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*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

Western Contractors Associations Endorse I-Codes

(April 28, 2003) SARATOGA, CA — In an unprecedented show of support for a single national model building code, three major Western contractor’s associations have voiced their backing for the International family of building codes as California and other states prepare to enter a new cycle of statewide building code adoptions.

Members of the Western Wall & Ceiling Contractors Association (WWCCA)/Technical Services Information Bureau (TSIB), the Northern California Drywall Contractors Association (NCDCA) and the Northwest Wall & Ceiling Bureau (NWCBC) voted to support to the I-Codes over a rival building code published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

In announcing their decisions, association representatives stressed their desire to support local building officials, an overwhelming majority of which back the International family of codes. Collectively, the associations represent hundreds of signatory union contractor, supplier and manufacturer members, and are recognized as the leading contractor groups in the western United States.

“The WWCCA has many longterm relations with many ICBO officials that are now operating at the International Code Council (ICC). These relationships enable the WWCCA to function as a liaison between labor and the building officials,” said Ian Hendry, executive vice president of WWCCA. “The WWCCA board’s unanimous decision to support the ICC indicates their desire to continue enjoying the benefits of the relations between our group and the building officials.”

“What we’ve elected to do is endorse and heavily promote the new international building code in all the regions we’re involved in,” said Bob Drury, NWCBC executive director. “Building officials we’ve worked with are also endorsing that more than the NFPA code. We want to show we’re on their side and get that passed.”

“We encourage all building professionals, from labor to management, and from tradesmen to building officials, to provide their support in the continued adoption and development of the I-Codes,” said Jason W. Fell, technical director for the Drywall Information Trust Fund, the technical services and promotional arm of NCDCA.

The International family of codes were first developed 2000 in by the International Code Council (ICC), established in 1994 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing a single set of comprehensive and coordinated national model construction codes. The founders of the ICC are Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), and Southern Building Code Congress International, Inc. (SBCCI).

The ICC has been challenged by NFPA's efforts to develop a rival set of building codes, NFPA 5000, first published in late 2002.

“The differences between the IBC and NFPA 5000 are significant. While impressive for a document so young, the NFPA 5000 would require an entirely new understanding how the building code is used and enforced. The last thing we need in this building climate is more confusion in the inspection and interpretation process,” noted Michael Logue, director of TSIB. “Furthermore, NFPA has no plans that I know of to develop an evaluation service for acceptance criteria for materials and systems not included in the code.”

NCDCA has been an active association in the Northern California walls and ceilings industry for more than forty years, serving contractor and associate members throughout Northern California.

WWCCA is the oldest active Wall & Ceiling Association in the west, operating since 1902. The association is comprised on two factions, the WWCCA, which handles the administrative affairs, and the TSIB, which handles all technical concerns. WWCCA is a non-profit organization representing Southern California, Nevada and Arizona.

The NWCB is a proactive, international trade association for the wall and ceiling industry in the Northwestern United States and Western Canada. The NWCB has 11 local chapters in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, Colorado, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba.

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