owner liable to be assessed for the cost of the work, or by any other interested persons. If the governing board confirms the statement of costs of abatement, those costs shall be the obligation of each owner of the property to pay to the public entity that has incurred them.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any hearing required under this section shall be conducted in accordance with requirements adopted by the enforcement agency that are in substantial compliance with those contained in Chapter 13 (commencing with [Section 1301](#)), or the successor provisions to that chapter, of the most recent edition of the Uniform Housing Code of the International Conference of Building Officials or as specified in Subchapter 1 (commencing with [Section 1](#)) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Title 25 of the California Code of Regulations.

**§ 17980.11. Notice of substandard or untenable conditions recorded with county recorder; use of specified remedies by enforcement agency; information required to be submitted to enforcement agency by private owners of structures**

If an enforcement agency has recorded with a county recorder any notice of substandard or untenable conditions issued pursuant to this part for a residential structure, and if the enforcement agency anticipates that it will pursue the remedies provided by subdivision (b) of Section 17980.7 or subdivision (c) of Section 17980.9, or [Section 17274](#) or 22436.5 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, it may require the private owner of that structure, within 10 days of recordation, to submit to the enforcement agency the following information:

(a) If the property owner is an individual, the name, address, driver's license number or identification card number, social security number or tax identification number, and any other information deemed necessary by the enforcement agency to file the documents necessary to utilize [Section 17274 of the Revenue and Taxation Code](#).

(b) If the property owner is a corporation, trust, real estate trust, or any other entity whose taxes are subject to Part 11 (commencing with [Section 23001](#)) of the Revenue and Taxation Code, the name, address, tax identification number, and any other information deemed necessary by the enforcement agency to file the documents necessary to utilize Section 22436.5 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

(c) If the property owner is a limited liability company, partnership, limited partnership, trust, or real estate investment trust, or any other entity which has owners, partners, members, or investors whose state taxes are subject to Part 10 (commencing with [Section 17001](#)) of the Revenue and Taxation Code and whose income, deductions, or tax credits are subject to any change because of interest payments, taxes, depreciation, or amortization related to the substandard housing, the name, address, driver's license number or identification card number, social security number or tax identification number, and any other information deemed necessary by the enforcement agency to file the documents necessary to utilize [Section 17274 of the Revenue and Taxation Code](#).

**§ 17981. Temporary relief pending final judgment**

An enforcement agency which institutes any action or proceeding pursuant to this article may, by verified complaint setting forth the facts, apply to the superior court for an order granting the relief for which the action or proceeding is brought until the entry of a final judgment or order.

**§ 17982. Order to remove violation or abate nuisance**

If any notice or order issued by an enforcement agency is not complied with within a reasonable time as specified in such notice or order the enforcement agency may apply to the superior court for an order authorizing it to remove any violation or abate any nuisance specified in the notice or order.

**§ 17983. Powers of court**

The superior court may make any order for which application is made pursuant to this article.

**§ 17984. Liability for costs**

Neither an enforcement agency, any of its officers, nor any city or county for which an enforcement agency may act, is liable for costs in any action or proceeding that the enforcement agency may commence pursuant to this article.

**§ 17985. Notice of pending action; costs; effect; notice of final disposition; recording**

(a) Any enforcement agency which institutes an action or proceeding pursuant to this article shall record a notice of the pendency of the action or proceeding in the county recorder's office of the county where the property affected by the action or proceeding is situated. The enforcement agency may charge the property owner for any cost involved in recording the notice. The enforcement agency shall reimburse the owner for any amount charged if the case is dismissed or if the defendant is found innocent. The notice shall be recorded at the time of the commencement of the action or proceeding. It has the same effect as the notice of pendency of action provided for in the Code of Civil Procedure.

(b) The enforcement agency shall record a notice of final disposition of any action or proceeding in the county recorder's office where the property affected by the action or proceeding was recorded immediately following final resolution of the action or proceeding.

**§ 17986. Recordation of notice**

The county recorder with whom a notice of pendency of action or proceeding is filed shall record and index it in the name of each person to be specified in a direction subscribed by an officer of the enforcement agency instituting the action or proceeding.

**§ 17987. Vacation of notice**

Any notice of pendency of action or proceeding may be vacated upon the order of a judge of the court in which the action or proceeding is pending. A certified copy of the order of vacation may be recorded in the office of the recorder of the county where the notice of pendency of action is recorded.

**§ 17988. Service of summons**

In any action or proceeding brought pursuant to this article, service of summons is sufficient if served in the manner provided in the Code of Civil Procedure.

**§ 17989. Service of notices and orders; time for service**

Except under conditions immediately affecting health or safety, every notice or order issued pursuant to this part shall be served five days before the time for doing or refraining from doing the thing to which it pertains.

