



Spring 2015 | Cindi A. Christenson, Registrar | Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

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## Message From the Board Chair



David Dias

I hope that you are enjoying a busy spring season as the pace of construction continues to quicken in California. According to a state Employment Development Department [report](#), the construction sector in the state bounced back to become the fastest-growing industry on a percentage basis between March 2014 and March 2015, adding more than 46,000 jobs (up 6.9 percent).

Amid the boom in private and public works construction, CSLB has its own list of spring improvement projects: easier and more accessible license renewal payment stations, and expansion of our battle against the underground economy.

Here's what CSLB has planned in the coming weeks and months:

- We've streamlined the credit card payment system for licensees at our headquarters in Sacramento, and have introduced a payment kiosk at our main Southern California office in Norwalk. The ePayment system allows credit card payments for most license categories, using a touchscreen computer set up in the office lobbies. The payment system also is planned for CSLB offices in Fresno, San Bernardino, and San Diego later this year. ([Read more about ePayments.](#))
- A revamped renewal application form also is coming soon. This easier-to-use form will be the latest in a series of upgrades CSLB is undertaking to modernize and simplify services that licensees and the public utilize the most.
- The Little Hoover Commission has released a new [study](#) about the underground economy's devastating effects on California industries. CSLB has been a major player in the fight against the underground economy and, on June 12, our new Registrar of

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Contractors, Cindi Christenson, will host a conference/workshop to explore strategies to combat underground practices, trends, and opportunities for criminal prosecution. The conference will be held in Castroville (Monterey County), and will feature speakers from CSLB, the Department of Insurance, and the Monterey County District Attorney's Office, which has been particularly aggressive in pursuing unlicensed or rogue contractors. C-10 Electrical, C-39 Roofing, and C-20 Warm-Air Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning contractors who have been particularly hard-hit by unlicensed, cut-rate competition, are particularly encouraged to attend. Keep an eye on CSLB's website for registration details.

A review of CSLB's mission, and its operations, recently was conducted at the state Capitol as part of the Sunset Review process. As a Board within the California Department of Consumer Affairs, CSLB is reviewed every four years as a legislative oversight procedure. It's expected that legislators who sit on the reviewing committee will extend CSLB's "sunset date," in essence its charter to operate as a state board, for another four years, until 2020. As board chair, I had the opportunity to introduce the report that outlined CSLB's activities and successes during the previous four years, and believe me, it's an impressive list.

You can expect CSLB to continue its vigorous regulation of California's construction industry, and to aggressively pursue unlicensed contractors and unscrupulous businesses through sting operations, construction site sweeps, and other strategies. We want to build more partnerships with licensees, industry groups, and government agencies to present a united front against individuals and businesses who try to hide from state laws or take advantage of consumers.

We encourage you to report incidents where you suspect illegal contracting. You can give our Statewide Investigative Fraud Team a heads-up directly from our [website](#).

Best wishes for your continued success.

**Respectfully,**

**David Dias**



[Printable Version of Newsletter](#)



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## CSLB Still Expediting Well Drilling, Machinery/Pump Licensing



With California in the full grip of an unrelenting drought, CSLB is continuing to expedite applications for those seeking to become **C-57 Well Drilling** and **C-61/D-21 Machinery and Pumps** contractors.

CSLB and partner agencies have been taking steps to reduce regulatory bottlenecks that inhibit licensure since last year; CSLB since has expedited 167 C-57 and 80 C-61/D-21 license applications.

CSLB encourages currently licensed **"A" General Engineering** contractors to consider adding the C-57 classification to their license. "A"s are authorized to perform water supply projects but not well drilling unless they hold the C-57 classification. To get that classification, "A" licensees need to have four years of verifiable journey-level C-57 experience, take the C-57 exam, and pass a criminal background check (unless previously completed with CSLB), but don't have to retake the business and law examination. Questions can be directed to CSLB's Classifications Deputy by [email](#), or call 916.255.4118.

To legally contract for water well drilling or work on pumps and machinery in California, companies must be licensed by CSLB, and all employees must be covered by workers' compensation insurance. CSLB has a reciprocity agreement for well drillers licensed in Nevada, which

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allows for the waiver of some examinations if those licensees want to work in California. The agreement is another way to accelerate the California licensing process.

