



CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD

California Licensed Contractor

Spring 2020 Edition

Volume 84, Issue 1

Message from the Board Chair

CSLB is always exploring ways to improve the working lives of our licensees. I hope this newsletter helps those licensees hoping to grow their contracting business in 2020.

Keep watch this spring as we launch a new series of webinars and podcasts for both licensees and applicants trying to get their contractor license.

Another valuable resource available now is the 2020 edition of the *California Contractors License Law & Reference Book*. The book has a wealth of information about running a construction business, as well as the laws you'll need to follow. That includes 2020 laws, about new requirements for solar installations in many parts of the state. In this newsletter you'll find links to either purchase a copy of the book or download an electronic version for free.

Speaking of solar, CSLB is keeping an eye on how solar systems are marketed and sold to consumers. Be sure to check-out articles on our multi-agency solar task force as well as registration requirements for solar brokers and lead generators.

Licensed contractors often ask how they can help us address unlicensed contracting. In this newsletter, we'll show you the fastest way to help us conduct our very successful undercover sting operations.

The newsletter also includes an update on CSLB efforts in the wildfire disaster zones around the State, especially recent work at the Camp Fire in the Paradise area of Butte County.

We've also included information about the quick steps you can take to turn your CSLB license lookup into a powerful promotional feature on your company website.

Plus, there are articles on a new building permit training video, how you or your insurance company can quickly submit workers' compensation insurance information or general liability insurance to CSLB, and a couple of good opportunities from Caltrans and the California Earthquake Authority that might help expand your construction business.

I hope you'll take a few minutes to explore the articles in the newsletter. Be sure to send us feedback by email at social@cslb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Johnny Simpson





CSLB Continues Commitment to California Wildfire Survivors

It's been several months now since California was hit by its last devastating wildfire. Even so, CSLB has not cut back on its dedication to helping wildfire survivors navigate the challenging rebuilding process and contractors who want to work in the area.

While staff continues its work in wildfire zones around the State, key focus has been placed on assisting survivors of the Camp Fire in the Paradise area of Butte County, where almost 19,000 structures were destroyed, and helping to keep the playing field level for legitimate licensed contractors.

Recent CSLB activities in that area include a presentation on how to hire a licensed contractor, regular sweeps of active construction sites, a multi-agency undercover sting operation, and weekly staffing at Paradise's new Building Resiliency Center.

Here are the details from a press release issued after an undercover sting conducted in Paradise by CSLB's Statewide Investigative Fraud Team on January 24-25, 2020:

Camp Fire Survivors Encouraged to Stay Vigilant as

Multiple Agencies Partner in Rebuilding Undercover Sting

SACRAMENTO - The Contractors State License Board (CSLB) has a warning for survivors of the Camp Fire in Paradise and other nearby communities in Butte County. Homeowners need to remain vigilant and not hire anyone to help them rebuild their home if they don't have a valid California contractor license.

The warning comes after CSLB, the [Butte County District Attorney's Office](#), [Paradise Police Department](#), and [California Department of Insurance](#) conducted a two-day undercover sting operation.

In the operation, investigators from CSLB's Statewide Investigative Fraud Team (SWIFT) invited suspected unlicensed contractors to a property overlooking Little Butte Creek. The targets came to the property and gave undercover investigators bids for jobs including fencing, plumbing, concrete and vegetation demolition, and excavation.

A total of nine suspects provided bids ranging from \$600 to \$25,000. In California, all home improvement jobs totaling \$500 or more in combined labor and material costs must be performed by a licensed contractor ([Business and Professions Code \(BPC\) § 7028](#)). Punishment includes a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or up to six months in county jail.

Those nine targets and three other suspects may face a charge of illegal advertising. Licensed contractors must display their license number in all advertisements; unlicensed contractors must state



in their ads that they are not licensed by CSLB ([BPC, § 7027.1](#)). The penalty includes a fine of \$700 to \$1,000.

Other violations cited at the operation included the fraudulent use of a contractor's license number ([BPC, § 7027.3](#)), illegally large down payment ([BPC, § 7159.5\(a\)\(3\)](#)), and failure to secure workers' compensation insurance ([Labor Code, § 3700.5](#)).