**§ 17990. Pleading in response to summons; time to file**

The time to file a written pleading in response to a summons in an action brought pursuant to this article is 10 days.

**§ 17991. Sale or other transfer of property to third party; effect on administrative or judicial actions or proceedings; recording Notice of Conveyance of Substandard Property; information to be provided by the transferor to enforcement agency**

(a) The sale or other transfer of property to a third party shall not render moot an administrative or judicial action or proceeding pursuant to this article, including an action under [Section 17982](#), instituted by an enforcement agency, or a receiver on behalf of an enforcement agency, against the owner of record on the date a citation for, or other notice of, a violation of this part was issued.

(b) In the event of any sale or other transfer of property to a third party during the period between the issuance of the notice of violation and the abatement of the violation, or any administrative or judicial actions related thereto, within five days after the sale or transfer occurs, the transferor shall record a Notice of Conveyance of Substandard Property with the county recorder where the property is located, identifying the name and address of the buyer or transferee and executed with a signature that the information is true and correct, under penalty of perjury.

(c) In the event of any sale or other transfer of property to a third party during the period between the issuance of the notice of violation and the abatement of the violation, or any administrative or judicial actions related thereto, the transferor shall provide all of the following information to the enforcement agency within five days after the sale or transfer occurs:

(1) If the seller or transferor is not an individual person, the name, address, and driver's license number or identification card number of each individual who has an interest in excess of 5 percent in the entity which is selling or transferring the property.

(2) If the buyer or transferee is an individual person, the name, address, and driver's license number or identification number of that individual.

(3) If the buyer or transferee is not an individual person, the name, address, and driver's license number or identification card number of each individual who has an interest in excess of 5 percent in the entity that is the buyer or transferee of the property.

**§ 17992. Ownership interest obtained after recording of notice of pendency of action or proceeding, or any other notice of violation; effect**

Any person who obtains an ownership interest in any property after a notice of pendency of an action or proceeding was recorded with respect to the property pursuant to [Section 17985](#) or any other notice of a violation of this part was recorded with the county recorder of the county in which the property is located, and where there has been no withdrawal or expungement of the notice, shall be subject to any order to correct a violation, including time limitations, specified in a citation issued pursuant to [Sections 17980](#) and [17981](#) or any other notice of a violation of this part that was recorded with the county recorder of the county in which the property is located.

**§ 17995. Misdemeanor; punishment**

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this part, the building standards published in the State Building Standards Code relating to the provisions of this part, or any other rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this part is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

**§ 17995.1. Second or subsequent violations; penalties**

Any person who is convicted pursuant to [Section 17995](#) for a second or subsequent time within a five-year period for violations at the same property shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both such fine and imprisonment.

**§ 17995.2. Contempt of court; second or subsequent time; offense; penalty**

Any person found in contempt of a court order or injunction pursuant to the provisions of this part for a second or subsequent time within a five-year period for violation at the same property is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both such fine and imprisonment.

**§ 17995.3. Second or subsequent convictions; extensive violations; penalties**

Any person who is convicted pursuant to [Section 17995](#) for a second or subsequent time within a five-year period for violations of the same property where such violations are determined by the trier of fact to be so extensive and of such a nature that the immediate health and safety of residents or the public is endangered and where the extent and nature of the violations are due to the defendant's habitual neglect of customary maintenance and display a flagrant lack of concern for the health and safety of residents and the public, shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and by imprisonment of not less than six months but not exceeding one year, provided also that the trier of fact finds at least four serious violations of the following categories of violations are involved:

- (a) Termination, extended interruption or serious defects of gas, water or electric utility systems provided such interruptions or termination is not caused by the tenant's failure to pay such gas, water or electric bills.
- (b) Serious defects or lack of adequate space and water heating.
- (c) Serious rodent, vermin or insect infestation.
- (d) Severe deterioration, rendering significant portions of the structure unsafe or unsanitary.
- (e) Inadequate numbers of garbage receptacles or service.
- (f) Unsanitary conditions affecting a significant portion of the structure as a result of faulty plumbing or sewage disposal.
- (g) Inoperable hallway lighting.