It is important to note that licensees who work on water well projects or water well machinery can only subcontract to California-licensed C-57 and/or C-61/D-21 contractors; C-61/D-21 contractors can only work on pump maintenance and/or replacement, not the actual water well drilling. Drillers who are out of compliance with licensing or other regulatory violations can be reported to CSLB using its [Lead Referral Complaint form](#).



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**Paying Fees Just Got Easier at CSLB  
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A revamped computer payment system for contractors who pay their fees by credit card is now available in Sacramento – and, for the first time, in CSLB's Norwalk office.

The previous text-dominant look has been simplified and relies more on buttons with images to guide users through payment options. Functions have been combined in order of importance. A computer mouse is available at each payment "kiosk" if a contractor prefers that over the touchscreen monitor.

Contractors who use the ePayment system also must bring the necessary documents to submit to a CSLB representative after paying their fees. The payment process is not complete until all documents have been turned in at the customer window.

Documents for renewals, reactivations, and all application types must be signed. No documents are required for re-examinations or the initial license fee. There are 16 CSLB license categories, the ones most frequently used that are available for ePayments. [Click here](#) for a complete list of CSLB fees.

The system is slated to be expanded to CSLB offices in Fresno, San



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Bernardino, and San Diego later this year.

## License No. 1,000,000 and Counting for CSLB

CSLB recently recognized a landmark moment in its history – the one-millionth contractor license issued since its formation in 1929. No. 1,000,000 was a C-61, D-49 limited specialty license for a tree service company in Norwalk. Unfortunately, no grand prize for the "lucky" licensee – just some good bragging rights.





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## CSLB Offers New C-22 Asbestos Abatement License

Contractors who perform asbestos abatement or removal work of construction materials that contain specified levels of the known carcinogen can now apply for a C-22 Asbestos Abatement contractor license.

The **C-22** classification became official on January 1, 2015. The C-22 is separate from the existing Asbestos Certification (per **Business and Professions Code section 7058.5**), which continues to be available for contractors who perform asbestos-related work only within the scope of their contractor licenses. (The Asbestos Certification functions as an overlay to the specific classification(s) held by the licensee.)



Contractors who hold a CSLB certification and perform asbestos work within their licensed trade(s) are not required to obtain the C-22 license.

All C-22 license holders are required to have met designated experience requirements, and have a current and valid registration with the

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Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH). The C-22 Asbestos Abatement classification functions hand-in-hand with the DOSH registration – all work performed under the C-22 classification must be in accordance with DOSH regulations, requirements, and training.

[Click here](#) to learn how the new C-22 classification works.

As of May 1, 49 contractors had earned a C-22 license.





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## Board Backs HIS Changes as Part of 2015 Legislative Platform



CSLB is working with the state Legislature to make fundamental changes to the laws that cover Home Improvement Salespersons (HIS). Currently, an HIS must register with CSLB each time he or she begins work for a new contractor. Registration processing times can delay the ability to begin working in the new job.

**Senate Bill 561**, carried by Sen. Bill Monning, D-Carmel, would allow an HIS to apply for a single registration with CSLB and keep that registration when they're hired by a new employer. Additionally, contractors would be responsible for notifying CSLB, in writing, each time a new, registered HIS begins working for them.

HIS registrations with CSLB have jumped 40 percent during the past three years. In fiscal year 2013-14, CSLB received about 800 applications per month.

While registration applications have grown, the number of CSLB staff has not. The delay in HIS processing times prompted one industry group to propose changing the current registration system to allow an HIS to work with more than one contractor. After review, CSLB endorsed the idea and agreed to sponsor the legislation.

**SB 560** (Monning) would allow CSLB's enforcement representatives (ERs) to issue a Notice to Appear (NTA) in a superior court to an unlicensed contractor for failure to carry workers' compensation insurance. ERs can issue a Notice to Appear in court for contracting without a license, but not those found without a required workers' comp policy. The ability of ERs to write an NTA for workers' comp violations should streamline the process of referring such cases to local district

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attorney offices for a criminal filing.

**SB 465**, sponsored by Sen. Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo, would extend CSLB's "sunset date," an action that essentially allows CSLB to continue operations until 2020. An oversight hearing before the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee was held at the state Capitol.

**SB 119** (Hill) defines CSLB's role in dealing with licensed contractors who damage underground installations during excavations, and violate notification requirements before digging.

