



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Sharon Jensen
County Administrator

Beth Gabor
Public Information Officer

625 Court Street, Room 202 • Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8150 • FAX (530) 668-4029
www.yolocounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 21, 2009

Contact: Beth Gabor, Public Information Officer
(530) 666-8042 [w] • (530) 219-8464 [c]

Yolo County Building Inspection Division Earns High Rating **Property Owners Benefit with Lower Insurance Rates**

(Woodland, CA) – On May 6, 2009, the Yolo County Department of Planning & Public Works Building Inspection Division was surveyed by the Insurance Service Office (ISO) Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule. The survey resulted in the department receiving a Building Code Effectiveness Grading Classification of 2 – a high rating – for its commercial and residential codes and inspections.

ISO is an insurer-supported organization charged with providing advisory insurance underwriting and rating information to insurers. ISO has evaluated over 7,000 building departments across the United States. The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule assesses building codes in effect in a jurisdiction and how the jurisdiction enforces those codes, with special emphasis on mitigation of losses from natural hazards. The assessment evaluates the administrative support for code enforcement within the jurisdiction; adopted building codes and the modifications of those codes through ordinance; code enforcement qualifications, experience and education; zoning provisions; contractor licensing requirements; public awareness and training programs; the department's participation in code development activities; and administrative policies and procedures.

ISO's Building Code Effectiveness Grading classification scale ranges from 1 to 10, with 10 representing "less than the minimum" recognized protection, while a rating of 1 is considered excellent. There are over 600 building departments in California, of which only 40 recently assessed received a Class 2 rating. Only two received a Class 1 rating, 80 a Class 3 rating, 200 a Class 4 rating, 50 a Class 5 rating, 90 a Class 7 rating and 200 a Class 9 rating.

"With a Class 2 rating, ISO will now apply credits to new construction in Yolo County issued a Certificate of Occupancy in 2009," said Yolo County Chief Building Official Lonell Butler. "Ultimately, this will result in decreased insurance rates for our homeowners."

For more information on how Building Code Effectiveness Classifications affects insurance pricing visit: <http://www.isomitigation.com/bcegs/0000/bcegs0004.html>.

"This was like getting an 'A' for our program and for the community," said John Bencomo, Director of the Yolo County Department of Planning & Public Works. "The rating reflects the excellent building inspection staff we have and the commitment of the Board of Supervisors to safely and soundly build our Yolo County communities."

"We are very proud of our Planning & Public Works Building Inspection Division," said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mike McGowan. "They go to great lengths to assist builders, while at the same time protecting our residents and businesses with sound building codes and enforcement measures."

###