

TAKEN TO ACCESS

What has PAC been up to?

- ABRP Review Process has been implemented. We are currently reviewing MHLB, MMC, SLH, STCH, SGMF & SPMF. The PAC team is essentially assuming the role of Class Counsel in trying to identify responses that have been challenged in previous ABRP's. Be sure to address the Low Hanging Fruit barriers in the first year of your plan.
- ABRP's that are approved by PAC are passed on to Class Counsel for approval. Once approved, ABRP's will be downloaded into Projecto and Prospective and Progress Reporting will begin. For some Affiliates reporting began in 2010. Mary Ellen Medinilla is the contact person throughout the process and works with each team to develop reporting processes and requirements. You'll be hearing from us soon!
- Funding Process is being developed. Implementation expected in April 2012. Remember, your ABRP must be approved by FPD PAC to be eligible to prepare and present Funding Package.
- Monitoring Process is being developed. Santa Cruz, Mills Peninsula, Castro Valley and Alta Bates FRC projects are to be monitored first. Are you ready?



WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE!

You won't find the words "handicap" or "handicapped" anywhere in accessibility regulations, except to advise against their use in referring to individuals with disabilities, or accommodations for them. Why? Because these are considered *demeaning* terms.

Reports vary as to the origin of these words (for more info, see www.snopes.com/language/offense/handicap.asp), but suffice it to say that enough people are offended by them that they should not be used on signs, in business documentation or correspondence, on Construction Documents, or in polite conversations. Those who have dealt with the Architectural Barrier Surveys may have noticed instances where the pres-

ence of these words on signs is identified as a barrier, and those who have participated in Accessibility Plan Reviews have doubtless seen Reviewer Comments to remove these words or their abbreviations, "HC" or "Hcp." from Drawings or Specifications.

Alternatives include "accessible," "individuals with disabilities," or more specifically, "wheelchair users," "hearing-impaired persons," and similar. Practice using these substitutes until it becomes second-nature.

In a related vein, the term "ADA" should not be used as a synonym for "accessible" or "accessibility," as in "The City's Building Department

performed our ADA review." Why? It *miscommunicates*.

The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) is a specific set of laws related to accessibility, but there are others, such as the California Building Code (CBC), the Unruh Act, and SB 1608. Aspects of these laws, and their enforcement, are dissimilar to ADA, so if you state that "Those are our ADA parking spaces," you could be implying that they do not comply with CBC. Moreover, Building Departments and/or OSHPD do not review for ADA compliance. As a Federal Civil Rights law, compliance with ADA is only enforced by legal actions.

KNOW WHO TO CALL ACCESS SPECIALISTS ARE HERE TO HELP

When a new construction or alteration project has selected to participate in the Alternate Compliance Process the **Access Specialist** is the designated party to provide advice during all phases of design. They are an integral

part of the project team and will answer questions and provide interpretations. For projects participating in the normal 3rd Party Review Process questions can be submitted to our Accessibility Architect. Contact

information is below.

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