As written now, SB 119 would require CSLB to order licensees who have violated the dig alert requirement to undergo training, or face penalties ranging from a fine to license suspension for noncompliance. SB 119's current provisions also call for CSLB to put in place a graduated scale of administrative fines, depending on the circumstances, for contractors who fail to notify regional centers of impending excavations, then damage utilities.

The Board noted that CSLB is already in compliance with the bill, and has established a program that addresses licensees who violate dig requirements. CSLB also has worked with Pacific Gas and Electric Company to investigate complaints against contractors suspected of digging without a permit and damaging pipelines.

Stakeholder meetings that include CSLB and contractor groups are expected to continue to refine the bill's language, staff said.

[Click here](#) to follow a bill's progress and amendments, or search for legislation of interest, on the Office of Legislative Counsel's legislative information website.





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## Away From a Construction Site? Leave Contact Info with Your Crew

Project supervisors or prime contractors who find they need to be away from an active construction site should at least leave a business card with employees to identify the company, contractor license number, and a telephone number where a responsible party can be reached.

State compliance investigators regularly conduct "sweeps" of active construction sites around the state to verify that all licensing, workers' compensation insurance, employment, and safety laws are being followed. Many times, CSLB and its partner state agencies roll up to construction sites and find that there's no one in authority to answer questions. Instead, they encounter employees who claim they don't know the name of their employer. Investigators then are forced to revisit the site and take extra time tracking down the contractor.

As a member of the state's **Labor Enforcement Task Force** (LETF), CSLB and its partnering agencies – the Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CalOSHA) and Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, and Employment Development Department – diligently check job sites to help curb California's underground economy. If a team can quickly determine that your job site is in compliance by contacting you more quickly, it can spend more time addressing violators.

In 2014, LETF conducted 613 inspections of active job sites and found 512, or 84 percent, out of compliance with state license, labor, tax, health, safety, or insurance regulations.



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## Contractors Bidding on Public Works Jobs First Must Register with State



Licenses who compete for public works projects need to be aware of important new requirements when submitting a bid for a publically funded construction project. All contractors bidding on public works projects are now required to register with the state [Department of Industrial Relations](#) (DIR), and that registration must be verified before a contract can be awarded, even if the project did not go out to bid.

The DIR [registration requirement](#) that began March 1, 2015, is the result of [Senate Bill \(SB\) 854](#), which took effect in 2014 and changed laws pertaining to the administration and enforcement of prevailing wage requirements.

DIR maintains a [list of registered contractors and subcontractors](#) to assist awarding bodies that must confirm the registration status before considering a bid or awarding a contract. Prime contractors also must consult the list to verify that their bid team members are registered.

The annual DIR registration is \$300 and covers a fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). Only contractors in good legal standing, which includes having a current and active CSLB license free of disciplinary

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action, are eligible to register for the DIR's public works list.

SB 854 also requires contractors to submit certified payroll records to the state Labor Commissioner's Office for all new projects. Contractors must provide these payroll records for projects awarded prior to April 1, when the requirement took effect, if those projects are still ongoing after January 1, 2016. Projects undertaken by Caltrans, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Unified School District, Sacramento County, and those covered by a labor project agreement, are exempt.

It is hoped that the new requirements will reduce violations in such areas as prevailing wages, workers' compensation insurance, and unpaid liabilities. CSLB's Public Works Unit investigators work to identify contractors who do not follow the law, and seek administrative or criminal sanctions, depending on the violation. The unit also works closely with DIR, its Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, Caltrans, and the Department of Insurance, as well as numerous labor-compliance organizations throughout the state.

The Public Works Unit has been effective in identifying non-compliant contractors. It closed 239 complaints in 2014 – a 68 percent increase over 2013 – with 94 complaints referred for administrative disciplinary actions and four referred to prosecutors for criminal charges.





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## Learn About Your Role in State's Energy Compliance Program

### *Energy Commission webinars explain Title 20 regulations for appliances, equipment*

California's **Title 20** regulations set energy and water efficiency standards for appliances and equipment, including televisions, lighting products, heating and air conditioning equipment, pool pumps, and dishwashers. Only regulated products that have been tested, certified, and listed in California's **Appliance Efficiency Database** may be legally sold in the state, and, as a licensed contractor, you are responsible for ensuring any equipment that you are installing is certified.

