Contractors Board Teams up with Other Agencies to Target Underground Economy

It’s estimated that California loses between $60 and $140 billion a year in revenue due to its ever-growing underground economy.

In fact, the Economic Round Table, a nonprofit research organization in the Los Angeles area has determined that as many as 28 percent of Los Angeles County businesses operate underground. Some of those companies violate the law because of ignorance, while others consciously undercut their legitimate competitors by avoiding certain overhead expenses like payroll taxes and workers’ compensation insurance. Many do not even get necessary business licenses.

“Many law-abiding contractors are being put out of business because they can’t compete with the illegal ones,” said CSLB Registrar Steve Sands. “Without enforcement of the laws, the only winners are those breaking them.”

No single agency has the resources or information to tackle this enforcement challenge alone. “That’s why local, state and federal agencies with overlapping jurisdiction in labor law have joined forces to make a concerted, consistent and effective dent in California’s underground economy,” said CSLB Enforcement Chief David Fogt.

To fully tackle the issue statewide, CSLB and its Statewide Investigative Fraud Team (SWIFT) participate in several multi-agency enforcement efforts.

CSLB Begins Awarding Construction Management Grants

Industry urged to donate to fund that helps educate tomorrow’s leaders

For the first time since its creation in 1991, the CSLB has begun presenting grant awards to help educate tomorrow’s construction industry leaders. The $228,000 in grants to be awarded this year wouldn’t have come too soon as California universities rush to meet the increasing demand for new managers.

Construction Management graduates are trained in everything from bid preparation to overseeing subcontractors, cost-control and federal labor laws. They can be responsible for guiding a building project from conception to completion.

The grants come from the Construction Management Education Sponsorship Act of 1991 (CMESA). The CMESA was created to help meet the demand for highly educated and trained construction managers. All of the money in the education fund comes directly from contractors.

“Before enforcement the laws, the only winners are those breaking them.”

Steve Sands, CSLB Registrar

CSLB Chair Larry Booth, right, presents a grant check to Tom Heustis, Chair of Chico State’s Department of Construction Management.

continued on page 7

continued on page 4
Board Members Elect New Officers

The Board members elected new officers at their meeting in Sacramento on June 29. Larry Booth stepped down from his second yearlong term as Board Chair, while Bert Sandman and John Hall also ended their respective terms as Vice Chair and Secretary and took on new roles. The new officers will maintain their posts for one year.

Bert Sandman will serve as CSLB’s Chair for the next year. He was appointed to the Board by Governor Gray Davis in May 2000 and reappointed in 2002 as an “A” contractor. His current term continues until June 2006. Mr. Sandman worked for A. Teichert and Son for more than 30 years before accepting the role of President and Chief Operating Officer of ARB Incorporated in Lake Forrest, California. He is also the National Director of Associated General Contractors of America, a member of the California AGC and is a past Chairman of Transportation California, the state’s infrastructure advocacy group.

The Board’s new Vice Chair, John Hall, was first appointed to CSLB as a public member in November 2000 by former Assembly Speaker Robert Hertzberg. He was reappointed to the Board in May 2004 and will remain on the Board until June 2008. Mr. Hall is the Business Manager for the Plumbers Local Union Number 78—a post he’s had for approximately 11 years. Prior to his current position, he served as the local officer for 15 years. He’s also been an active member of the Joint Apprenticeship and the Joint Labor Management and Training Committees for 20 years.

Matthew Kelly accepted the position of Board Secretary. He joined CSLB in 2003 as a public member appointed by the Senate Rules Committee. He is Executive Secretary Treasurer of the Sacramento-Sierras Building and Construction Trades Council. His construction industry career started 18 years ago as an apprentice carpenter. Mr. Kelly has since worked on a variety of commercial and residential projects and has been in construction management for a large general contractor.

Gene Hale’s Term as Board Member Ends

Gene Hale’s term as a member of the Contractors State License Board ended in June after three years of dedicated service. Mr. Hale had been a Board member since March 2002 when former Governor Gray Davis appointed him as a contractor member. Mr. Hale brought unique qualifications and insight to the service he provided contractors and the public through his work for the Board.

