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Director & State Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

September 14, 2012

Jim McGowan, Executive Director  
California Building Standards Commission  
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130  
Sacramento, California 95833

Dear Mr. McGowan:

Subject: Proposed Amendments to the 2012 Edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code

The Vector-Borne Disease Section of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is responsible for protecting public health and assisting local public agencies in preventing the spread of vectors and vector-borne diseases as described in the California Health and Safety Code (Section 116110). In that capacity, we reviewed the proposed action amending building standards of the Department of Housing and Community Development regarding the 2013 California Plumbing Code, California Code of Regulations. CDPH supports changes to the following sections found in Title 24, Part 5.

Gray water-

**1602.9.2 Animals and Insects.** *Gray water tank openings shall be protected to prevent the entrance of insects, birds, or rodents into the tank and piping systems. Screens installed on vent pipes, inlets, and overflow pipes shall have an aperture of not greater than 1/16 of an inch (1.6mm) and shall be close fitting.*

Rainwater-

**1702.9.5.6(A) Animals and Insects.** *Rainwater tank openings shall be protected to prevent the entrance of insects, birds, or rodents into the tank and piping systems. Screens installed on vent pipes, inlets, and overflow pipes shall have an aperture of not greater than 1/16 of an inch (1.6mm) and shall be close fitting.*

Without adequate screening, these water storage tanks would become a potential public health threat through harborage and proliferation of mosquitoes and other vector species.

Sincerely,

Vicki Kramer, Ph.D., Chief  
Vector-Borne Disease Section