The **California Energy Commission's** (CEC) database allows contractors and others to verify the models of regulated products that can be sold and installed in California. If the equipment is on the list, it's legal. If you're not sure or have a question, CEC is sponsoring a series of informational webinars to review current compliance and enforcement requirements.

The **Title 20**

DATE OF WEBINAR	MEETING NUMBER
May 19, 2015, 10 A.M.	927 734 585
June 10, 2015, 10 A.M.	920 699 264

**Compliance Assistance Webinars** will outline what is regulated, how to certify a regulated appliance, how to use the appliance efficiency database, and give an overview of CEC's enforcement authority.

Contractors that hold licenses in the C-20 Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning, C-10 Electrical, C-36 Plumbing, C-38 Refrigeration, C-61/D-35 Pool and Spa Maintenance, and C-61/D-65 Weatherization and Energy Conservation classifications may be interested in viewing a Title 20 webinar.

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To access via computer: Go to this [website](#) and enter the unique meeting number found for each date above.

When prompted, enter your name and the following meeting password:  
T20@10AM.

The "Join Conference" menu will offer you a choice of audio connections:

- **To call into the meeting:** Select "I will call in" and follow the on-screen directions.
- **To have WebEx call you:** Enter your phone number and click "Call Me."
- **To listen over the computer:** If you have a broadband connection, and a headset or a computer microphone and speakers, you may use VoIP (Internet audio) by going to the Audio menu, clicking on "Use Computer Headset," then "Call Using Computer."

Via telephone only (no visual presentation): Call 1.866.469.3239. When prompted, enter the unique meeting number listed above.





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*To fulfill its consumer protection mission, CSLB's Enforcement division — with the help of partnering state agencies and local law enforcement — works hard to hold accountable those contractors who harm the public through illegal business practices.*



## Unlicensed Contractor Who Targeted Vulnerable Seniors Gets 12 Years in Prison

An unlicensed contractor from West Sacramento was ordered to spend the next 12 years in state prison after an investigation initiated by CSLB led to a wider probe that uncovered more than a dozen elderly victims and losses that exceeded \$500,000.

Patrick R. Murphy, 60, pleaded no contest in March 2015 in Sacramento County Superior Court to four counts of elder financial abuse, and an enhancement acknowledging a pattern of fraud resulting in a loss of more than one-half million dollars, according to the Sacramento County District Attorney's (DA) Office.

CSLB began investigating Murphy in 2013, when a man reported that during a five-month period, his elderly and ailing father had written almost \$73,000 in checks to Murphy and a partner for a succession of small "repair" projects at his Rancho Cordova home.

An industry expert evaluating the work concluded an excessive amount

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was charged, much of the quality was poor, and portions of the contract were not fulfilled. In addition to contracting without a license, CSLB investigators also found evidence that Murphy had been using contractor license numbers belonging to other companies without their knowledge, and violated workers' compensation insurance requirements.

The case was turned over to the Sacramento DA for criminal prosecution. A DA investigator found Murphy had engaged in a similar pattern of financial abuse with other elderly victims.

Prosecutors said that Murphy, as he had in the Rancho Cordova case, had targeted senior citizens he met while doing small construction projects at their homes. According to the DA report, once the initial jobs were completed, Murphy added work at an exorbitant cost that went far above the real value. In several incidents, payments were demanded for the same work. Murphy also borrowed money from some victims, which he did not repay.

## Properties Needed for Undercover Sting Operations

To catch unlicensed contractors who illegally skim business from licensed contractors, CSLB needs residential and commercial properties where sting operations can be conducted. As you know, CSLB's Statewide Investigative Fraud Teams (SWIFT) proactively target those suspected of contracting without a license. Many are identified through online ads, some from industry leads, others from complaints. Investigators pose as homeowners and invite suspected unlicensed individuals to come to the properties to give a project bid. If the bid is over \$500, they are arrested and given a Notice to Appear in superior court to answer to the misdemeanor charges.

Those who participate may be paid a stipend for the use of their properties.

To participate, contact:

**Northern SWIFT** (Sacramento), 916.255.2924

**Central SWIFT** (Fresno), 559.490.0580

**Southern SWIFT** (Norwalk), 562.345.7600



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## Remember to List License Numbers, Name of Record in All Advertising

Business vehicles can serve as a great way to advertise your contracting services, but be sure you're following the law for displaying the information.