**§ 17995.4. Contempt of court; second or subsequent time; extensive violations**

Any person found in contempt of a court order or injunction pursuant to the provisions of this part for a second or subsequent time within a five-year period for violations at the same property where such violations are determined by the trier of fact to be so extensive and of such a nature that the immediate health and safety of residents or the public is endangered and where the extent and nature of the violations are due to the defendant's habitual neglect of customary maintenance and display a flagrant lack of concern for the health and safety of residents and the public, shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and by imprisonment of not less than six months but not exceeding one year, provided also that the trier of fact finds at least four serious violations of the following categories of violations are involved:

- (a) Termination, extended interruption or serious defects of gas, water or electric utility systems provided such interruptions or termination is not caused by the tenant's failure to pay such gas, water or electric bills.
- (b) Serious defects or lack of adequate space and water heating.
- (c) Serious rodent, vermin or insect infestation.
- (d) Severe deterioration, rendering significant portions of the structure unsafe or unsanitary.
- (e) Inadequate numbers of garbage receptacles or service.
- (f) Unsanitary conditions affecting a significant portion of the structure as a result of faulty plumbing or sewage disposal.
- (g) Inoperable hallway lighting.

**§ 17995.5. Fines collected; part reimbursed to enforcement agency**

Fines collected pursuant to this part in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500) per violation shall be reimbursed to the enforcement agency which investigated the violations.

**§§ 17997 to 17997.8. Repealed by Stats.2001, c. 487 (A.B.1112), § 3, operative Jan. 1, 2005**

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### **§ 17998. Legislative findings and declarations**

The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The Department of Housing and Community Development reports that one in every eight dwelling units in the state is substandard and that unless health and safety problems are corrected, habitability conditions generally deteriorate until the units become life threatening and uninhabitable and must be removed from the housing stock through closure or demolition.

(b) California is experiencing a housing shortage of significant proportions, particularly in the affordable housing sector. The state and many local governments are funding affordable housing from a variety of sources at substantial costs. It is ill advised to neglect timely code enforcement responsibilities and, as a result, to lose housing that could have been retained.

(c) The lack of code enforcement on a single dwelling unit can lead to the deterioration of an entire neighborhood as the substandard or abandoned unit becomes a magnet for crime, vandalism, fires, and other activities that rapidly infect the surrounding homes and neighborhood.

(d) Many local governments endeavor to fulfill their statutory responsibility for code enforcement. However, local governments with a higher percentage of lower income households with families, living in older, overcrowded housing stock, exacerbated by the neglect of absentee slumlords, bear a disproportionate code enforcement cost and responsibility compared with more affluent communities.

(e) Existing law provides building standards to assure decent, safe, and sanitary housing for all Californians.

(f) Resources for code enforcement at the local level are frequently allocated to construction-related code enforcement activities, which generate fees to pay for regulatory services, including building and permit inspections, rather than housing maintenance activities that prevent or abate substandard conditions.

(g) The enforcement of housing maintenance codes for existing housing is frequently performed only on a complaint-by-complaint basis and frequently there is insufficient funding for the abatement of existing violations through timely and effective administrative or judicial proceedings.

#### **§ 17998.1. Grants; use of funds; reports; criteria for awarding grants**

The Department of Housing and Community Development, upon appropriation by the Legislature for this purpose, shall make funds available as matching grants to cities, counties, and cities and counties to increase staffing or capital expenditures dedicated to local building code enforcement efforts. The funds shall be subject to all of the following provisions:

(a) Grants shall be made to grantees that operate local building code enforcement programs for more than three years.

(b) The city, county, or city and county shall provide a cash or in-kind local match of at least 25 percent in the first year, at least 50 percent in the second year, and at least 75 percent in the third year.

(c) The maximum grant to a single recipient shall not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000). The department may establish minimum grant levels and lower maximum grant levels, depending on the amount and uses of funding sources.

(d) Funds may be used to supplement, but shall not supplant, existing local funding for code enforcement related to housing code maintenance. The applicants shall demonstrate an intent to ensure cooperative and effective working relationships between code enforcement officials and local prosecutorial agencies, the local health department, and local government housing rehabilitation financing agencies.

(e) Within six months after completion of each program cycle approved by the department and funded by the Legislature, grant recipients shall submit a report to their local legislative bodies and to the department regarding the results of the expanded housing maintenance code enforcement efforts and recommendations for changes in state or local laws and regulations related to code enforcement. The department shall summarize the results and transmit the reports to the Legislature within six months after the grant recipient's submission date. The department may require submission of interim progress reports.

(f) The department may use up to 5 percent of the funds appropriated by the Legislature for administering the programs authorized by this chapter.

(g) The department shall award the grants on a competitive basis with criteria to be established and specified in a "Notice of Funding Availability." The criteria shall be weighted for local government applicants with neighborhoods populated by high percentages of lower income households, with significant numbers of deteriorating housing stock containing reported or suspected housing code violations and often owned by absentee owners. The criteria shall also be weighted for applications that propose to identify and prosecute owners with habitual, repeated, multiple code violations that have remained unabated beyond the period required for abatement. In addition to those criteria, the department shall attempt to award grants to cities, counties, and cities and counties in order to obtain a wide range of population sizes and compositions and geographical distribution. Eligibility criteria, applications, awards, and other program requirements implementing this chapter shall not be subject to the requirements of Chapter 2.5 (commencing with [Section 11340](#)) of [Part 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code](#).

