



LOS ANGELES BASIN CHAPTER

INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL

Established 1957
www.icclabc.org

P.O. Box 1855
Glendale, CA 91209-1855



FY 2010

February 16, 2010

TO: CALBO Nominations Committee

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SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR NOMINATION OF MR. RAJ PATEL TO THE CALIFORNIA BUILDING OFFICIALS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On February 11, 2010 during our monthly chapter meeting with attendance approaching 100 members, the ICC-Los Angeles Basin Chapter Board of Directors and the general membership voted unanimously to support the nomination of Mr. Raj Patel, Superintendent of Buildings of Los Angeles County Building and Safety, to the California Building Officials Board of Directors.

There are currently two vacancies on CALBO's Board. The ICC-LA Basin Chapter strongly believes that this appointment would be an excellent opportunity to increase representation from Southern California and that the Building Industry would benefit greatly from a candidate who not only possesses vast knowledge and experience, but also represents such a large jurisdiction. Filling a CALBO vacancy with a member of our local chapter can further enhance our lines of communication with CALBO and give the entire Southern California region an increased opportunity to advocate our concerns at the State level.

Mr. Patel is currently the Building Official for the County of Los Angeles. He has served in this capacity for over 6 years, with a total tenure of more than 25 years in the Building Department. He is increasingly active in attending the code hearings at the national level and has commissioned his staff to create many committees to coordinate efforts with numerous jurisdictions in order to insure the maximum level of uniformity upon adoption of the 2010 codes.

On many occasions he has personally attended pivotal committee meetings to provide input, support the group, and ensure that reachable goals are set. Such an approach has fostered plenty of confidence among the surrounding jurisdictions to join and to actively participate in those critical committees. Mr. Patel remains proactive and committed to keeping his staff well informed by joining our chapter, being represented on the ICC-LA Basin Chapter Board, and active at the National and State hearings so his jurisdiction is up to date on all the changes and updates at the State and National level, thus enabling him to share the information with the Southern California region.

Although the County of Los Angeles is one of the larger jurisdictions in the State of California, Mr. Patel has, throughout the many years of our work relationship with him, displayed sensitivity to the needs and challenges faced by small and medium-sized building departments. He presently serves as Building Official for 17 incorporated cities



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within the County of Los Angeles. Furthermore, he shares CALBO's interest in promoting public health and safety in building construction.

The economic situation in our State has presented a major challenge to many jurisdictions with respect to staffing and providing the needed resources to get involved with organizations like CALBO, as well as, providing time for training and code development. It is during these difficult times that large jurisdictions need to support the mission of organizations such as the ICC-LA Basin Chapter and CALBO.

This year will present a number of challenges in the adoption of the 2010 State Building Codes, including the new Residential Code and Green Building Standards Code. These challenges represent an opportunity for CALBO to take the lead in providing extensive education programs for building department staff and the public at large. In addition, CALBO can play a lead role in assisting local chapters and building departments in developing and streamlining local amendments. Our chapter truly believes that Mr. Patel will be a facilitator in accomplishing those goals for the benefit of all jurisdictions along with the professionals in the building industry.

As an influential organization within State code development, our chapter, as well as Mr. Patel, is appreciative of CALBO's critical role in working with the California Building Standards Commission, California State Agencies, and the model code organization.

With an appointment to the Board, we are confident Mr. Patel will work closely with fellow Board members in promoting CALBO's influence in these organizations to benefit all jurisdictions and the public at large. Furthermore, we stress that it is time for California to once again take the role as a leader in code development, and we feel that CALBO is the key organization to bring this status back to our State. Having Mr. Patel on the CALBO board will be a move in the right direction in pursuing those endeavors.

Finally, we are very confident that Mr. Patel will be honored to serve on CALBO's Board of Directors and to represent the interest and concerns of our communities.

Very truly yours,

George Chavez, President
ICC-LA Basin Chapter

cc: Raj Patel, Superintendent of Buildings of Los Angeles, County Building and Safety
Neville Pereira, Vice President
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Victor Cuevas, Treasurer
Mazen Dudar, Secretary