

TAKEN TO ACCESS

Questions of the Month:

- Q. My ABRP has been approved by FPD PAC and DRA. Now what?
- R. Congratulations! Once the ABRP has been approved by PAC, the affiliate is eligible to request system funding to continue its efforts to remove barriers. PAC will work with the affiliate to establish overall funding amount as well as yearly budgets that will be directly related to barrier removal commitment dates. Once the ABRP has been approved by DRA, progress and prospective reporting begins. The expectation has been that from the moment the original survey was issued, even prior to the preparation of the ABRP, barrier removal was to begin. Therefore, upon DRA's approval back year reporting will be required. Mary Ellen Medinilla will be presenting on this topic on December 19, 2012 at Green Valley. Additionally, she'll be contacting affiliates soon to address specific reporting requirements.
- Q. Does FPD PAC impose mandates that exceed code and ADA requirements?
- R. Not at all. FPD PAC simply expects full compliance with current code and ADA standards. Often times, more than one code section is applicable and through our plan review process this gets pointed out to our architects. Furthermore, there are often items where there are conflicting requirements between current code and ADA and the more stringent has to be followed. Additionally, no comment or correction is issued by our Access Specialists that is not supported by the code or the ADA.

12/12/12

According to the Mayan calendar, the 12th day of the 12th month of the 12th year marks the end of the world as we know it!!

However, within FPD 12/12/12 is the one year anniversary of the Physical Access Compliance Program. Prior to the implementation of the program FPD's role was to assist affiliates as required. However, a broad representation of affiliates across all regions advised FPD that substantially greater assistance from our department was needed. Therefore, we were assigned increased responsibility to coordinate, assist and insure the execution of the Architectural MOU. This essentially means that full accountability to oversee the delivery and implementation of the Physical Access Compliance component of the Consent Decree was shifted to FPD.

Our focus in the last year has been to develop processes and insure that such processes leverage opportunities for cross affiliate execution and shared learning. We have completed the review of all ABRP's, and streamlined the 3rd party accessibility plan review with the implementation of the application and project number system. We have made the alternate compliance method available for medium projects and have kicked into gear the monitoring program. We continue to be responsible for reporting on barrier removal status to OGC and Class Counsel and for collaborating with other DAC functions such as Strategic Sourcing and Plant Operations.

All of the completed milestones in this past year reflect collaboration between affiliates, architectural consultants and FPD. As we look towards 2013 we will be focusing our efforts on barrier removal. We have at a system level over 65,000 barriers and will need to significantly increase the number of barriers being removed yearly in order to meet our barrier removal deadline of 2017. A year ago, we would have been concerned at the magnitude of this task. But today we feel optimistic and hopeful as we have created partners with our providers, leaders and consultants and anticipate full collaboration and commitment from all to make our facilities accessible and fully compliant. Farewell 2012!!

COMMON ACRONYMS

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| AA | Accessibility Architect | MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| ABRP | Architectural Barrier Removal Plan | MR | Monitoring (Project, ex. MR0001) |
| ACM | Alternate Compliance Method | NC | New Construction (Project, ex. NC0001) |
| APR | Accessibility Plan Review | OGC | Office of General Counsel |
| BR | Barrier Removal (Project, ex. BR0001) | OP | Old Project (Project, ex. OP0001) |
| CASp | Certified Access Specialist Program | PAC | Physical Access Compliance |
| CBC | California Building Code | POT | Path of Travel |
| DAC | Disability Access Compliance | PT | Project Team |
| DRA | Disability Rights Advocates | USDOJ | United States Department of Justice |
| DSA | Division of the State Architect | 3PR | Third Party Reviewer |