

Thursday, February 05, 2009 (file cac193)

To: Dan Breedon

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Subj: Title 25

Background: Per PBS KIXE Channel 9 Dish Network, the Butte County Board of Supervisors will consider adopting California title 25 code for rural portions of Butte County. This opens up the question of what codes are applicable currently as part of the general plan update process in order to compare, contrast and determine the impact of the adoption of Title 25. This may be the greatest thing since sliced bread but local DIY and builders in the Forest Ranch area I suspect have no valid information on this subject. CAC members in particular should be given information on this subject to get up to speed for evaluating the General Plan Final Version. The video of a Concow post-fire resident agonizing over the inability of use of onsite timber for construction and seemingly extraneous engineering studies I suspect will touch the nerve of many stakeholders in a similar situation. A search of the internet show that Title 25 has been applied to portions of Los Angeles County (Topanga Canyon), but no detailed description was given. I suspect that Title 25 code is similar to the UBC residential code that at the time I built my home in Forest Ranch was not applicable to Butte County. Snow/Wind load/thermal studies and use of ungraded wet structural wood material are key issues for people trying to recover from disaster. It is conceivable that trusted third party volunteers or County Plan checkers can provide at least short term support for people in this situation. Fast tracking/subsidizing the training and certification of volunteers per organization like the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) would be an example of support for stakeholders with limited resources.