

Changes to the California Building Code Effective January 1, 2014

On January 1, 2014, California's new building codes go into effect across the state, including the City of Lawndale. All development projects and permit applications that are submitted to the City on or after January 1, 2014 must comply with the updated code. The new 2013 California Building Standards Code, which applies to nearly all commercial and residential structures in California, makes significant changes to California's Energy Code, Building Code, Green Building Code, and Plumbing Code.

Changes to the California Energy Code include additions and amendments to the energy and water efficiency standards for buildings, including residential, nonresidential, high-rise residential, hotel and motel buildings. The 2013 Energy Code has been extensively rewritten to conform with California's policy that all new residential buildings by 2020, and all new commercial buildings by 2030, have a "zero net energy" footprint.

New accessibility standards will extensively revise the Building Code in order to harmonize state standards and those set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The standards apply to a broad category of buildings, including publicly funded buildings, structures, sidewalks, curbs and related facilities; privately funded public accommodations and commercial facilities; and public housing and private housing available for public use.

With regard to the Green Building Code, generally, newly constructed low-rise residential buildings will need to meet or exceed the requirements of the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards. Nonresidential, high-rise residential and hotel/motel buildings will also need to meet or exceed the requirements of the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards.

For more information, please contact the Community Development Department at 310-973-3230.