A firm believer in community involvement, Mr. Hale has worked with several public service groups, some of which include the Department of Transportation’s Small Businesses Resource Board, the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment Commission and the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles.

Mr. Hale has also been devoted to encouraging minority business development and entrepreneurship through his work for the Black Business Association of Los Angeles and the Minority Business Associations.

He is the president of Gence Construction Company and the president and founder of G&C Equipment Corporation.

CSLB Thanks Joe Tavaglione for Eight Years of Service

After eight years of dedicated service to the CSLB, contractors and the public, Board Member Joe Tavaglione’s term has come to an end. Mr. Tavaglione was first appointed in September 1997 by former Governor Pete Wilson as a contractor member. He was reappointed in 2001 by former Governor Gray Davis.

Joe Tavaglione has been in the construction business since 1947 when he began work with the Hansen-Gully Lumber Company in Riverside, after serving his country in the United States Air Force as a flight engineer from December 1943 to April 1946. In 1960 Mr. Tavaglione and his brother founded Tavaglione Construction Development Incorporated, a family operation that has since grown to include Mr. Tavaglione’s two sons and two nephews. The company holds contracting licenses in eight states and works on commercial projects.

Mr. Tavaglione’s distinguished career isn’t limited to the construction field however. In 2004, the Riverside Metro Chamber of Commerce named him Citizen of the Year, and he is the current Chair of the California Transportation Commission. In 2002 he was the President of the National Association of State Contractors’ Licensing Agencies and in 1999 and 2000, Chair of the Contractors State License Board.

Anthony Elmo’s Service to Board Hailed as Second Term Expires

Anthony J. Elmo’s five years of dedicated service to CSLB came to an end in June when his term expired.

Mr. Elmo, of Riverside, was first appointed to the Board by former Governor Davis in May 2000, as an active local building official representative.

Mr. Elmo is the Director of Building and Safety for the City of Temecula, a position he has held since 1990. He has served as a building official/building inspector for various cities since 1977.

A certified building official, Mr. Elmo is also a member and past President of the California Building Officials. He is also a member of the International Code Council and the International Conference of Building Officials.
Test Center Expansion to Speed Licensing Process

It’s probably no surprise for you to hear that California’s construction industry is booming! Not only is the number of licensed contractors the CSLB regulates at an all-time high, but there has also been a huge jump in the number of exam applications we’ve received since the first of the year. That has resulted in a temporary increase in the time you’ll wait to take a licensing exam. Although we believe the surge is temporary, the CSLB is working hard to decrease these wait times.

What We’re Doing
- We’ve increased the number of exam sessions at our busiest test center (San Bernardino) from three to four per day;
- We’re expanding two existing test sites and have opened a temporary test site in Norwalk. Our San Jose test center will be almost quadrupled by early 2006.

Training & Resource Roundup

CSLB Investigators Benefit from Industry Training
In April, CSLB investigators throughout the state took advantage of a daylong training event on swimming pool and spa construction standards and terminology. The training was the first in what will become a series of such events designed to prepare enforcement staff for complaint investigations. The classes were held at CSLB’s northern and southern California offices in cooperation with the National Spa and Pool Institute and conducted by Bruce Dunn, President of Mission Pools.

The CSLB plans to offer its investigators the same type of training about every six months. Each event will cover a different construction-related topic and will be taught by industry professionals. The next two are planned to cover roofing and concrete.

Home Improvement Certification No Longer Required
The CSLB’s Home Improvement Certification (HIC) Program and its requirements ended on January 1, 2004 pursuant to the legislation that created it. Therefore, CSLB no longer offers the certification, and contractors do not need it to enter into home improvement contracts. The now defunct program is no longer necessary because the content of the HIC exam has been incorporated into the law portion of the Contractors License Exam.

The License Status Check screen on the Board’s Web site has been updated to explain the conclusion of the program and it specifically explains that HIC may or may not appear on the Contractor’s pocket license, but is not required.

And plans are in the works to double the capacity of our San Bernardino test site.
- We’ve requested funding for a new permanent test center in Orange County, which, if approved, will open in late 2007.

