Foreword

These residential Guidelines were developed for the following reasons:

- To provide local governments with an educational tool for city staff, builders and homeowners interested in green residential construction
- To present a range of voluntary measures for builders to choose from when constructing a green home in California
- To create a policy foundation for local governments interested in implementing a green building program
- To establish regional consistency in green building guidelines to increase predictability for builders
- To integrate varying residential initiatives in order to achieve greater simplicity and local applicability
- To offer a set of guidelines developed by an independent, third-party source.

Guidelines Development Process

The New Home Construction Guidelines were developed through a collaborative process that included the following steps:

These guidelines are based on the Alameda County New Home Construction Green Building Guidelines, which were first developed in 2000 through a collaborative process and public-private partnership among builders, green building experts, and local government staff in Alameda County. Representatives from major production builders, including Centex Homes, Greenbriar Homes, Ponderosa Homes, Pulte Homes, Shea Homes, Signature Properties, Silverwood Homes, and Toll Brothers, provided input and direction in the development of the original Guidelines.

The Guidelines were updated in 2005 to expand its applicability throughout California, address changes in Title 24, and incorporate measures from other residential green building initiatives such as the California Green Builder program, National Association of Home Builders guidelines, and the pilot draft LEED for Homes checklist.

The Green Residential Environmental Action Team (GREAT), a task force of state agencies including the California Integrated Waste Management Board, California Energy Commission, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Office of the State Architect, Department of General Services, Department of Water Resources, and California Air Resources Board, provided technical expertise and input in the update of these Guidelines.

Build It Green—a professional non-profit organization whose mission is to promote green building in California—expanded and facilitated the stakeholder process to include input from its various councils, including the Public Agency Council, Builders Council, Non-Profit Network, and Suppliers Council. In 2006 the water efficiency measures in the Guidelines were revised based on input from the Southern California Public Agency Council.

Publicly available information, scientific data, and third-party standards were referenced in the development of these Guidelines. The Guidelines are intended to be a living document, and will be regularly updated as additional technical and quantitative information becomes available, measurement tools such as Life Cycle Assessment become more accessible, and new green measures are developed.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the following individuals and organizations for contributing to the development of these guidelines:

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Douglas Beaman, Douglas Beaman Associates
- David Blanke, Southern California Gas Co.
- Elaine Hebert, California Energy Commission
- Gary Klein, California Energy Commission
- Randel Reidel, California Energy Commission
- David Springer, Davis Energy Group

WATER EFFICIENCY & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- Diamera Bach, Alameda County Public Works Agency
- Geoff Brousseau, California Stormwater Quality Association
- Dan Cloak Environmental Consulting
- John Koeller, California Urban Water Conservation Council
- Tom Larson, DUDEK
- Carlos Michelon, Metropolitan Water District

RESOURCES

- Gregory Dick, California Integrated Waste Management Board
- Teresa Eade, Bay-Friendly Landscaping
- Cynthia Havstad, Bay-Friendly Landscaping
- Clark Williams, California Integrated Waste Management Board

IAQ/HEALTH

- Peggy Jenkins, California Air Resources Board
- Richard Lam, California EPA, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
- Jed Waldman, California Department of Health Services

BUILDERS

- Don Babbitt, Heartwood Communities
- Troy Bevilacqua, Christopherson Homes
- Amy Christopherson Bolten, Christopherson Homes
- Pamela Hardy, Ponderosa Homes
- Stephen Holmes, Brookfield Homes
- Jeff Jacobs, Centex Homes
- Dave Kay, Shea Homes

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- Gregory Shreeve, City of Dublin
- Wendy Sommer, Green Building in Alameda County
- Wes Sullens, Green Building in Alameda County
- Scott Terrell, Truckee Donner Public Utility District
- Dell Tredinnick, City of Santa Rosa

NON-PROFIT AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

- Build It Green
- Global Green USA
- Healthy Building Network
- San Luis Obispo County Green Building Initiative Group
- Santa Cruz Green Building Working Group

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- David Johnston, What's Working
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Front cover photo courtesy of Christopherson Homes. Back cover photos courtesy of East Bay Habitat for Humanity, Bruce Hammond, Victoria and Michael Johnston, Leger Wanaselja Architecture, and Ponderosa Homes.