

Silicon Valley Uniform Building Code Program

Twenty nine jurisdictions in the Silicon Valley region have adopted uniform codes and interpretations that will save construction costs and help the region stay globally competitive. The collaborative Uniform Building Codes Program is co-sponsored by Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network (JV:SV) and Santa Clara Valley Manufacturing Group (SCVMG). The program provides for consistent approval of building, plumbing, electrical, and mechanical permits in the greater Silicon Valley region.

The State of California adopts and amends a new edition of Uniform Building, Plumbing, Mechanical, and Electrical codes every three years. The local jurisdictions of Silicon Valley had added more than 400 "local code amendments" and each jurisdiction interpreted the codes differently. A program to streamline these codes and interpretations was started in October 1994. It was chaired by Andrew Adelman of the City of San Jose with a steering group of chief building officials that included Hamid Pouya of Sunnyvale, Ron Geary of Mountain View; and David Pasquinelli of Santa Clara. In August 1995, agreement was reached on a uniform regional code with only 11 local amendments, in January 1997, consistent interpretations were approved for more than 20 of the most difficult code sections.

Participating in the program are Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, and the cities and towns of Atherton, Belmont, Campbell, Cupertino, East Palo Alto, Fremont, Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Menlo Park, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Newark, Palo Alto, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Jose, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Saratoga, Scotts Valley, Sunnyvale, Union City, and Woodside.

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