What You Can Do
- Consider taking your exam at test centers with the shortest wait times, as opposed to the one closest to you.
- Consider dropping in at any test center after being notified that you qualify for an exam. We find that about 15 percent of applicants miss their scheduled exam times. We can’t guarantee drop-ins an open seat but there’s a good chance that if you show up, there will be a spot for you.

Once all test center plans are in place, we expect the wait times for exams to be at or very near CSLB’s statewide goal of three weeks.

Did You Know?
As part of its daily workload, CSLB staff processes thousands of documents ranging from exam applications and renewals to certificates and license changes. How long will it take to process your paperwork? You can see the current processing times for each licensing function by logging on to www.cslb.ca.gov and clicking on “CSLB Processing Times” on the right hand side of the home page.

NASCLA Directory Now Available
The National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies’ 2005 directory identifies more than 170 state agencies that regulate the construction industry. The directory summarizes the pre-qualification, licensing, examination, and bonding requirements and also includes information regarding reciprocity, license classifications, incorporating, and fees. To order your copy, visit www.nascla.org, call (480) 948-6883, fax (480) 948-4117 or email nascla@aol.com.

CSLB’s Strategic Plan is Online
The CSLB’s Strategic Plan for 2005 is now available online. Among other things, the document details the Board’s program priorities, mission, vision, values, goals, and action plans. Visit www.cslb.ca.gov and click on “Services & Publications,” then “Reports.”

CSL Phone & Fax Updates

Norwalk’s New Numbers
Some of the Board’s Norwalk office phone numbers have recently changed. Believe it or not, the change was necessary because the Board’s old phone system needed repair and no replacement parts were available. A new phone system has just been installed.

CSLB expects changes to the Statewide Investigative Fraud Team (SWIFT) and complaint disclosures phone numbers to affect the most callers.

NEW! PLEASE NOTE:
Complaint Disclosure ....(562) 345-7656
SWIFT Hot Leads............(562) 345-7600
Anyone dialing the old phone numbers through next January will get a recording that refers them to the new number.

UNCHANGED:
SWIFT Fax .................(562) 366-6074
CSLB’s Automated Phone System...
(800) 321-CSLB (2752)

Workers’ Comp Certs
No Longer Accepted by Fax
The Workers’ Compensation Unit will no longer accept Workers’ Compensation certificates via fax, due to the large volume of duplicate and/or illegible certificates received. Certificates should be mailed to:

CSLB Workers’ Comp Unit
P.O. Box 26000
Sacramento, CA 95826

Certificates will be processed in the order they are received. If you have any questions, call (800) 321-CSLB (2752) or (916) 255-3900.

New Fax Number for Licensing Information
The CSLB’s Licensing Division has a new fax number: (916) 255-4535. Applicable licensing documents and general inquiries for licensing information should now be faxed to (916) 255-4535 instead of the previously-used (916) 366-9130.

CSLB's Strategic Plan for 2005 is Online
The CSLB’s Strategic Plan for 2005 is now available online. Among other things, the document details the Board’s program priorities, mission, vision, values, goals, and action plans. Visit www.cslb.ca.gov and click on “Services & Publications,” then “Reports.”
Legislature Delays Home Improvement Contract Law Changes

SB-30 implementation postponed until January 1, 2006

Major revisions to the laws regarding home improvement contracts enacted last year under Senate Bill 30 have been postponed until January 1, 2006. The delay is the result of SB 1113. SB 30 was intended to establish a separate contract and dollar threshold for the Service and Repair industry, and to make home improvement contracts easier to draft and understand. Despite making good progress, some refinements are still needed before SB 30 can be implemented. Therefore, CSLB will make no changes to the enforcement of the home improvement laws under its jurisdiction during 2005, pending the outcome of the legislative action.

All contracts written for home improvements during 2005, including those regarding service and repair, must comply with the existing home improvement contract laws that fall under Article 10 of the Business and Professions Code, beginning with section 7150.

Check the Board’s Web site (www.cslb.ca.gov) for updates.

