

Update 52

To: SFPE Membership and Other Interested Parties
From: Tim Callahan (Phone: 925-932-4490) E-Mail: timfirepro@aol.com
Subject: **FPE Practice Designation Efforts**
Date: 11/8/2008

Summary

The 2009-10 legislative session will begin the first week of December. Limited action will occur at that time pending the New Year and resolution of the state budget crisis. Bill authors are being identified with bill introduction planned for January-February. The bill will be introduced. Active support has been indicated from a major oil company and a CA utility. Others continue to be sought. Such support will be **critical** for passage of the bill.

Objective is for bill passage in the first year of the 2 year legislative session. Goal is to complete by September. Active efforts of membership will be important for success.

Particulars

Text of the proposed bill was previously forwarded. Essentially the bill will:

- Eliminate the arbitrary restrictions placed on the engineering practice of a Title Act Engineer such as a Fire Protection Engineer.
- Expand the design authority of all engineers, to practice in areas they are competent in by training and experience, provided the work is incidental and supplemental to their primary work.
- Eliminates PE Board's meddling in the authority of the licensed engineer. Board has repeatedly been called upon to state whether an "X" engineer can design "Y"; the erection of arbitrary fences to practice without addressing issues of competency.
- Eliminates uncertainties whether the work of a licensed engineer will be accepted by local regulatory authorities. Acceptance by state agencies (ie. OSHPD & DSA) will be addressed after bill passage as there are specific statutory sections in the Health & Safety Code that restrict practice.
- Provides assurances to young graduates or even prospective students that a career path exists in the Title Engineer's practice realm.
- Closely aligns CA engineering law with those of the other states.
- Arrests the efforts of the PE Board to eliminate engineering disciplines. The disciplines of Corrosion, Safety, Quality and Manufacturing engineering were eliminated in last 10+ years. Prior board efforts on elimination included Control Systems, Traffic and Petroleum.

Needed Support

The active support of users of FPE services remains. Also, this effort will have some monetary requirements that our lobbying organization (CLCPE) cannot currently cover. Support of the membership is needed.