

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AGENCY  
CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION  
2525 NATOMAS PARK DR., SUITE 130  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833  
(916) 263-0916 Phone  
(916) 263-0959 Fax  
Email: [cbcs@dqs.ca.gov](mailto:cbcs@dqs.ca.gov)

Office Use Item No. \_\_\_\_\_

**PARTICIPATION COMMENTS FOR THE NOTICE DATED MARCH 21, 2014**  
Written comments are to be sent to the above address.

**WRITTEN COMMENT DEADLINE: MAY 5, 2014**

Date: 04/25/2014

From: Eugene Lozano, Jr.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Print or type)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

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\_\_\_\_\_  
California Council of the Blind

\_\_\_\_\_  
Agency, jurisdiction, chapter, company, association, individual, etc.

4537 Sycamore Ave  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Street

Sacramento  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City

CA  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State

95841  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

I/We (do) **do not** agree with:

[  ] The Agency proposed modifications As Submitted on Section No. 11B-703.7.2.1 International Symbol of Accessibility, Exception

and request that this section or reference provision be recommended:

[  ] Approved [  ] Disapproved [  ] Held for Further Study [  ] Approved as Amended

**Suggested Revisions to the Text of the Regulations:**

**11B-703.7.2.1 International Symbol of Accessibility. (...)**

**Exception:** ~~The appropriate enforcement agency may approve other colors provided the symbol contrast is light on dark or dark on light.~~

**Reason:** [The reason should be concise if the request is for "Disapproval," "Further Study," or "Approve As Amend" and identify at least one of the 9-point criteria (following) of Health and Safety Code §18930.]

The California Council of the Blind is opposed to Section 11B-703.7.2.1 Exception because it gives building officials the authority to come up with alternative colors based on aesthetics rather than accessibility for persons who have low vision as well as use mobility devices. Further we oppose the vagueness of "light on dark or dark on light" without requiring at least a 70% contrast and a list of acceptable colors. For example, a building official could require the characters to be a light cream on a medium beige background which would have no contrast detectability for someone with low vision. We request the Exception in its entirety be deleted. Also, this was the consensus of members, including those who are building officials, of the DSA's Access Advisory Committee that met in December of 2013.

## HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 18930

### SECTION 18930. APPROVAL OR ADOPTION OF BUILDING STANDARDS; ANALYSIS AND CRITERIA; REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS; FACTUAL DETERMINATIONS

- (a) Any building standard adopted or proposed by state agencies shall be submitted to, and approved or adopted by, the California Building Standards Commission prior to codification. Prior to submission to the commission, building standards shall be adopted in compliance with the procedures specified in Article 5 (commencing with Section 11346) of Chapter 3.5 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code. Building standards adopted by state agencies and submitted to the commission for approval shall be accompanied by an analysis written by the adopting agency or state agency that proposes the building standards which shall, to the satisfaction of the commission, justify the approval thereof in terms of the following criteria:
- (1) The proposed building standards do not conflict with, overlap, or duplicate other building standards.
  - (2) The proposed building standard is within the parameters established by enabling legislation and is not expressly within the exclusive jurisdiction of another agency.
  - (3) The public interest requires the adoption of the building standards.
  - (4) The proposed building standard is not unreasonable, arbitrary, unfair, or capricious, in whole or in part.
  - (5) The cost to the public is reasonable, based on the overall benefit to be derived from the building standards.
  - (6) The proposed building standard is not unnecessarily ambiguous or vague, in whole or in part.
  - (7) The applicable national specifications, published standards, and model codes have been incorporated therein as provided in this part, where appropriate.
    - (A) If a national specification, published standard, or model code does not adequately address the goals of the state agency, a statement defining the inadequacy shall accompany the proposed building standard when submitted to the commission.
    - (B) If there is no national specification, published standard, or model code that is relevant to the proposed building standard, the state agency shall prepare a statement informing the commission and submit that statement with the proposed building standard.
  - (8) The format of the proposed building standards is consistent with that adopted by the commission.
  - (9) The proposed building standard, if it promotes fire and panic safety as determined by the State Fire Marshal, has the written approval of the State Fire Marshal.