CSLB Begins Awarding Construction Management Grants

Continued from page 1

in their future,” said CSLB Registrar Steve Sands. “With the construction industry booming, there’s a real need for new managers.” The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects the demand to be there at least through 2012.

When the fund first started in 1991 contributions were limited to $25. In 2003, that limit was removed. Now, anyone can contribute any amount they choose.

To date, two award checks have been presented. The first, for $67,000, was given to the Department of Construction Management at California State University, Chico. The second, for $22,000, was presented to the Construction Management Program at California State University, Sacramento.

The university’s number of Construction Management graduates determines the award amount. The grants come at an important time for the universities. The construction industry is booming and there’s a real need for new construction managers. It’s estimated that the industry will be looking to hire triple the number of construction management graduates than are currently enrolled.

Other award checks will soon be presented in the following amounts:

• California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, $48,000
• California State University Fresno, $40,000
• California State University Long Beach, $31,000
• California State Polytechnic University Pomona, $20,000

Now that the first grants have been given, CSLB is focusing attention on making sure the money doesn’t run out. “We’ve only got enough money to give education grants this year and next,” said Mike Brown, CSLB’s Education Grant Program Coordinator. “To continue after that, we need the industry to increase its commitment to making donations.”

Making donations has never been easier. Just go to the CSLB Web site (www.cslb.ca.gov) and click on the CMESA logo. You can fill out a form online, print it out, and mail it along with your donation check.

The CSLB is also encouraging industry associations and groups to donate to the fund. “We hope that more people will contribute to this fund as a way of insuring that tomorrow’s construction managers are well prepared and of the highest quality,” said CSLB Chair Larry Booth.

CSLB Revokes License of Statewide Repair Company

As the result of a complex investigation, CSLB has taken action against a company that performed thousands of electrical, plumbing and general repair calls each year in California. Cal Repair Services Inc., based in Glendale, at times did business under the name “Pick Red.”

The Final Order from the Registrar of Contractors to revoke the license (#797241) for five years follows a ruling by Administrative Law Judge Eric Sawyer. In that ruling, the judge determined that Cal Repair Services and CEO/President Zohrab Mkhitarian:

• Forged signatures on two different license application forms;
• Omitted or misrepresented material facts on three license applications forms;
• Failed to get necessary permits and inspections for work;
• Failed to identify and correct problems for a price stated on their contract;
• Departed from trade standards and billed customers for unnecessary repairs;

The CSLB’s Statewide Investigative Fraud Team (SWIFT) played an important role in the June 20 arrest of an unlicensed contractor suspected of illegally filing liens against homeowners in the Visalia area. Wayne Tyson Girard, who operated under the name “Household Handyman,” was arrested by the Tulare County District Attorney’s Office. Charged with a number of crimes, including extortion, filing a false document, possession of a loaded handgun and contracting without a license, he is in Tulare County Jail on $500,000 bail.

The case began after complaints by local residents claiming Girard was filing mechanics’ liens against their property after they refused to pay him service call fees. CSLB’s SWIFT was called in to assist in the investigation, which led to the serving of a search warrant on Girard’s house in Exeter. Inside investigators seized two computers and numerous contracts and other business records. Investigators also found a loaded and stolen 9mm handgun—Girard is a convicted felon and not allowed to have a gun. Outside, investigators seized Girard’s pickup truck, along with a 44-foot enclosed trailer filled with supplies that investigators referred to as a “rolling hardware store.”

Unlicensed Contractor Arrested and Charged with Extortion

When the fund first started in 1991 contributions were limited to $25. In 2003, that limit was removed. Now, anyone can contribute any amount they choose.

To date, two award checks have been presented. The first, for $67,000, was given to the Department of Construction Management at California State University, Chico. The second, for $22,000, was presented to the Construction Management Program at California State University, Sacramento.

The university’s number of Construction Management graduates determines the award amount. The grants come at an important time for the universities. The construction industry is booming and there’s a real need for new construction managers. It’s estimated that the industry will be looking to hire triple the number of construction management graduates than are currently enrolled.

