



# CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF TESTING AND INSPECTION AGENCIES

June 16, 2016  
Four Points by Sheraton  
4900 Duckhorn Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95834

## Minutes - Special Meeting

### 1. Call to Order – Tim Rodriguez

#### a. Time

- *The meeting was called to order at 12:22 p.m. by President Tim Rodriguez.*

#### b. Self-introductions

- *The following members and guests were in attendance:*

<i>Dan Allopenna (Consolidated Engineering Labs)</i>	<i>Abdelkader Khelifa (Apex Testing Labs)</i>
<i>Jim Auser (BSK Associates)</i>	<i>Greg Leroy (Consolidated Engineering Labs)</i>
<i>Tim Casey (Construction Testing Services)</i>	<i>Martha McDonnell (Youngdahl Consulting Group)</i>
<i>Cliff Craig (Structure Groups)</i>	<i>Tim Rodriguez (BSK Associates)</i>
<i>Miki Craig (CCTIA)</i>	<i>Sam Sayawat (Inspection Services, Inc.)</i>
<i>Terry Eglund (Testing Engineers, Inc.)</i>	<i>Troy Schiess (Terracon Consultants, Inc.)</i>
<i>Mohammed Faiyaz (Applied Materials &amp; Engrg.)</i>	<i>August Smarke (Mid Pacific Engineering, Inc.)</i>
<i>Eric France (DSA)</i>	<i>Dan Smith (Mid Pacific Engineering, Inc.)</i>
<i>Bob Haynes (Inspection Services, Inc.)</i>	<i>Chet Widom (State Architect, DSA)</i>
<i>Hanh Hong (Twining, Inc.)</i>	<i>Wilson Ye (Consolidated Engineering Labs)</i>
<i>Ryan Huxley (DSA)</i>	

### 2. Program – DSA Roundtable

Guest Speakers: Chet Widom, State Architect  
Ryan Huxley, Supervising Structural Engineer  
Eric France, Laboratory Evaluation & Accreditation Coordinator

- *President Rodriguez introduced today's guests from the Division of the State Architect and expressed the Council's gratitude for their attendance. Mr. Widom responded with DSA's appreciation to the Council for hosting these roundtables in Northern and Southern California each year.*
- *As is always the case, Mr. Widom noted, there is good news and bad news. On the good side, there is lots of work out there and the bonds proposed in June were very successful – most notably in the Oakland area, where almost \$3 billion were passed. The Sacramento area saw an increase of \$536 million; the San Diego area passed \$349 million; and the Los Angeles area came in with \$1.57 billion. California will see an additional \$9 billion in proposed bonds on the November ballot.*
- *The bad news is that all the upcoming work will create a staffing issue for DSA. Typically, the Los Angeles and San Diego field offices have responsibility for about one-third of the state's work, with Sacramento and Oakland covering about one-sixth. Suddenly, the Oakland office has landed in the middle of a "boom town". For various reasons, the Oakland office has lost a lot of staff, and has had trouble hiring qualified staff due to competition. Mr. Widom noted it is difficult in the Bay Area due to the cost of living. DSA is transferring work across the various offices, but that should not affect the testing agencies, as most of it will be in the early development stages of the projects.*
- *Unfortunately, certification of buildings continues to be a problem within the system. In January 2011, 69% of projects were certified. The "legacy" projects have now been reduced by 50%, but newer projects continue to add to the problem. The local District offices have been tasked with the responsibility of involving the testing agencies in the process of getting the legacy buildings certified.*
- *DSA's implementation of the inspection card process has resulted in 91-92% project certification. Mr. Widom stressed that while this is an improvement, 100% certification should be the result, and DSA is having a tough time of it – mostly due to testing agencies in the Bay and Sacramento areas not providing the required DSA 291s. He did note, however, that architects have even worse compliance numbers. He is seeking industry's help as to how to get the work done, and input as to why the forms are not being signed and submitted.*



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• *Mr. Ryan Huxley took the floor to discuss the wrap-up of the current code cycle, and the roll out of the 2016 California Building Code, which will become effective January 1, 2017. He noted the new code should be available the beginning of July, and contains a few modifications to the testing requirements, including the following:*

- *Minor flatwork will no longer require batch plant inspections.*
- *Rebar testing will not be required for non-building structures (marquis signs, trash enclosures, site walls), but must be specifically identified on the plans.*
- *Mortar testing will not be required for preapproved blended mixes, and on small structures; however, grout sampling will be increased to daily.*
- *Alternative means to verify consolidation and bond (thermography, impact echo, pulse velocity) will be allowed in lieu of masonry cores. DSA will be issuing an Interpretation of Regulation in order to assist the design professionals in understanding the new requirements and available technology.*

