



NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

www.sbcounty.gov/Biane

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2009

For more information, contact
Scott Vanhorne, Communications Director
(909) 387-4833

County Expands Residential Green Building Program

SAN BERNARDINO – On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors approved a revised policy that aims to expand a San Bernardino County program that promotes “green” residential home construction in unincorporated areas.

The revised policy expands the program to include commercial construction and provides more options for builders to qualify for the program’s benefits.

The County launched its Green Builder Program and other initiatives aimed at reducing negative impacts on the environment in August 2007 under the leadership of then Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane.

The Green Builder Program offered residential home builders priority in the County’s plan review and building permit inspection process if they met the standards of the California Green Builder program (CGB), which was created by the California Building Industry Association. So far, no builders have taken advantage of the County’s Green Builder Program, which was implemented as the area’s booming housing market began to fizzle.

The revised policy includes commercial construction and provides developers four options to qualify as a “green” builder so they can benefit from expedited plan checks and building inspections. In addition to the California Green Builder Standards, home builders also can elect to build to Leadership in Energy Efficient Design (LEED) standards or they can select another third-party “green” building rating program approved by the County.

Builders can also elect to use the County’s “green” building checklist, which gives points for incorporating features such as solar powered outdoor lighting, energy-efficient appliances, and the use of recycled construction materials. Builders who earn a score of 85 or higher on the checklist qualify. Unlike LEED and CGB, the County checklist option does not require a fee.

“We want to provide builders with a menu of options to show their product is energy efficient and that steps were taken to minimize environmental impacts during and after construction,” Second District Supervisor Paul Biane said. “When the economy picks up again, the County will have a

comprehensive program in place that encourages the use of green building practices so we can catch the next wave of development.”

#