Other award checks will soon be presented in the following amounts:

• California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, $48,000
• California State University Fresno, $40,000
• California State University Long Beach, $31,000
• California State Polytechnic University Pomona, $20,000

Now that the first grants have been given, CSLB is focusing attention on making sure the money doesn’t run out. “We’ve only got enough money to give education grants this year and next,” said Mike Brown, CSLB’s Education Grant Program Coordinator. “To continue after that, we need the industry to increase its commitment to making donations.”

Making donations has never been easier. Just go to the CSLB Web site (www.cslb.ca.gov) and click on the CMESA logo. You can fill out a form online, print it out, and mail it along with your donation check.

The CSLB is also encouraging industry associations and groups to donate to the fund. “We hope that more people will contribute to this fund as a way of insuring that tomorrow’s construction managers are well prepared and of the highest quality,” said CSLB Chair Larry Booth.
CSLB & California Energy Commission Partner to Provide Code Information to Contractors

New Energy Code requirements will become effective October 1, 2005

The Contractors State License Board and the California Energy Commission have teamed up to help contractors comply with the California Energy Code (also referred to as the Building Energy Efficiency Standards, Title 24, Part 6) as required and to provide information on new Code requirements that will become effective on October 1, 2005.

The new requirements will apply when space-conditioning equipment is replaced in existing low-rise residential and some commercial buildings, and will ensure that new systems are not connected to existing, leaky ductwork that allows heated or cooled air to wastefully escape before reaching its intended destinations. These requirements take advantage of the opportunity for contractors to seal the duct system when space conditioning equipment is replaced and include mandatory third-party quality control inspections to assure the work is done correctly.

The requirements apply to inland climate zones where there is substantial air conditioning or heating (zones 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 as defined by the Commission) but do not apply to mild coastal regions.

Ductwork verification will be done independently of the system installation before the building department approves the work. The contractor will install the equipment, measure duct leakage, contract with a certified Home Energy Rating System (HERS) rater to conduct the verification, and inform the rater when the job is complete. The installing contractor must also determine that every system meets one of the four criteria established in the Standards. The rater, who must be independent of the installing contractor to avoid a conflict-of-interest, will then verify that the ducts have been properly sealed.

When single zone space-conditioning equipment is replaced in commercial buildings, duct sealing requirements must be met if at least 25 percent of the ducts are installed outside of the building or in unconditioned space.

Other Energy Code requirements may also apply when space-conditioning equipment is replaced. When split system air conditioner equipment is replaced, a HERS rater must verify the refrigerant charge measurement (or installation of a thermostatic expansion valve). There are also requirements for system when space-conditioning equipment is replaced.


Training opportunities will be announced in the Energy Commission’s quarterly newsletter, the Blueprint. To request the publication, or for other questions, call their hotline at either (916) 654-5106 or (800) 772-3300.

Effective Tailgate Trainings Don’t Just Happen by Accident

Cal/OSHA requires tailgate trainings be conducted every 10 working days

Contractors who conduct effective tailgate trainings every 10 days as required by Cal/OSHA know it can be a powerful tool for jobsite safety. But others often do not conduct the training regularly because of concerns over effectiveness, language barriers with employees, lack of training materials, or because of busy schedules.

If this describes your situation, the Department of Health Services’ Occupational Health Branch (OHB) has free materials that can help. Developed as part of the BuildSafe California project, they are available by visiting the Department’s Web site at [www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb/buildsafe](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb/buildsafe).

Under the BuildSafe California project, OHB, the State Compensation Insurance Fund and Cal/OSHA joined forces to conduct 24 half-day training sessions throughout the state called “Conducting Effective Tailgate Trainings.” From Eureka to San Diego, more than 1400 contractors, foremen, safety coordinators and union representatives learned to become more effective tailgate trainers by focusing on four key questions when preparing for and/or assessing their tailgate trainings.

The key training approaches include:

- Make training relevant by talking about hazards the crew is facing, or will face, on that job;
- Get the crew to participate with questions, ideas, observations, stories and solutions;
- Whenever possible, have crew members show and demonstrate tools, equipment, or procedures; and
- Follow up on good ideas that come from the training. Focus on concrete changes in the way the job is set up or run.