• *As to the administrative requirements under the new code, submittal time for test reports will be increased to 14 days, with inspection reports required within one business day.*

• *Mr. Widom wrapped up DSA's opening remarks noting his belief that, administratively, things were going well (with the exception of Verified Reports), and the Box had proved to be useful and convenient. He then encouraged the attendees to present questions and/or comments for further discussion.*

a. *DSA Box*

• *Director Terry Eglund noted some architects are utilizing a different system that is not compatible with the Box.*

• *Member Cliff Craig inquired if the DSA 103 is now accessible in the Box. Mr. Widom affirmed it was, and could be located in the architect's folder. He noted eventually the plans would be available there, as well. His goal remains to get everything available in the Box – making it the repository for everything, delivering access to the owner (district), and providing transparency. DSA has a warehouse full of old paper records, which it is now in the process of digitizing for upload to the Box. Mr. Huxley noted DSA has embarked on an electronic plan check process, which will provide drawings, specifications, etc. electronically to the Box.*

• *Member Dan Smith requested clarification of what type of documents should, and should not, be uploaded. Mr. Eric France responded testing agencies were encouraged to upload conforming, as well as non-conforming, reports. Mr. Widom commented that the initial intent was to upload only non-conforming reports, but it was found to be easier to have access to all reports. He suggested separate folders (conforming vs. non-conforming), and utilizing a 2-week date range for conforming reports (multiple pages) rather than uploading each one individually. Mr. Widom reiterated DSA's preference to have everything in the Box, and requested anyone to call his office if a Field Engineer or Project Inspector instructed the testing agency differently. Mr. Huxley affirmed any testing agency receiving conflicting advice or direction from a Field Engineer should notify the Field Office or call him directly.*

• *Mr. France responded to another inquiry asking if uploading reports to the Box satisfied the report distribution requirements of the code. He suggested contacting the architect and structural engineer to ask if use of the Box would satisfy their reporting requirements. If they responded in the affirmative, the reporting requirements have met the administrative requirements; if they responded negatively, the testing agency should provide reports in the requested fashion. DSA is satisfied with the use of the Box and hopes industry will assist in convincing the design professionals it is a good method.*

b. *Modular Construction*

• *Director Eglund pointed out DSA requirement for in-plant inspectors for relocatable buildings, and inquired if the same was true for during fabrication of modular elevators. Mr. Huxley responded there was a requirement for an in-plant inspector, but he could not immediately recall the document that referenced the policy. Mr. Widom observed the design engineer was ultimately responsible for any modular construction at*



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the point it arrived on the jobsite. Mr. Huxley continued that PR13-01 describes the responsibility for design engineers to obtain in-plant inspections, but cautioned the document has had many revisions recently, behooving everyone to look for those modifications. DSA continues to allow the manufacturer to hire the in-plant inspector if it is stockpiling inventory, but qualification of the inspector must still meet DSA criteria. Sign-off and submittal of a DSA 152IP is required prior to the modular leaving the plant, except that a DSA 130/131 should be used for bleachers.

- c. DSA 291 and DSA 292
  - Mr. Widom noted he is attempting to eliminate the two forms and integrate the information and sign-off into the project card system. He commented the card is no longer just a card – it is becoming a bound information system.
- d. DSA 102-IC
  - Director Egland commented that revisions to a DSA 102-IC could be done on blank forms not incorporating all previously submitted data (indicating the revision(s) only), thereby creating multiple pieces at the end of the project.



## 102-IC

### CONSTRUCTION START NOTICE/INSPECTION CARD REQUEST

This form has been completed by the  Architect/Engineer responsible for the project, or by the  School District, in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, Section 4-331, and submitted to DSA.

DSA Use Only: Date Cards Issued by DSA:		Number of cards issued:	Issued by:
<b>1. GENERAL INFORMATION</b>			
School District/State Agency:	DSA File #:	-	
School Name:	DSA App. #:	[dropdown]	
Project Name:	CDS #:		
Date of DSA 102-IC Submittal:	Construction Start Date:		
Submitted By:	Phone #:		
Email:	Number of attached pages: (if none, enter "0")		
For initial submittal, complete Sections 1 through 5, or			
<input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if amending the original or previously submitted DSA 102-IC, and enter only the amending information in applicable sections. Note: Additional inspection cards must be requested or a new DSA 102-IC submitted, with the new date.			