Licenses must list their business name and contractor license number on each of their commercially registered vehicles (**Business and Professions Code section 7029.6**). The name and number must be in a clearly visible location on the vehicle (in letters of at least 72-point font or three-quarters of an inch high and wide) and the name that is displayed must be identical to the business name you provided to CSLB in your application.

The standards are higher for C-36 Plumbing, C-45 Sign, and C-57 Water Well Drilling contractors who use vehicles for business. They must post their business address on the vehicle, in addition to the business name and contractor license number, and in a type size at least 1½ inches high (**B&P Code section 7029.5**).

All too often, CSLB representatives in the field find company vehicles with an ad or logo that does not include a license number and other

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required information. CSLB is authorized to take disciplinary action against licensees who fail to follow these laws for business vehicle advertising.

Also, remember that licensees must list the name of their business **exactly as it appears** in CSLB records for any advertisement, bid, or contract. **Name style variations are not allowed.** Contracts must be in the same form and type as specified in **B&P Code section 7159**.

Licensees should use the **Application to Change Business Name or Address** form (13L-4) to update changes to a business name, addresses, telephone numbers, and emails. Business names must be compatible with the type of business entity licensed (i.e., sole owner, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or joint venture) and the classification(s) held by the licensee and must match the name as registered with the Secretary of State's Office, as appropriate.





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## The DIRT on CA's Excavation Incident Reporting System



It's not a  
pretty

sounding acronym – DIRT – but it is an important one for licensed contractors or anyone else who digs into the ground during a construction project. DIRT stands for Damage Information Reporting Tool, and it's a mandatory reporting system for anyone who causes damage during an underground dig or comes close to having an incident.

Excavators and operators have been required to provide information about "facility events" using the California Regional Common Ground Alliance's DIRT system ([Government Code sections 4216.2 and 4216.6 \(c\) and \(d\)](#)) since January 2014. A facility event is defined as excavator downtime, damage, or violations caused by pipeline strikes, or even a near-miss that does no damage.

This information-gathering helps identify the root causes of pipeline damage, the type of equipment used, time of the incident, and the type of work being performed. The data is compiled into a yearly report and

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will be used to develop damage prevention strategies and create educational or marketing programs.

Unlicensed Contractor Who Targeted Vulnerable Seniors Gets 12 Years in Prison

The data and its sources are kept confidential and anonymous, according to the Alliance. A DIRT [webpage](#) provides the facility event form, and registration. The Alliance also urges the public to answer questions in the form's "California Specific 4216 Root Cause" section so information particular to California can be collected.

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A DIRT [webinar](#) can be accessed on the Alliance website. Other questions can be answered via the Alliance's email.

Remember to List License Numbers, Name of Record in All Advertising

Facility event reports can be submitted at any time. The deadline for data to be included in the 2014-15 annual report has passed, but the new reporting year started April 1, 2015, and continues until March 31, 2016. Annual reports will be posted on the websites of California's Underground Service Alert (USA) regional notification centers, [Underground Service Alert of Northern California](#) or [Underground Service Alert of Southern California](#).

The DIRT on CA's Excavation Incident Reporting System

## Before You Turn a Shovel, Make a Call

Before You Turn a Shovel, Make a Call

No matter how minimal a project may seem, contractors who plan to dig or excavate are required to call 8-1-1 and coordinate with either the [Underground Service Alert of Northern California](#) or [Underground Service Alert of Southern California](#).



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

Landfill Waste Reduction Deadline Nearing

You must call 8-1-1 at least two working days, but not more than 14 days, before starting your dig. You are not allowed to dig during that time.

Contractors Who Prep Pot Growing Sites Must Follow State Laws

You will be given a ticket number that references your dig information. Each contractor must have his or her own number. Sharing a ticket among contractors on a single job is not allowed. Tickets are valid for up to 28 days after they're issued.

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Once the call is made, accurately outline your excavation area. Utility company representatives will visit within two working days either to mark or stake the horizontal path of their underground lines, provide information about the location, or advise whether there are lines in conflict with your project.

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## Landfill Waste Reduction Deadline Nearing

Contractors have an important role in California's goal to dramatically reduce solid waste materials that are sent to landfills by 75 percent, a goal targeted for 2020. Under a 2011 law created by [Public Resources Code sections 41780.01](#) and the [Department of Resources' Recycling and Recovery's](#) (CalRecycle) guidelines, California residents and businesses must throw away less than 2.7 pounds per person per day (on average) to meet the 75 percent goal. The per-person amount was identified using a base-level calculation of 10.7 pounds per person from 1990 to 2010.