Cal/OSHA found that as a result, seminar participants bought into the value of the program and their subsequent tailgate trainings resulted in greater safety awareness among their employees.

If you missed the seminars but would like to improve the quality, effectiveness and regularity of your tailgate trainings, OHB has free materials to help you.

To get Conducting Effective Tailgate Training Safety Break cards in English and Spanish, and a list of construction health and safety resources, visit [www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb/buildsafe](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb/buildsafe).
Disciplinary Actions

January-April 2005

Business & Professions Code Sections

The following B&P Codes may be referenced in the list of revocations:

490 Relationship of conviction of a crime to licensed activity
7018.5 Failing to provide notice to owner regarding lien provisions
7026.7 Advertising as a contractor without a license
7028 Acting in the capacity of a contractor without a license
7029 Contracting as a joint venture without the required license
7029.5 Failing, as a plumbing, electrical sign or well drilling contractor, to display identification on business vehicles
7030 Failing to include in a contract the notice that contractors are licensed by the Contractors State License Board
7030.5 Failing to fulfill the requirement that the contractor's license number be placed on all contracts, subcontracts, calls for bids, and other forms of advertising
7071.1 Judgment or admitted claim against bond
7098 Revocation of additional licenses
7097 Suspension of additional licenses
7090.1 Failing to comply with civil penalty or "order to correct" in the list of revocations:

The following B&P Codes may be referenced in the list of revocations:

Business & Professions Code Sections

490 Relationship of conviction of a crime to licensed activity
7018.5 Failing to provide notice to owner regarding lien provisions
7026.7 Advertising as a contractor without a license
7028 Acting in the capacity of a contractor without a license
7029 Contracting as a joint venture without the required license
7029.5 Failing, as a plumbing, electrical sign or well drilling contractor, to display identification on business vehicles
7030 Failing to include in a contract the notice that contractors are licensed by the Contractors State License Board
7030.5 Failing to fulfill the requirement that the contractor's license number be placed on all contracts, subcontracts, calls for bids, and other forms of advertising
7071.1 Judgment or admitted claim against bond
7098 Revocation of additional licenses
7097 Suspension of additional licenses
7090.1 Failing to comply with civil penalty or "order to correct" in the list of revocations:

The following B&P Codes may be referenced in the list of revocations:

Business & Professions Code Sections
Underground Economy
Continued from page 1

Riverside County Workers’ Compensation Fraud Team
Also in April, CSLB staff met with members of the Riverside County Workers’ Compensation Fraud Team to strategize and implement an even more aggressive approach to handling employer insurance and tax fraud. This joint task force includes participants from the EDD, Department of Insurance, DIR/Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE), Internal Revenue Service, and the Franchise Tax Board.

SWIFT Stings & Sweeps Help Level Playing Field for Contractors
CSLB’s enforcement efforts aren’t just talk. Here are the results of some recent operations:

“PROJECT FAIR CHANCE” TARGETS WORKERS’ COMP CHEATERS IN BUTTE COUNTY
In April, CSLB and the Butte County District Attorney’s Office (DA) together sent a strong message warning contractors that they must carry workers’ compensation insurance on their employees. In Project Fair Chance, investigators from both organizations swept through more than 50 construction sites in Paradise, Chico, Magalia, and Oroville, nabbing 11 contractors without proper workers’ compensation insurance on their employees and another five lacking contractor’s licenses. CSLB investigators also used the occasion to remind licensees about CSLB laws, rules and regulations.

Contractors who fail to maintain workers’ compensation insurance for their employees can face automatic license suspension and even have their licenses revoked. The 11 contractors caught in the sweep were also fined a total of $7,250 in civil penalties.

The five individuals caught contracting without a valid State Contractor’s License were issued Notices to Appear (NTA) in Butte County Superior Court. First-time violators face a maximum of six months in jail or a $1,000 fine for the first offense. A second violation carries a mandatory 90-day jail sentence.