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey stated, "We have made it our mission to protect our Camp Fire victims in Butte County from over-reaching unlicensed contractors. Proactive enforcement of contractor licensing requirements protects our consumers and legitimate contractors alike. Consumers are protected from illegal contracts and poor workmanship, and law-abiding contractors are protected from unfair competition by any who attempt to avoid the law's requirements."

"While it wasn't easy for our investigators to identify targets for this operation, we know there are still a substantial number of unlicensed contractors trying to get rebuilding work in the Paradise area," said CSLB Registrar David Fogt. "That's why homeowners need to stay on-guard and be careful as they look to hire people to help them rebuild."

Homeowners take a huge risk when they hire unlicensed contractors. Most are not properly insured and likely don't have the skills or knowledge to perform the work. Plus, recourse for homeowners is limited if an unlicensed contractor's work is substandard or never completed.

"When contractors operate without workers' compensation insurance or a proper license they not only are breaking the law, they are putting their workers and homeowners in jeopardy," said Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara. "Unlicensed contractors who prey on wildfire survivors for a quick buck need to know we will stay vigilant, and we will catch you."

Consumers can use the "[Find My Licensed Contractor](#)" feature to download and/or print a list of qualified licensed contractors in their area. They can also use CSLB's "[Check A License First](#)" to view and verify information on a licensed contractor.

Suspects were either booked into the Butte County Main Jail or issued citations and are scheduled to appear Friday, March 20, 2020 at the Butte County Superior Court, 1 Court Street, Oroville, CA 95965.



Multimedia Resources

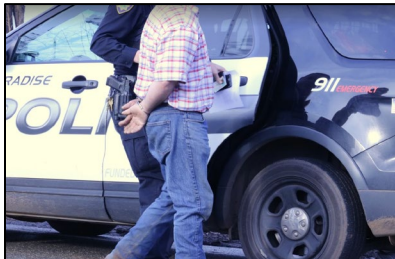
Video: Undercover Sting Operation – January 24-25, 2020



Video: Undercover Sting Press Conference – January 31, 2020



Still Photos: Undercover Sting Operation – January 24-25, 2020



Video: Sting Recap & Sample of Media Coverage



Video: Paradise Community Meeting – January 7, 2020





Protect Your Outdoor Workers from Wildfire Smoke

After what's been a very dry winter season throughout California, we're likely headed for another dangerous wildfire season. With that in mind, CSLB wants to make sure licensees are aware of some important health and safety rules when it comes to working outdoors during wildfires.

An [emergency regulation](#) issued last fall by the Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DIR/DOSH), also known as Cal/OSHA, was established to protect workers from the hazards associated with wildfire smoke.

The emergency regulation applies to workplaces where the current air quality index (AQI) for airborne particulate matter (PM) is 151 or greater, and to areas where employers can reasonably anticipate that employees could be exposed to wildfire smoke. Find out how to get local information by linking to your local [California Air District](#).

Under the new regulation, employers must take the following steps to protect workers who may be exposed to wildfire smoke:

- Identify harmful exposure to airborne particulate matter from wildfire smoke before each shift and periodically thereafter by checking the AQI for PM 2.5 in regions where workers are located;
- Reduce harmful exposure to wildfire smoke if feasible, for example, by relocating work to an enclosed building with filtered air or to an outdoor location where the AQI for PM 2.5 is 150 or lower;
- If employers cannot reduce workers' harmful exposure to wildfire smoke so that the AQI for PM 2.5 is 150 or lower, they must provide:
 - Respirators such as [N95 masks](#) to all employees for voluntary use
 - Training on the new regulation, the health effects of wildfire smoke, and the safe use and maintenance of respirators. ([Cal. Code of Regulations § 5141.1.](#))

Licensees and workers are also encouraged to review the [Frequently Asked Questions about Wildfire Hazards](#) section of the DIR website.

Employers and workers who have questions or need assistance with workplace health and safety programs can contact [Cal/OSHA's Consultation Services Branch](#). Complaints about workplace safety and health hazards can be filed confidentially with [Cal/OSHA district offices](#). Employees with work-related questions or complaints may contact DIR's Call Center at 844-LABOR-DIR (844) 522-6734.



