# FAQ'S REGARDING THE NEW 2010 CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS CODE

***Q:*** ***What is the California Building Standards Code?***

**A:** The California Building Standards Code (CBSC) is maintained by the California Building Standards Commission (www.bsc.ca.gov) and contains the codes and laws that regulate the construction of all buildings and structures in the State of California. The CBSC is Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) and consists of eleven parts: Six (6) parts are authored by the State of California and five (5) parts are based on model codes that are authored by various model code writing bodies.

The new 2010 California Building Standards Code includes:

- Part 2, 2010 California Building Code (CBC) which is based on the 2009 International Building Code (IBC) published by the International Code Council (ICC).
- Part 2.5 2010 California Residential Code (CRC) which is based on the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) published by the International Code Council (ICC).
- Part 3, 2010 California Electrical Code (CEC), which is based on the 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC) published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).
- Part 4, 2010 California Mechanical Code (CMC) which is based on the 2009 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO).
- Part 5, 2010 California Plumbing Code (CPC), which is based on the 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO).
- Part 6, 2010 California Energy Code (CEC), which is written by the California Energy Commission (CEC), and published by the California Building Standards Commission.
- Part 9, 2010 California Fire Code (CFC), which is based on the 2009 International Fire Code (IFC) published by the International Code Council (ICC).
- Part 11, 2010 California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen) published by the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC).

***Q:*** ***When is the new 2010 California Building Standards Code effective?***

**A:** The new 2010 California Building Standards Code will become effective January 1, 2011.

- All *Over-the-Counter* permits issued after January 1, 2011, must comply with the new 2010 California Building Standards Code. All projects submitted for plan check to the Community Development Department on or after January 1, 2011, must comply with the new 2010 California Building Standards Code.

***Q:*** ***If a project is submitted for plan check to the Community Development Department prior to January 1, 2011, what codes are applicable to the project?***

**A:** The codes applicable to the project will be the current California Building Standards Codes:

- 2007 California Building Code
- 2007 California Electrical Code
- 2007 California Mechanical Code
- 2007 California Plumbing Code
- 2007 California Fire Code
- 2008 California Energy Code

***Q:*** ***Can a project that is submitted for plan check to the building department prior to January 1, 2011 be reviewed for compliance with the new 2010 California Building Standards Code?***

**A:** The Community Development Department will consider requests by an applicant, on a case-by-case basis for projects submitted for plan check to voluntarily utilize the new 2010 California Building Standards Code in lieu of the 2007 California Building Standards Code.

***Q:*** ***My application to the Community Development Department (Design Review, Administrative Site Plan, Conditional Use Permit, etc.) has been determined to be complete and/or approved prior to January 1, 2011. What codes are applicable to my project?***

**A:** The submittal/approval dates to/from any other city department has no bearing on which California Building Standards Code a project must comply with. The specific edition of California Building Standards Code a project must comply with is solely determined by the date of building permit application to the building department. (Health & Safety Code Section 18938.5)

***Q:*** ***Why did the codes change?***

**A:** In compliance with State law, the California Building Standards Code is revised and updated every three (3) years. The newest edition of the California Building Standards Code is the 2010 edition with an effective date of January 1, 2011. The Town of Paradise is required by state law to enforce the new code.

***Q:*** ***Can specific sections and/or parts from both the old code and the new code be used in the design and construction of a building or structure?***

**A:** No. A construction project must comply with the code that is applicable to the project. Sections and/or parts from different editions of the codes cannot be intermixed.

***Q:*** ***How will permits that have been issued prior to January 1, 2011 that reference existing approved plans – single family dwelling phasing project, condominium projects, etc. – be affected by the new 2010 Building* Standards Code?**

**A:** The new 2010 California Building Standards Code will not affect a permit that was issued prior to January 1, 2011 as long as the permit does not expire. If a permit issued under the "old" 2007 California Building Standards Code expires, a onetime extension (180 days) may be granted. Before a new permit can be issued the plans must be updated to comply with the new 2010 California Building Standards Code, and submitted for plan check and approved by the Community Development Department (See "*IF MY PERMIT WAS ISSUED UNDER THE "OLD" 2007 CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS CODE, WHEN WILL IT EXPIRE?"* for information regarding when a permit expires.)

***Q:*** ***If my project was permitted under the "old" 2007 California Building Standards Code and I need to revise my approved plans, which edition of the codes will be applicable?***

**A:** The only answer to this question is: It depends on the type of revisions being made. A simple minor clarification will not necessitate the need to revise the plans to comply with the new 2010 California Building Standards Code. A major change and/or addition to a project will need to comply with the new 2010 California Building Standards Code. Each specific case will need to be reviewed by the building department to determine which edition of the California Building Standards Code the revisions must comply with.

***Q:*** ***If I applied for a building permit prior to January 1, 2011, when will my building permit application expire?***

**A:** Applications for building permit (plan check process) for which a permit is not issued within 180 days following the date of initial submission shall expire by limitation and become null and void. (CBC Section 105.3.2).

***Q:*** ***If my permit was issued under the "old" 2007 California Building Standards Code, when will it expire?***

**A:** Permits expire by limitation and become null and void, if the building or work authorized by the permit is not commenced within:

180 days from the date of issuance; or

- If the building or work authorized by the permit is suspended or abandoned at any time after the work is commenced for a period of 180 days; or
- Any permittee holding an unexpired permit may apply for an extension of time (180 days) within which work may commence under the "old" 2007 California Building Standards Code (CBC Section 105.5).

***Q:*** ***How can I find out what the changes are from the old code to the new code?***

**A:** By studying the new codes themselves; buying and studying the various handbooks, training manuals, code change analyses available; and attending classes and training seminars on the new codes offered by various professional organizations: www.iccsafe.org, www.iapmo.org; www.calbo.org, www.icbolabc.org, or contact the building department for assistance.

***Q:*** ***Where can I find and/or purchase the new 2010 California Building Standards Code?***

**A:** The new 2010 CBSC is currently available for purchase from technical book stores or directly from the International Code Council, at www.iccsafe.org. As of January 1, 2011, the new 2010 California Building Standards Code, as adopted by the Town of Paradise will be available for public inspection at the building department counter.