Because of this operation’s success, CSLB and the Butte County DA conducted a follow up sweep in June—this one with the added benefit of a helicopter to help scope out construction sites.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA’S UNDERGROUND ECONOMY TASK FORCE CITIES DOZENS
In March, CSLB’s Statewide Investigative Fraud Team (SWIFT) spearheaded a Northern California Underground Economy Task Force operation conducted in Santa Clara County. Eighty-seven people were caught in a two-day web that included undercover stings and construction site sweeps.

Task Force participants included the CSLB, EDD, DLSE, Department of Insurance Fraud Division, and the Santa Clara County DA.

In addition to the sting, compliance check sweeps were performed at various construction projects in the San Jose area. The DIR/DLSE fined contractors almost $42,000 for failure to maintain workers’ compensation insurance on their employees and for paying workers in cash to avoid payroll taxes. The Santa Clara County DA also cited six others for workers’ compensation violations.

In May, the Task Force conducted an undercover sting in cooperation with the Santa Cruz County DA and Department of Insurance where SWIFT investigators posed as homeowners to solicit bids from those suspected of operating as contractors without a license or with a license that had been suspended or revoked. Leads came from complaints, advertisements, referrals and notices to the Santa Cruz County Board of Building Department.

License Revocations, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>LICENSE NO.</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SECTIONS VIOLATED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PACIFIC UNION FLOORING CONTRACTORS INC</td>
<td>SAN FRANCISCO</td>
<td>780016</td>
<td>01/10/2005</td>
<td>709(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAULHOFF STEVE JOHN</td>
<td>SANTA BARBARA</td>
<td>746510</td>
<td>04/19/2005</td>
<td>709(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARDON BUILDERS</td>
<td>CITRUS HEIGHTS</td>
<td>734511</td>
<td>02/03/2005</td>
<td>7107, 7106(A,B), 7113, 7111, 1, 7159(B,D,F,H,J,X), 7554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARKS DAVE</td>
<td>ANAHEIM</td>
<td>331196</td>
<td>02/08/2005</td>
<td>709(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATTIN CONSTRUCTION</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO</td>
<td>787181</td>
<td>04/18/2005</td>
<td>709(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAVING STONE COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA INC</td>
<td>POMPANO BEACH</td>
<td>790303</td>
<td>01/27/2005</td>
<td>7104(A,B), 7113, 7115, 7098, 7123(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENNINGTON C F FUND DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>GRANADA HILLS</td>
<td>704510</td>
<td>01/10/2005</td>
<td>709(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESSO GARAGE DOORS COMPANY INC</td>
<td>SAN FRANCISCO</td>
<td>803919</td>
<td>03/01/2005</td>
<td>709(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRICE H E VEN CONSTRUCTION CO</td>
<td>CONCORD</td>
<td>732204</td>
<td>04/08/2005</td>
<td>709(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROTECH CONSTRUCTION</td>
<td>BYRON</td>
<td>517486</td>
<td>04/23/2005</td>
<td>709(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PURCELL CONCRETE</td>
<td>CLOVIS</td>
<td>733606</td>
<td>03/01/2005</td>
<td>709(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R B L CONSTRUCTION CO</td>
<td>GALT</td>
<td>706597</td>
<td>01/15/2005</td>
<td>709(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REANO WATER WING INC</td>
<td>VALLEJO</td>
<td>790480</td>
<td>01/04/2005</td>
<td>709(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REANO’S WINDOW &amp; SCREENS</td>
<td>VALLEJO</td>
<td>557205</td>
<td>02/08/2005</td>
<td>709(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECONSTRUCTION RESTORATION EXPERTS</td>
<td>SAN DIEGO</td>
<td>736347</td>
<td>03/10/2005</td>
<td>7108(A,B), 7107, 7106, 7108, 7123(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RICKER GROUP INC</td>
<td>ARCADIA</td>
<td>809641</td>
<td>02/01/2005</td>
<td>709(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCKY’S CONCRETE</td>
<td>OCEANSIDE</td>
<td>690911</td>
<td>04/15/2005</td>
<td>7107, 7109, 7113, 7115, 7098(A,B), 7109, 7117(A), 7098, 7123(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCKY’S CUSTOM POOLS &amp; SPAS</td>
<td>SAN CLEMENTE</td>
<td>438951</td>
<td>02/07/2005</td>
<td>7107, 7113, 7114, 7096, 7130, 7109(B), 1, 7107, 7109(B), 1, 7154, 7097, 7087, 7123(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RON’S FAMOUS PLUMBING</td>
<td>RESeda</td>
<td>723409</td>
<td>02/21/2005</td>
<td>7097, 7098, 7123(1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fourteen people were stung—thirteen for working without a license or with a revoked license—and given Notices to Appear before a Santa Cruz County Superior Court judge to answer misdemeanor charges.

