

September 14, 2016

TO: General Board of Appeals members  
Building Industry Association  
American Institute of Architects  
Structural Engineers Association  
Associated General Contractors  
Other Interested Parties

RE: Proposed Draft 2016 Ventura County Building Code

Dear Colleague,

The Draft 2016 Ventura County Building Code (VCBC) has been prepared and is available for your review and comment. A copy can be sent to you via email or it can be accessed via our website at <http://vcrma.org/buildingsafety/pdf/Proposed-2016-VCBC-Amendments.pdf> and click on the link to the “Draft 2016 VCBC”. If necessary, a copy can be mailed to you by contacting Marie Becerra at 805-654-2795 or via email at [Marie.Becerra@Ventura.org](mailto:Marie.Becerra@Ventura.org).

Your review and comment on the Draft 2016 VCBC, or that of your organization, is requested. This proposed 2016 VCBC updates references to the latest editions of the State and model codes, and seeks to maintain uniformity with other city and county jurisdictions. Specifically, the Draft 2016 VCBC makes the following changes in the following format:

A. Recognition of state amendments and code language:

- Code language that is carried forward from the 2013 VCBC into the 2016 VCBC is shown in normal font.
- Language from the 2016 California Building Standards Code (CBSC) which is also in the 2016 VCBC for the purpose of context is shown in normal font but with 50% gray (If viewed electronically).
- Code language from the 2013 CBSC that is deleted from the Draft 2016 VCBC is shown in normal font/legislative format with ~~strike through~~.
- Language that is deleted from the 2013 VCBC and thus not carried forward into the Draft 2016 VCBC is shown in *italicized* font with ~~strike through~~.
- New language in the Draft 2016 VCBC is shown in *italicized* font.

B. Three categories of amendments are proposed in the Draft 2016 VCBC:

1. Editorial changes that either update references, section numbers, chapter and section titles, or add highlighting of definitions, or make grammatical corrections and clarifying language revisions. These are found in various places throughout the Draft 2016 VCBC.
2. Administrative changes that modify permit processes or requirements or other administrative provisions in the VCBC. For the most part, the administrative provisions are very similar to the 2013 VCBC provisions. As with the 2013 VCBC, we have continued to include Straw Bale buildings and Limited Density Owner-Built Dwellings.

3. Technical changes or “building standards” which affect the specific design and approval of a structure. Some previous local amendments dealing with “building standards” have been reduced or eliminated as they are no longer necessary minimum State standards may have changed .

Finally, other important changes have been made to the various state and model codes with regard to definitions, foundations, shear walls, as well as sewage disposal systems. 2013 VCBC Appendix J Grading has been carried forward into the 2016 VCBC in its entirety.

The first public hearing for the County Board of Supervisors’ consideration and adoption of this final Draft 2016 VCBC is scheduled for October 4, 2016, at 10:00 AM at the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room located at 800 South Victoria Ave in Ventura. This hearing will be a simple first reading of the proposed 2016 VCBC. The public comment period will continue and then conclude on November 08, 2016, at 10:30 AM when the Board of Supervisors is expected to take final action on the Draft 2016 VCBC. I look forward to receiving your feedback and any suggestions or comments will be carefully considered before the close of the public hearing which is expected to be on November 08, 2016.

Thank you for taking the time to review this draft. Your efforts are much appreciated. Please forward your comments and suggestions via regular mail or email to David Hansen, C.B.O, CFM, [David.Hansen@ventura.org](mailto:David.Hansen@ventura.org) or to the following address. You may also call me at (805) 654-5132.

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Acting Building Official  
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Sincerely,

Chris Stephens, Director  
Resource Management Agency  
Acting Building Official  
County of Ventura

CC: Code Development, 2016