CSLB Part of Multi-Agency Task Force Addressing Predatory Sales Tactics in Solar Industry

For years California has led the country in the evolution of the installation of residential solar photovoltaic systems. While most solar contractors perform good work and most consumers are pleased with their new systems, as installations have become more popular over the last few years, CSLB has seen an increase in the number of solar-related consumer complaints, primarily involving predatory sales tactics, especially with Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing.

SOLAR CONSUMER PROTECTION GOVERNMENT TASKFORCE



To address solar complaints and overlapping jurisdiction, CSLB has partnered with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the Department of Business Oversight (DBO) and formed a Solar Consumer Protection Government Taskforce.

With the partnership, the three agencies are leveraging their collective resources to provide preventative outreach and assistance to consumers victimized by predatory sales tactics. The taskforce includes three working groups with representatives from each agency and other public stakeholders to focus on preventive outreach and education, coordinated enforcement opportunities, and complaint tracking and reporting.

During 2019, CSLB's Enforcement division settled 278 solar-related cases (including some complaints received in prior years), which led to more than \$1.7 million in restitution awarded to injured consumers. Seventeen other solar investigations were referred to local authorities for possible criminal prosecution.

CSLB also established a team of four investigators to focus on cases involving PACE financing. Staff have identified 239 PACE-related complaints, dating back to January 1, 2018 that are being reviewed to address possible fraud and misrepresentation.

In September 2019, CSLB joined with partners and the Fresno County District Attorney's Office in Parlier (Fresno County) to warn homeowners about a spike in solar fraud cases in the central valley. The press conference coincided with the distribution by the CPUC of a jointly developed solar bulletin to all 300,000 households in Fresno County.



Finally, CSLB developed and distributed an industry advisory on lead generation and solar brokers. The advisory aims to ensure that consumers are protected from unscrupulous marketing and sales tactics by unlicensed salespeople and installers in the ever-growing solar energy market.

Multimedia Resources

CSLB's Solar Smart Page



Video: Solar Taskforce Meeting – February 19, 2020 – 3 Parts



[Hour 1](#)

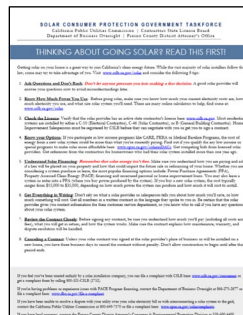
[Hour 2](#)

[Hour 3](#)

Video: Parlier Press Conference – September 20, 2019



Fresno County Consumer Solar Bulletin (English & Spanish)





Editor's Note: The following is an Industry Bulletin CSLB issued as part of the Solar Consumer Protection Government Taskforce on [January 9, 2020](#):

Affirming California's Restrictions on Lead Generation and Solar Broker Services in the Residential Solar Industry

The Contractors State License Board (CSLB) provides this advisory to affirm California protections for solar energy consumers set forth in existing law.

C-46 Solar Contractor License Specialty Classification

CSLB is the primary state agency that is charged with investigating and enforcing compliance with the Contractors' State License Law for the protection of the public (Bus. & Prof. Code, (BPC) §§ 7000.6, 7011.4.) "The purpose of the licensing law is to protect the public from incompetence and dishonesty in those who provide building and construction services. The licensing requirements provide minimal assurance that all persons offering such services in California have the requisite skill and character, understand applicable local laws and codes, and know the rudiments of administering a contracting business." (*UDC-Universal Development v. CH2M Hill* (2010) 181 Cal.App.4th 10, 24.)

In 1983, CSLB adopted the C-46 Solar Contractor specialty classification. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 832.46, defines the C-46 classification as follows:

- A solar contractor installs, modifies, maintains, and repairs thermal and photovoltaic solar energy systems
- A licensee classified in this section shall not undertake or perform building or construction trades, crafts, or skills, except when required to install a thermal or photovoltaic solar energy system

When a person undertakes work in the C-46 classification, the person is considered a "solar contractor." Therefore, to perform work under a solar lease or sales agreement to install, modify, maintain, or repair a photovoltaic solar energy system for a home, a person is required to have a C-46 solar contractor's license ([for more information see p.19 of CSLB's Description of Classifications](#)). Installation of a solar energy product is a "home improvement," which can only be done by a licensed contractor (BPC, §§ 7150.1, 7151.)