Known as the ["75 Percent Initiative,"](#) contractors also must work to meet the strict new building standards of [CALGreen](#) (California Green Building Standards Code). Construction and demolition waste represents a significant amount of the overall waste stream sent to landfills.

According to a 2008 [Cal Recycle](#) survey, the most recent available,

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construction/demolition materials make up almost 30 percent of the waste total by weight. CalRecycle plans to release an updated survey of California's waste stream later this year. Current law, updated in 2013, in part requires that 50 percent of construction-generated waste be diverted from landfills by 2020. That regulation is part of the larger overall intent of CALGreen to reduce water use, greenhouse gas emissions, and energy consumption through responsible building practices in California.

CalRecycle identifies typical construction project byproducts as lumber, drywall, metal, masonry (brick and concrete), carpet, plastic, pipe, rocks, dirt, paper, cardboard, and green waste associated with landscaping. Many of these materials already are being diverted for reuse or recycling by contractors. Officials hope that "green" practices will continue to grow as a building philosophy and practical way to save needed space at landfills.

CalRecycle urges construction and renovation contractors to consider and adopt these steps before they embark on a project, if they haven't already:

#### **Establish a Construction Waste Management Plan**

Estimate the amount and type of waste that will be generated from a project, determine what can be recycled, and the cost for haul-off. Many local jurisdictions have construction and demolition ordinances, so contractors should refer to those for guidance.

Waste management links through CalRecycle:

- [C&D Waste Management Specifications](#)
- [CMRA Master Specifications, Plans and Reports](#)

#### **Reuse**

A popular trend in green, or sustainable, building is the practice of reusing components that previously were discarded. Rather than demolishing a building or parts of it, an increasing number of contractors are now "deconstructing," or dismantling building components for reuse or recycle. Cabinets, doors, windows, and even sections of building frames can be salvaged and resold, offsetting the cost of taking down a structure.

CalRecycle has these sustainable building links:

- [Green Building](#) home page
- [Green Building Construction Documents](#)
- [Green Building Guidelines](#)
- [Green Building Specifications](#)

#### **Recycle**

Providing containers, or bins, to separate construction byproducts on a job site is one of the main tenets of an overall waste management plan for a building or multi-staged renovation project. The practice will result in a clean organization of recyclables that will be easier to sort or sell.

The materials most often separated and recovered from



construction/renovation projects include wood waste, drywall, metal, paper, and cardboard. The recycle market has evolved to take in most construction waste products, and processors can be found in almost every part of the state.

More recycling links from CalRecycle:

- [Recycled-Content Construction Products database](#)
- Construction and demolition recyclers – processors and receivers (Search [Facility Information Toolbox](#) (FacIT))
- CalMAX: [California Materials Exchange](#) online listings and other information
- [C&D Recycling Publications](#) section of CalRecycle's online publications catalog
- [Recycled Aggregate](#) fact sheet
- [Drywall Recycling](#) fact sheet

CalRecycle also has a video series about waste reduction practices on its [YouTube](#) and [Video Central](#) training page.



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[License Revocations](#) | [Past Issues](#)

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## Contractors Who Prep Pot Growing Sites Must Follow State Laws



**C-12 Earthwork and Paving** contractors who prepare properties for marijuana cultivation will be held at least partly responsible for causing environmental damage under a new program launched by a coalition of California water boards and other

agencies.

The Cannabis Cultivation Enforcement Initiative is intended to address the impact that marijuana growing is having upon California's groundwater and surface water resources. Part of the problem stems from such issues as improper grading of growing sites and failure to properly contain sediment, which leads to erosion and runoff that carries contaminants into creek systems. In addition, marijuana growers have been terracing unsuitable sites, constructing dams, and building roads without permits.

The **State Water Resources Control Board** can levy fines in excess of \$10,000 per day if industry standards are not followed. Contracting without a license can result in misdemeanor charges, up to six months in jail, a \$5,000 court fine, and up to \$15,000 in administrative fines from CSLB.



