

BUILDING STANDARDS BULLETIN 99-02

DATE: June 30, 1999

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

SUBJECT: REPEAL OF 1998 AMENDMENTS TO GRAYWATER APPENDIX

The Commission's July 21, 1998 action to amend California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 5, Appendix G-A [For DWR], Graywater Systems for Single-Family Dwellings, was repealed on June 17, 1999. This repeal restores the parenthetical phrase, indicated below by underline, to Section G 1, Subdivision (a) of that Appendix:

The provisions of this Appendix shall apply to the construction, installation, alteration and repair of graywater systems for subsurface landscape irrigation. The graywater system shall not be connected to any potable water system without an air gap (a space or other physical device which prevents backflow) and shall not result in any surfacing of the graywater. Except as otherwise provided for in this Appendix, the provisions of the Uniform Plumbing Code (U.P.C.) shall be applicable to graywater installations.

The reasons for this repeal are as follows:

1. The Commission's 1998 Code Adoption Cycle included the triennial adoption of the 1997 editions of the model codes. One of those codes was the 1997 Edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) of the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO).
2. At the June 4, 1998 meeting of the Commission's Plumbing, Electrical, Mechanical and Energy (PEME) Code Advisory Committee, during a discussion of the adoption of the 1997 Edition of the UPC on behalf of the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the conflict between the UPC and DWR's Appendix G-A, Graywater Systems for Single-Family Dwellings, became an issue of discussion. The conflict was identified as the prohibition in Section 603.3.4 of the UPC against the interconnection of potable water and sewer-connected waste water by any means. The implication of the parenthetical phrase indicated above is that such connection could be made by means of a physical device. It was the unanimous vote of the Committee to recommend deletion of the parenthetical phrase indicated above to eliminate the conflict.

3. At the July 21, 1998 meeting of the Commission the recommendation of the Commission's PEME Code Advisory Committee to eliminate the parenthetical phrase was unanimously adopted following no public comments for, or against, the recommendation.

4. In a subsequent challenge to the Commission's adoption of the recommendation it was discovered that the recommendation was not specifically listed in the Agenda for the July 21, 1998 meeting, raising the possibility that the Commission's action might not be in compliance with the public notice requirements of the Government Code.

5. The Commission repealed the July 21, 1998 adoption of the PEME Code Advisory Committee's recommendation related to elimination of the parenthetical phrase on June 17, 1999 based upon the questionable adequacy of public notice related to that adoption.

6. Since repeal of the Commission's July 21, 1998 adoption of the PEME Code Advisory Committee's recommendation related to elimination of the parenthetical phrase reinstates the identified conflict, the Commission will consider establishment of a committee, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 18938 (b), at the regularly scheduled meeting of July 14, 1999 for the purpose of providing the Commission with recommendations as to how this conflict should be eliminated.

If you have any questions related to this Bulletin, please contact Travis Pitts, Executive Director, at (916) 323-6363.