Mr. Widom responded DSA is trying to get the document modified to a live form on the internet, which would eliminate this problem. He noted the state is converting its internet system to Fi\$Cal, which has delayed DSA's progress on the new iTracker development. Eventually, all this will be done as an online form. He is frustrated at the delays as he was hoping to get all this in place before the end of his term in 2 years, but noted the integration has been much more difficult than anticipated.

- e. Project Inspectors
  - Mr. Widom inquired if the quality of Project Inspectors has increased subsequent to DSA's efforts to raise the level of knowledge and practice. Director Egland responded DSA Field Engineers had significantly improved the performance of the Project Inspectors working in the Bay Area. Mr. Widom was pleased to hear this, and noted the Field Engineers are not to do inspections, but are tasking with making sure the Project Inspectors are doing their jobs.
  - Director Egland went on to note he had seen a document from a Field Engineer recommending the Project Inspector not ask advice from the Special Inspector. Mr. Widom expressed his astonishment, noting the Field Engineer, Project Inspector, and Special Inspector should all be working as a team. Mr. France commented



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*DSA encourages interchange as it increases the quality of work. Mr. Widom requested to be notified of these instances in order to take curative action. He stressed that any retribution against the reporting agency would be stopped immediately.*

*f. Construction Management Firms*

- Member Cliff Craig noted there were some issues with CM firms unfamiliar with DSA's project administration protocols, as well as with some architects. He went on to say office clerks appeared to be completing many assignments, creating problems due to their lack of knowledge. Mr. Widom indicated DSA is developing a program for architects (which may need to include CMs) on how to work with DSA and successfully complete a project. It does not include technical requirements – only administrative elements. Mr. Huxley observed DSA has a half-hour presentation online for design professionals addressing how to get through the post-construction compliance procedures.*

<http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/other/NavigatingPostApprovalToCertification.ppsx>

*g. DSA Communications*

- DSA has put together a group to provide information and announcements electronically. Mr. Widom noted CCTIA members might have been inundated with some of their work.*

*h. Laboratory Evaluation and Accreditation Program*

- President Rodriguez inquired if there had been any change in the number of agencies participating in the program since the significant fee increase was implemented. Mr. France responded there might have been a loss of 7 labs/offices, but new ones have offset the loss. There are approximately 170 firms/offices currently accredited, so there is very little change. Mr. Widom commented DSA regretted seeing some of the small outlying firms drop out of the program, but it was understandable when those firms only completed one or two jobs each year. Mr. France noted he has been tracking the activity, and was pleasantly surprised that some of the firms he had expected to drop off had remained. He also commented that there had been some “game playing”, but not much.*

- Director Egland asked Mr. France if he was happy with the AMRL audits being conducted to ASTM E329. He responded in the affirmative, and noted he was glad the administrative section of the code had included language that other accreditation bodies might be acceptable.*

*i. Geotechnical Report Review Prior to Release of Construction Documents*

- Member Dan Smith asked if DSA had a procedure in place whereby plans would be submitted to the geotechnical engineer of record for review prior to the release of the construction documents. Mr. Huxley responded he was unaware of anything in the regulations, and suggested the geotechnical engineer of record contact the school district to stress the benefit of this type of review. Member Smith noted his experience in several cases where the plans did not meet the geotechnical report recommendations, most notably in site grading. Others present noted similar cases where this had occurred. Mr. Widom commented he was unaware this was a problem, and assured he would bring the issue to DSA's plan checkers to assist in coordinating this effort.*

*j. Approved Fabricator Status*

- Director Egland inquired if DSA had any plans for reviewing the concept of shop welding to more closely align with the IBC. Mr. France responded DSA was not looking at adopting “approved fabricators” at this time. Mr. Huxley noted there was a wide variety of shops involved on DSA projects, unlike those OSHPD dealt with on its projects. Mr. Widom commented DSA believes there will be more and more prefabricated components in future construction, and how to review and inspect them is becoming a struggle. Member Martha McDonnell noted her firm had recently completed a 3-story hotel built modularly in only two days.*

- Mr. Widom wrapped up the program encouraging firms to phone or contact DSA with any areas of concern. President Rodriguez thanked the DSA guests for their time and insight, and recessed the meeting. Committee Reports and other business was deferred to the next meeting,*



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### 3. Adjournment

#### a. Time

- *There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m. by President Tim Rodriguez.*

#### b. Next meeting

- *The next meeting will be July 28th, 1:00 p.m., at the Hilton Hotel in Stockton.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Miki Craig  
Executive Secretary