**§ 17998.2. Community Code Enforcement Pilot Program; awarding of grants; proposals; evaluation; report**

(a) It is the intent of the Legislature in the enactment of this section to do all of the following:

(1) Initiate a coordinated active community approach to code enforcement.

(2) Create a pilot program in which the department awards grants to communities that develop a code enforcement program pursuant to the criteria established by this section.

(3) Substantially reduce the incidence of substandard housing through the use of creative and coordinated techniques of code enforcement involving an interdepartmental approach at the local government level.

(b) The grant program established pursuant to this section shall be known as the Community Code Enforcement Pilot Program. The Department of Housing and Community Development shall administer the Community Code Enforcement Pilot Program.

(1) The department need not adopt regulations for the program. The department shall publish and distribute a Notice of Funding Availability that contains application forms and instructions, eligibility criteria, criteria for the rating and ranking of applications, outcome evaluation criteria, interim or final reporting requirements, and other information that the department considers necessary or useful for implementation of the program.

(2) The department shall review, rate, and rank applications based on its evaluation of the information provided pursuant to subdivision (e), and their projected program performance as measured by all of the following criteria, considering the size of the applicant community:

(A) The minimum number of housing units affordable to lower income households that will be rehabilitated or otherwise brought into compliance with applicable building and housing codes.

(B) The estimated amount of grants and low interest rehabilitation loan funds, from sources other than this program, that will be made available to the owners of housing units affordable to lower income households that are determined to need rehabilitation or repair pursuant to the program.

(C) The incidence of poverty and deteriorating housing or housing code violations in each target area.

(3) In addition to the other criteria in this subdivision, the department shall attempt to award community code enforcement pilot program grants to cities, counties, and cities and counties with a wide range of population sizes and compositions and geographical distribution.

(c) The department shall award community code enforcement pilot program grants for programs that shall op-

erate for more than three years. The grants shall not exceed four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000), which shall pay for costs incurred over the life of the program. The department may establish minimum grant levels and lower maximum grant levels, depending on the amount and uses of funding sources.

(d) Each city, county, or city and county receiving a grant shall develop a code enforcement team consisting of a least one full-time code enforcement officer and a part-time city planner, health officer, or comparable specialist. Each grantee shall provide, and fund at its own expense, at least one city planner, health officer, or comparable specialist for the duration of the pilot program, for a minimum of 20 hours per week. The grant funds shall be used for the code enforcement officer and related program costs, which may include full-time or part-time personnel, in addition to the grantee's contributions, or for capital expenditures.

(e) Grant proposals shall include all of the following:

(1) Demonstration of serious, current housing code enforcement deficiencies within each target area, whether those code deficiencies are in violation of locally enacted ordinances or state codes.

(2) A plan to have high visibility of code enforcement staff and to create close and frequent communication and interaction with residents and property owners of the target area, including in the evenings and on weekends.

(3) A plan to convene community meetings to inform residents of the pilot program.

(4) A plan to conduct ongoing frequent informal and formal community meetings with the code enforcement team and residents of the community involved in the pilot program.

(5) A plan demonstrating an intent to ensure cooperative and effective working relationships between code enforcement officials, local health department officials, local prosecutorial agencies, and officials operating local programs providing public funds to finance affordable rental housing rehabilitation and repairs.

(6) A plan for timely and effective administrative and judicial enforcement of code violations.

(f) The administrator of each grantee's pilot program shall evaluate the pilot program and report the findings and other criteria requested by the department indicating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the department within six months after completion of each program cycle approved by the department and funded by the Legislature. The department may require submission of interim progress reports. The administrator shall evaluate the pilot program based on criteria including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Results of a participant survey, including owners, residents, and active community leaders.

(2) Comparison of each targeted area with similar neighborhoods with respect to repeat calls for service and other criteria testing the effectiveness of the pilot program.

(3) The extent of any perceived or actual property value change between the commencement and the completion of the pilot program.

(4) The number of cases opened and the number of cases closed, identifying the nature of code violations, the necessity of formal proceedings, the cost and nature of abatement violations, or other factors influencing the effectiveness of the pilot program.

(g) The department shall review and report to the Legislature within six months after the grant recipient's submission date on the findings of the pilot program administrators.

### **§ 17998.3. Powers**

In implementing the programs governed by this chapter, the department has all the general powers granted to it by Division 31 (commencing with [Section 50000](#)).

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