

# VENTURA COLLEGE

## Construction Technology Advisory Meeting

October 24, 2014  
Ventura College, Rm ECT-9, 5:00-6:00pm

### Meeting Minutes

#### **Welcome**

Casey Mansfield conducted the meeting. Welcome to guest Jim MacDonald, Building Official for Ventura County.

#### **Introductions**

Casey Mansfield (V.C.), Ralph Fernandez (V.C.), Steve Stuart (CBO/S.P.), Jim MacDonald (CBO/Ven. Co.), Tony Falcone (T.O. ), Bob Guyer (NAHI), Vince Tovey (Ven. City), Carl Danko (BTC), Don Villafana (CPE), Dan Chepley (Cam. )

#### **Current status of the CT Program**

Fall 2014 enrollment was good, average class size 24. The elimination of the Architecture program is starting to effect the CT enrollment numbers. Several CT classes were at capacity, while a couple barely met minimum enrollment requirements. To date we have not had to cut any classes due to low enrollment. The biggest demand as usual, was for the CTV66 National Electrical Code class because of state regulations requiring all electricians to have continuing education. VC is one of the few community colleges in California certified as a continuing education provider for electricians.

The construction economy is still down in California, but turning up in many areas across the United States. Steve Stuart discussed state-wide and county-wide construction projects and construction permit statistics. Permit statistics indicate everything is still down compared with pre-2008 levels, but some areas are beginning to improve compared with 2010 statistics. 2010 is considered the bottom of the construction projects cycle.

Ralph Fernandez gave an update of reinstating the Architecture program at VC. The Architecture program was eliminated in 2010 due to college budget cuts and low enrollment. Now that the construction industry is improving, students are beginning to ask for more classes. Ventura College as applied to the State for reinstatement of the Architectural degree. The process is slow, and our application is pending. When the Architectural program is again offered, the architecture students will enroll into construction technology classes. This should significantly improve the CT numbers.

## **2010 CalGreen Code**

Jim MacDonald discussed the state and federal push towards green building and the introduction of the new California Green Code. This is a brand new publication that will become increasingly important over time. Ventura College should consider offering a Green Code class.

The new course should offer training in subjects such as landscaping with native plants and drip irrigation systems, new building energy conservation regulations, indoor air-quality standards and the use of recycled or renewable materials. Green Building now has standards and professional certifications available through the LEED's program.

Dan Chepley discussed that College of the Desert had received a Federal grant for an alternative energy solar and wind program. The grant is for hiring faculty and equipment necessary to train technicians in emerging energy technologies. COD has acquired an off-campus site to use as a wind farm and solar panel complex. COD is also working with large companies such as Southern California Electric to provide additional funding and equipment support. Electrical energy generated at the site will be pushed back into the electrical grid and the college will receive a monthly credit on their electrical bill.

## **AB2472**

Steve Stuart discussed a proposal for a new law pertaining to building departments and building inspectors called AB 2472. AB2472, if passed, proposes new requirements for stricter record keeping and greater personal liability for inspectors. If AB 2472 becomes law, it may discourage students from entering the inspection industry. State law now exempts inspectors from personal liability. If inspectors can be held personally liable for building failures, it could cause many to reconsider this employment avenue.

## **Other -**

Upcoming seminar – Swimming Pool Safety Regulations

Date Nov. 13, Time 8:00-10:30am, Instructor Tom Ellis (ICC),

Location Ven. Gov. Center room 213, Cost \$40

Design and inspection of swimming pool barriers

Upcoming seminar – New National Electrical Code Requirements

Date Dec. 14, Time 1:00-3:00pm, Instructor Jerry Williams (ICC),

Location Ven. City Hall room 111, Cost \$25

2012 California Electrical Code Changes

Upcoming seminar – Inspection Reporting and Documentation

Date Jan. 26, Time 8:00am-5:00pm, Instructor Joey Lee

Location Holiday Inn Conference Center, Woodland Hills, Cost \$99

New LAFD Fire Marshall reporting and recording keeping requirements