Notice of Preparation and Scoping Meetings
for
Proposed Statewide Regulations Allowing the Use of Plenum Return Air and Flexible Ducting in Certain Areas of OSHPD 3 Clinics

TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties and Organizations

FROM: Glenn S.A. Gall, AIA, Regional Supervisor

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation and Initial Study

NOTICE OF PREPARATION REVIEW PERIOD: April 28, 2015 to May 27, 2015

SCOPING MEETINGS: May 18 and May 19, 2015, 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21165 and the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (CEQA Guidelines) Section 15050, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) is the Lead Agency responsible for preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) addressing potential impacts associated with the proposed regulations allowing the use of plenum return air and flexible ducting in certain areas of OSHPD 3 clinics.

The purpose of this notice is (1) to serve as a Notice of Preparation of an EIR pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, (2) to advise and solicit comments and suggestions regarding the scope and content of the EIR to be prepared for the proposed project, and (3) to notice the public scoping meetings. OSHPD, as Lead Agency, respectfully requests that any Responsible or Trustee Agency responding to this notice respond in a manner consistent with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b). Comments and suggestions should, at a minimum, identify the significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that should be explored in the EIR, in addition to whether the responding agency will be a Responsible or Trustee agency for the proposed project, and any related issues raised by other interested parties, including interested or affected members of the public.

Project Location: Statewide

Project Description:

OSHPD is proposing changes to Chapter 4, Ventilation Air Supply, and Chapter 6, Duct Systems, of the 2016 California Mechanical Code, CCR Title 24. The proposed changes are: 1) to allow plenum return air in certain areas of OSHPD 3 clinics where fully ducted air return is now required by current code; and 2) to allow greater than 10 feet of flexible ducting in certain areas of OSHPD 3 clinics where no more than...
10 feet of flexible ducting is now allowed. The proposed regulatory changes would only apply to OSHPD 3 clinics providing outpatient services.

The following relevant text is excerpted from “The Initial Express Terms for Proposed Building Standards of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development Regarding Proposed Changes to California Mechanical Code California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 4.” The proposed changes to the regulations are shown with proposed deletions in strikeout and proposed additions in italic underline. (Note: italics denote existing changes to model code.)

**407.4.1.4** No space above a ceiling may be utilized as an outside-air, relief-air, supply-air, exhaust-air, or return-air plenum.

**Exceptions:**

(1) Designs specifically approved by the enforcing agency.

(2) Permitted for [OSHPD 3]. Spaces listed in Table 4A that have required pressure relationships shall be served by fully ducted supply, return, and exhaust systems. The following additional surgery and critical-care patient-care areas shall also be served by fully ducted supply, return, and exhaust systems: (1) Recovery Rooms, (2) Treatment Rooms. In facilities that treat inpatients, mechanical systems shall utilize ducted systems for supply, return, and exhaust air. Where space pressure relationships are required, the air distribution system design shall maintain them.

**602.3.1 Flexible Ducts. [OSHPD 1, 2, 3 & 4]** In hospital building projects and all other health-care facilities, including clinics and correctional treatment centers, flexible ducts of not more than 10 feet (3048 mm) in length may be used to connect supply, return, or exhaust-air terminal devices to rigid duct systems. Where constant volume, variable volume, or mixing boxes are utilized, flexible duct of not more than 10 feet (3048 mm) may be used on the inlet side for alignment. An internal impervious liner shall be provided to isolate insulation material from conditioned air.

**Exception:** [OSHPD 3] Flexible ducts may be used in clinics that do not serve inpatients in patient care areas other than sensitive rooms listed in table 320.0.

**Environmental Analysis:** Potentially significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed project include Air Quality and Public Health, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise, Public Services, and Utilities and Service Systems. These topics will be addressed in the EIR. In addition, the EIR will describe and evaluate a range of reasonable project alternatives that may reduce or avoid any identified significant adverse impacts of the project.

**Responding to this Notice:** Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, Responsible and Trustee agencies and other interested parties, including members of the public, must submit any comments in response to this notice no later than 30 days after receipt. The Notice of Preparation and accompanying Initial Study are available for a 30-day public review period beginning April 28, 2015 and ending May 27, 2015.
Copies of the document are available for review at the following location:

Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
400 R Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, California 95811

The document can also be accessed online at: http://oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Regulations/index.html

All comments and responses to this notice must be received in writing no later than 5 P.M. on May 27, 2015 to:

Glenn S.A. Gall, AIA
Regional Supervisor
Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
Facilities Development Division
400 R Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, California 95811

OSHPD encourages responses to this notice be submitted via email. Email responses to this notice may be sent to Glenn.Gall@oshpd.ca.gov. For additional information, please contact Glenn Gall, AIA at 916.440.8356 or at his listed e-mail address.

Scoping Meetings. OSHPD will host public scoping meetings in conjunction with this Notice of Preparation in order to present the project and the EIR process and to receive comments and suggestions regarding the scope and content of the EIR. The meetings will be held:

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<tr>
<th>Southern California</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 18, 2015</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 19, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 to 3:00 pm</td>
<td>1:00 to 3:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ronald Reagan State Building Auditorium</td>
<td>Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>300 S. Spring Street</td>
<td>Sacramento River Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, CA 90013</td>
<td>400 R Street</td>
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<td>Sacramento 95811</td>
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NOTE. Meeting facilities and restrooms are accessible to the physically disabled. If any special accommodations (assistive listening device, sign language interpreter, etc.) are needed, please contact OSHPD staff at 916.440.8453. Requests should be made as soon as possible but no later than 5 days prior to the meeting.