

**45-DAY STATEMENT OF REASONS
FOR PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS
OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
REGARDING THE 2025 CALIFORNIA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 1
(SFM 03/24)**

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) requires that an Initial Statement of Reasons be available to the public upon request when rulemaking action is being undertaken. The following information required by the APA pertains to this particular rulemaking action:

STATEMENT OF SPECIFIC PURPOSE, PROBLEM, RATIONALE and BENEFITS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(1) requires a statement of the specific purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal; and the problem the agency intends to address, and the rationale for the determination by the agency that each adoption, amendment, or repeal is reasonably necessary to carry out the purpose and address the problem for which it is proposed. The statement shall enumerate the benefits anticipated from the regulatory action, including the benefits or goals provided in the authorizing statute.

ITEM 1

Chapter 3 ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL (SFM).

The SFM proposes to adopt Chapter 3 with modification as shown below to provide reference to Part 7 California Wildland-Urban Interface Code (CWUIC).

ITEM 1-1

Article 3-1 General, 3-104. Application of building standards.

The SFM proposes to add a reference to Part 7, which is being proposed as the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code. The purpose of adding the proposed Part 7 is to adopt by reference the 2024 edition of the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC), with California amendments, into the currently vacant California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, California Building Standards Code (CBSC), Part 7 with the title of the "California Wildland-Urban Interface Code" (CWUIC).

The proposed code changes will provide a single location for all wildland laws and regulations. Currently, the regulations are in several different locations including CCR Title 24 (CBSC), Part 2 California Building Code (CBC), Chapter 7A, Part 2.5 California Residential Code (CRC), Chapter 3, section R337, Part 9 California Fire Code (CFC), Chapter 49, CCR, Title 14, Natural Resources Code (T-14) and CCR, Title 19, Public Safety Code (T-19); as well as the California state laws including the Public Resources Code (PRC), Government Code (GOV), and Health and Safety Code (HSC). By having all wildland laws and regulations in a single location, designers, contractors, homeowners, and Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) will have a one-stop shop to find the laws and regulations they need for enforcement.

CAC Recommendation:

Approve

Agency Response:

Accept

TECHNICAL, THEORETICAL, AND EMPIRICAL STUDY, REPORT, OR SIMILAR DOCUMENTS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(3) requires identification of each technical, theoretical, and empirical study, report, or similar document, if any, upon which the agency relies in proposing the regulation(s).

The SFM did not rely on any technical, theoretical, or empirical study, report, or similar documents outside of those contained in this rulemaking in proposing that CBSC adopt existing provisions from the 2022 California Administrative Code as a standard for the placement of existing SFM regulatory amendments for the California Building Standards Codes.

STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION FOR PRESCRIPTIVE STANDARDS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(1) requires a statement of the reasons why an agency believes any mandates for specific technologies or equipment, or prescriptive standards are required.

The SFM believes that the amendments to the code and additional building standards proposed are offered in both a prescriptive and performance base.

This code is founded on principles intended to establish provisions consistent with the scope of a building and fire code that adequately protects public health, safety, and welfare; provisions that do not unnecessarily increase construction costs; provisions that do not restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction; and provisions that do not give preferential treatment to types or classes of materials, products or methods of construction.

CONSIDERATION OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(4)(A) requires a description of reasonable alternatives to the regulation and the agency's reasons for rejecting those alternatives. In the case of a regulation that would mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment or prescribe specific actions or procedures, the imposition of performance standards shall be considered as an alternative. It is not the intent of this paragraph to require the agency to artificially construct alternatives or describe unreasonable alternatives.

The SFM has determined that no alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed adoption by reference to SFM amendments. Therefore, there are no alternatives available to the SFM regarding the proposed adoption of this code.

REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES THE AGENCY HAS IDENTIFIED THAT WOULD LESSEN ANY ADVERSE IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(4)(B) requires a description of any reasonable alternatives that have been identified or that have otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the agency that would lessen any adverse impact on small business.

The SFM has determined that no alternatives were identified that would lessen any adverse impact on small business. Small businesses will not experience an adverse impact due to these amendments. Therefore, there are no alternatives available to the SFM regarding the proposed adoption of this code.

FACTS, EVIDENCE, DOCUMENTS, TESTIMONY, OR OTHER EVIDENCE OF NO SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON BUSINESS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(5)(A) requires the facts, evidence, documents, testimony, or other evidence on which the agency relies to support an initial determination that the action will not have a significant adverse economic impact on business.

SFM has made an initial determination that this regulatory action would not have a significant adverse economic impact on California business enterprises and individuals, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

The proposed amendments are administrative in nature with no intended change in regulatory effect. The public is welcome to submit any information, facts, or documents either supporting BSC's initial determination or finding to the contrary.

ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECT OF REGULATIONS UPON JOBS AND BUSINESS EXPANSION, ELIMINATION OR CREATION

Government Code Sections 11346.2(b)(2) and 11346.3(b)(1)

The State Fire Marshal has assessed whether and to what extent this proposal will affect the following:

- A. The creation or elimination of jobs within the State of California.**
These regulations will not affect the creation, or cause elimination, of jobs within the State of California.
- B. The creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within the State of California.**
These regulations will not affect the creation, or cause elimination, new or existing businesses within the State of California.
- C. The expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California.**
These regulations will not affect the expansion of business currently doing business within the State of California.
- D. The benefits of the regulation to the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment.**
These regulations will update and improve minimum existing building standards, which will provide increased protection of public health and safety, worker safety and the environment.

ESTIMATED COST OF COMPLIANCE, ESTIMATED POTENTIAL BENEFITS, AND RELATED ASSUMPTIONS USED FOR BUILDING STANDARDS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(5)(B)(i) states if a proposed regulation is a building standard, the initial statement of reasons shall include the estimated cost of compliance,

the estimated potential benefits, and the related assumptions used to determine the estimates.

The SFM does not anticipate any significant cost of compliance with the proposed building standards. The regulations are based on the existing provisions. These regulations benefits are to have clear, concise, complete, and updated text of the regulations and standards.

DUPLICATION OR CONFLICTS WITH FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(6) requires a department, board, or commission within the Environmental Protection Agency, the Resources Agency, or the Office of the State Fire Marshal to describe its efforts, in connection with a proposed rulemaking action, to avoid unnecessary duplication or conflicts with federal regulations contained in the Code of Federal Regulations addressing the same issues. These agencies may adopt regulations different from these federal regulations upon a finding of one or more of the following justifications: (A) The differing state regulations are authorized by law and/or (B) The cost of differing state regulations is justified by the benefit to human health, public safety, public welfare, or the environment.

The SFM has determined that this proposed rulemaking action does not unnecessarily duplicate or conflict with federal regulations contained in the Code of Federal Regulations that address the same issues as this proposed rulemaking.