Lead Generation, Solar Brokering, and Notice of Protections for Consumers

A licensed contractor is permitted to solicit, negotiate, execute, and sell contracts for the installation of these systems personally or through an employee who is a registered salesperson with CSLB (BPC, §§ 7151.2, 7152, and 7154.) However, it is becoming common in California for third parties who are not registered salespersons working for licensed solar contractors to generate leads for solar contractors (“lead generators”) or to sell solar contracts to consumers and assist consumers in locating a contractor (“solar brokering”).

Lead generators market solar energy systems to consumers and then sell the list of interested customers to a particular solar contractor or even to multiple contractors. Solar brokers may present themselves as independent contractors who work on system design, price, size, and product with the consumer, and then locate a contractor on the consumer’s behalf. While lead generation and solar brokering through unlicensed salespeople has become a popular method of selling solar technology, in almost all cases soliciting, selling, negotiating, or executing contracts for the installation of these systems requires the salesperson to be employed by a licensed contractor and registered with CSLB (BPC, §§ 7151.2, 7152, and 7154.) Thus, the legal scope of functions of an unlicensed lead generator or unregistered or unlicensed solar broker is limited.

While the Business and Professions Code prohibits unlicensed operators from advertising for work requiring a contractor’s license, a lead generator or solar broker may serve as a referral source for licensed contractors, provide contractor contact information to prospective customers, and set up appointments for licensed contractors or their registered home improvement salespersons (BPC, § 7152, subd. (c)(5).) However, solar energy lead generators or solar brokers cannot provide quotes or offers for the sale and installation of solar photovoltaic systems. This can be done only by a licensed contractor or a registered salesperson who is an employee of a licensed contractor (BPC, §§ 7152, 7154.) It is a misdemeanor for any person to engage in selling home improvement goods and services without registering with CSLB (BPC, § 7153.)

CSLB remains committed to ensuring that the Contractor’s State License Law is followed in the marketing and sale of clean technology home improvements to consumers, and to ensure that consumers are protected from unscrupulous marketing and sales tactics by unlicensed salespeople and installers in an ever-growing solar energy market.



Quick Summary of New 2020 Contracting Laws

Here is a summary of the new 2020 laws that are now in effect. Take note as these laws may change the way you do business.

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 601 \(Ch. 854, Stats. of 2019\)](#), added section 11009.5 to the Government Code, authorizes specified state agencies to establish a process for a person or business either displaced or experiencing economic hardship as a result of an emergency to apply for a fee reduction or waiver required to obtain a license, renew or activate a license, or replace a physical license for display. (

[SB 610](#) (Ch. 378, Stats. of 2019) extends CSLB's sunset date from January 1, 2020, to January 1, 2024. Prior to that time, CSLB operations will again be reviewed by the Legislature and a new sunset date considered. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 7000.5.) The bill also requires CSLB to conduct a study on whether the current contractor bond amount is sufficient and report the findings to the Legislature by January 1, 2021. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 7071.6.)

The bill also requires CSLB to charge C-10 (Electrician) contractors a \$20 fee to enforce electrician certification requirements and authorizes CSLB to automatically suspend a contractor's license for an unsatisfied construction-related judgment entered against a member of the personnel of record of a license. (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 7071.17, 7137.)

[Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1076 \(Ch. 578, Stats. of 2019\)](#) requires that the Department of Justice, on a monthly basis, to review the records in the statewide criminal justice databases and identify those eligible for relief by not disclosing their arrest or conviction records, as specified. (Penal Code, §§ 851.93., 1203.425.)

This bill's provisions do not apply to offenses requiring sex offender registration or to any pending criminal charges. The bill extends its requirements to the criminal information provided by the department to other entities for employment, licensing, or certification. .

[AB 1296](#) (Ch. 626, Stats. of 2019) added section 15925 to the Government Code and provides additional tools to agencies participating in the Joint Enforcement Strike Force (JESF) on the Underground Economy. CSLB is a member of the JESF.