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## Employers Must Use Cal/OSHA's New Lead Warning Signs

New lead warning signs and labels are now available to help employers comply

with Cal/OSHA's revised and more protective hazard communication requirements. Employers must inform their employees about potential lead hazards with work area signs and labels for lead-contaminated equipment and clothing that specifically include language about lead's danger to the central nervous system and reproductive health. Employers must comply with the new labeling rules by June 2015 and new signage rules by June 2016.

The state's Occupational Lead Poisoning Prevention Program report, [Recommendations for Improving the Cal/OSHA Lead Standards](#), suggests that Cal/OSHA significantly lower lead exposure thresholds for workers.

Use the [Lead Warning Signs and Labels](#) information on Cal/OSHA's website to access the new lead warning signs and labels.



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## How HVAC Contractors Can Be a Consumer 'Ambassador'

CSLB is providing C-20 Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) contractors with consumer fact sheets that offer valuable information to educate prospective clients.



CSLB launched the **Ambassador Program** last March. Developed in coordination with industry partners and the California Energy Commission, the Ambassador Program provides materials for C-20 contractors to educate consumers who plan to purchase and install new HVAC units.

At the same time, the program also seeks to warn consumers about the dangers of hiring unscrupulous contractors that do not comply with license and permit requirements.

Contractors can download a package of materials from CSLB's website to distribute. They will receive the following:

- Description of expected energy savings from a proper HVAC installation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star program
- Comparison chart showing the benefits of contracting with a licensed contractor

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- Example of how to use CSLB's online [Instant License Check](#) to verify contractor license and workers' compensation insurance status
- Checklist to guide consumers as they navigate the HVAC purchasing process

The program also aims to elicit more compliance from contractors with workers' compensation insurance and building permit requirements.





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## Industry Expert Contractors Needed in Central Valley

CSLB's Industry Expert Program (IEP) is recruiting licensed contractors in several Central Valley regions to provide a variety of essential services that assist CSLB's Enforcement division with consumer complaint investigations. Industry Experts (IEs) are being sought from Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, and Tulare counties.



IEP is comprised of a statewide pool of licensed tradespeople who serve as independent consultants and are compensated by the board for their time. IEs

have a unique opportunity to help ensure that construction safety and industry standards are being met. An IE inspects projects and prepares reports that provide unbiased professional opinions to help protect the public from unscrupulous licensed and unlicensed contractors. An IE also may be called upon to testify in arbitration and/or administrative hearings.

IEs must be licensed and in good standing with five (5) years of experience as the license qualifier, and have no legal actions against them within the past seven (7) years to qualify for the program.

"C" Specialty license classification IEs that are needed include:

- **C-2 Insulation and Acoustical**
- **C-6 Cabinet, Millwork and Finish Carpentry**

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- [C-13 Fencing](#)
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- [C-21 Building Moving/Demolition](#)
- [C-33 Painting and Decorating](#)
- [C-35 Lathing & Plastering](#)
- [C-38 Refrigeration](#)
- [C-39 Roofing](#)
- [C-46 Solar](#)
- [C-47 General Manufactured Housing](#)
- [C-50 Reinforcing Steel](#)
- [C-51 Structural Steel](#)
- [C-55 Water Conditioning](#)
- [C-57 Well Drilling](#)
- All [C-61's](#) or ["D" Limited Specialty](#) licensees

To participate as an IE, contact Mary Miller by [email](#), or by calling 916.255.4090. [Click here](#) to learn more about the IE program.



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**Quick Quiz**

- 
- 1. True or False: A licensed contractor must include the CSLB-issued license number on ALL forms of advertisement, including online ads and vehicle signs.**
  - 2. A C-10 Electrical contractor can:**
    - a. Perform any electrical work over 91 volts
    - b. Perform any work under 91 volts
    - c. Both a) and b) – perform any voltage work
  - 3. True or False: It is illegal for a contractor to advertise that they hold a surety bond.**
  - 4. True or False: It is CSLB's responsibility to contact contractors to verify if there have been any changes to their address or the personnel listed on their license.**
  - 5. In cases of an officer change request, the form sent to CSLB:**
    - a. Must only be signed by the new officer
    - b. Must be signed by any officer listed on the license and the new officer
    - c. Must be signed by an RME and the new officer
  - 6. True or False: Commercial building projects can only be performed by an "A" General Engineering contractor.**

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**Answers:**

1: T; 2: C; 3: T; 4: F; 5: B; 6: F

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