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December 10, 2012

California Building Standards Commission
Attn: Michael L. Nearman, Deputy Executive Director
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130
Sacramento, CA 95833

Re: Universal Studios Hollywood
Proposed Revisions to Incorporate the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design into
the 2013 California Building Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2)

Dear Mr. Nearman and Commission Members:

Universal Studios Hollywood (Universal) is one of the founding members of the California Attractions and Parks Association (CAPA). We write to support the revisions proposed by the Division of State Architect (DSA) to the accessibility requirements set forth in Chapter 11B of the California Building Code (CBC). Specifically, we support DSA's proposal to incorporate the requirements for recreation facilities set forth in the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design (hereinafter "2010 ADA Standards") into Chapter 11B of the current 2010 CBC. Universal representatives for over a decade have worked with the Department of Justice and the Access Board to assist in the crafting of the federal standards for recreation facilities. We have even hosted site visits for the access board, staff and consultants some of who are active members of the disability community themselves whose expertise proved invaluable in developing the standards. Those standards were the product of comprehensive and exhaustive review, study and negotiation over the course of nearly two decades. The DSA's proposed revisions to Chapter 11B also were the product of an extensive effort to merge the 2010 ADA Standards with Chapter 11B, retaining the most stringent provisions of each. As a result, you can appreciate our keen interest in the outcome of these regulations and join CAPA in strongly encouraging the California Building Standards Commission to adopt the DSA's proposal without substantive change.

We also support the inclusion of Exception 2 to Section 11B-202.4, which provides that elements of a path of travel (including amenities such as restrooms and drinking fountains) that comply with the applicable accessibility requirements of the 2010 CBC (*i.e.*, are already accessible) would not have to be further modified to comply with incremental changes in the 2013 CBC merely because the area these elements serve is being altered. This exception ensures that accessibility is provided, while also ensuring that existing facilities are not unnecessarily burdened by having to make repeated, incremental modifications.

Universal Studios Hollywood, The Entertainment Capital of L.A. includes a full-day, movie-based theme park and Studio Tour; the CityWalk entertainment, shopping and dining complex, the Universal CityWalk Cinemas, and the "5 Towers" state-of-the-art outdoor concert venue. World-class rides and

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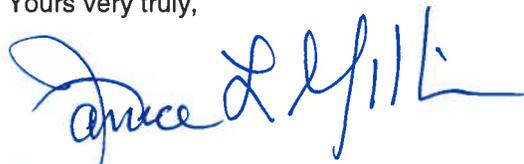
attractions include, "Transformers: The Ride—3D," "King Kong 360 3-D" on the famed behind-the-scenes Studio Tour, "The Simpsons Ride™," "Revenge of the MummySM —The Ride" and "Jurassic Park® —The Ride."

While we support the goal of providing access for all, providing accessibility for recreation facilities (particularly for amusement rides and waterpark features) presents many unique and complex challenges, as discussed in CAPA's comment dated October 15, 2012. Consequently, the basic standards developed in the context of buildings, and the same rationales for altering or expanding accessibility requirements, often cannot simply be applied to recreation facilities. Rather, the application and development of accessibility standards for recreation facilities must necessarily entail an understanding of the unique design and engineering issues presented by recreation facilities. For this reason, the federal regulatory process to develop accessibility standards for recreational facilities was quite lengthy – initiated in June 1993 and culminating in September 2010 – and involved extensive review, study and negotiation by representatives of various interested stakeholders. Given the extensive effort that went into the federal rulemaking, we believe it would be inappropriate and ill-advised for the Commission to make substantive changes to these requirements – particularly in the absence of the Commission or the DSA themselves undertaking as comprehensive a review of the complicated issues involved as was done on the federal level.

The 2010 ADA Standards acknowledge and accommodate the practical difficulties in providing access to recreation facilities, without sacrificing the provision of access to such facilities. Adoption of the 2010 ADA Standards for recreation facilities without substantive change will satisfy California's mandate for providing access. Chapter 11B of the 2010 CBC currently does not contain any provisions specifically addressing the special features of recreation facilities, such as permanent amusement rides, pools (except for swimming pool lift devices), water slides or miniature golf courses. Consequently, adoption of the 2010 ADA Standards will fill the void in the current code, and also will facilitate compliance by establishing harmonious requirements.

Universal Studios Hollywood, for all the reasons stated herein, and in the comments previously submitted by CAPA, respectfully requests that the Commission adopt the changes to Chapter 11B of the 2010 CBC proposed by the DSA without substantive change.

Yours very truly,



Janice L. Miller