The CSLB urges you to help us in our fight to level the playing field for all contractors.

Seven were also given Non-Licensed Citations for having illegal advertisements in phonebooks. They were ordered to disconnect their phones and pay a civil penalty of at least $200. One was given a Licensee Citation for working with a suspended license.

Undercover stings are held weekly throughout the state. Some of the places recent stings were held include: Bass Lake, Norwalk, Rancho Mirage, San Diego, San Luis Obispo and Visalia. “You never know where or when we’re going to be undercover,” said Fogt.

Sting & Sweep Results
Since July 1, 2004, sting operations have resulted in 256 Notices to Appear (NTAs) before a Superior Court judge to answer “contracting without a license” charges. Sixty-two Administrative Citations have also been issued. Sweeps have also given the CSLB’s partnering agencies the opportunity to open their own investigations.

You Can Help
The CSLB urges you to help us in our fight to level the playing field for all contractors. We want you to tip us about unlicensed operators, companies that may be paying workers under the table and those who may not be carrying proper workers’ compensation insurance. Download a Hot Lead Tip Sheet from the CSLB Web site: [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) — click on “Report Unlicensed Activity.”
CSLB Urges Industry Input on Diesel-Fueled Equipment Controls

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) is conducting a survey to better understand business practices for off-road mobile diesel equipment. This includes equipment turnaround time, frequency of engine rebuilds, and leasing and idling practices. The survey results will help in developing a control measure for off-road mobile equipment. The CSLB encourages owners and operators of off-road mobile equipment to participate in this survey. It’s available online at www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ordiesel/orSurvey/intro.html. Printed copies of the survey are also available by contacting Jackie Johnson at (916) 323-2750 or jjohnson@arb.ca.gov.

The survey is one step in the ARB’s development of a control measure to reduce diesel emissions from off-road mobile equipment used in construction, mining, and industrial operations. The control measure is part of ARB’s Diesel Risk Reduction Plan, which seeks a 75 percent reduction of public exposure to harmful diesel exhaust emissions by 2010.

The CSLB also encourages owners and operators of mobile off-road diesel equipment to get involved in the control measure process. Your help is key to developing a control measure that is flexible, feasible, and reduces exposure to diesel emissions. For more information about the measure, visit the Web site at www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ordiesel/ordiesel.html where you can also sign up for information on future meetings, workshops and other notices; or contact Kim Heroy-Rogalski at (916) 327-2200 or kheroyro@arb.ca.gov.

Have a Sun-Safe Summer

Summer is heating up and with the warm weather comes dangerous sun exposure for many contractors. The California Department of Health Services’ Skin Cancer Prevention Program has free sun safety kits available for use at construction sites or offices. Each kit will serve an entire work site and includes fact sheets, posters, brochures, UV-count charts, video, notepads and stickers. To order a free kit, contact Andrew Manthe at (916) 449-5393 or by email at amanthe@dhs.ca.gov.

More than one million people—many of them contractors—will be diagnosed with skin cancer this year. Exposure to the sun’s dangerous rays is one of the main causes of skin cancer. Protect yourself with the following safety tips.

- Lather on sunscreen with an SPF 15 or higher whenever you’ll be outside, even on hazy or overcast days;
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat and wear protective clothing that covers as much skin as possible when in the sun;
- Wear sunglasses that block at least 99 percent of the sun’s UV rays; and
- Spend lunchtime and other breaks in the shade whenever possible.