This bill adds the Department of Justice, the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, and the Franchise Tax Board to the JESF, and authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles and California Highway Patrol and other agencies to serve the JESF in an advisory capacity. Finally, the bill authorizes JESF representatives to exchange intelligence, data, documents, confidential



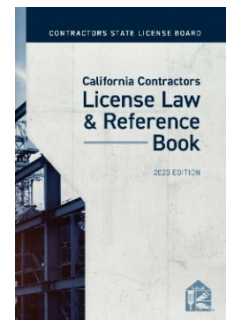
information, or lead referrals and authorizes sharing such information with the Labor Enforcement Task Force.

[AB 1475](#) (Ch. 289, Stats. of 2019) amended sections 6702 and 6971 of the Public Contract Code to clarify that a construction manager on California Department of Transportation projects be a licensed contractor pursuant to Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code. ().

2020 Contractors License Law & Reference Book Now Available

The latest edition of CSLB's most valuable publication is now available for purchase or to be downloaded for free.

The 2020 edition of the *California Contractors License Law & Reference Book* includes a "Summary of Major Changes to Contractor Law" and specialized sections about becoming a licensed contractor; home improvement; business management; construction standards and safety regulations; California's Business and Professions Code sections and other construction-related state codes; and complete contractors' state license law rules and regulations.



"The 2020 law book is an excellent reference and guide for industry professionals at all levels," said David Fogt, CSLB Registrar. "This tool can help prospective contractors get information on the application and testing process, as well as help them with questions on how to set-up their contracting business."

The 2020 law book can only be purchased from the publisher, LexisNexis, and is not available at any CSLB office.

- Order [Online](#)
- Order by Phone at (800) 533-1637
- Order by Fax at (518) 462-3788
- Download a [Free Electronic Copy](#)



CSLB Announces New Renewal Fee Schedule

Since its creation more than 90 years ago, CSLB has carried out its consumer protection mission in the most financially responsible way possible. Since CSLB operations are funded entirely by license fees, our budget can fluctuate based upon changes in the number of licensed contractors in California.

Over the last ten years, CSLB’s licensee population has dropped by more than 23,400, equal to a shortfall of almost \$3.4 million per year in license renewal fees. Combine that with increasing costs, including extensive disaster response expenses, and CSLB was forced to make the decision to raise renewal fees to the maximum allowed by statute. The new fees were approved as an emergency measure by the Office of Administrative Law last December and took effect February 1, 2020.

The decision to raise fees was not made lightly, and over the past number of years CSLB has taken multiple measures to reduce costs. Unfortunately, CSLB cannot further reduce the expenditures that support licensing and enforcement programs without negatively affecting our ability to process applications in a timely manner, quickly mediate or investigate consumer complaints, and effectively respond to disasters throughout the state.

Another fee-related item of note is that beginning on February 1, 2020, CSLB implemented the requirement of Senate Bill 610 , requiring that CSLB begin charging active C-10 Electrical contractors a supplemental \$20 fee when they renew their license. This fee is to support CSLB’s efforts to enforce electrician certification requirements. This \$20 increase affects only C-10 contractors.

Timely Renewals	Previous Fee	New Fee	For C-10
Active Licenses	\$400	\$450	\$470
Inactive Licenses	\$200	\$225	\$225
Home Improvement Salesperson Registrations	\$83	\$95	N/A

Delinquent (Late) Renewals	Previous Fee	New Fee	For C-10
Active Licenses	\$600	\$675	\$695
Inactive Licenses	\$300	\$337.50	\$337.50
Home Improvement Salesperson Registrations	\$124.50	\$142.50	N/A

License Reactivation	Previous Fee	New Fee	For C-10
Active Licenses	\$400	\$450	\$470



Use CSLB's Automated Online System to File Insurance Info

California law ([Business & Professions Code section 7125](#)) requires that all construction businesses with employees carry workers' compensation insurance. The insurance exists for employees who get hurt or sick because of work.

CSLB licensees with an active license who want to reactivate an inactive license, or applicants for an active contractor license must do one of two things:

1. Provide CSLB with a valid Certificate of Workers' Compensation Insurance or a valid Certification of Self-Insurance from the Department of Industrial Relations; or
2. Provide CSLB with a signed exemption, certifying that they currently have no employees

If you are the company's owner, partner, officer, member or manager, you can submit a workers' compensation insurance exemption electronically on CSLB's website.

Note, the only exemption is for C-39 (Roofing) contractors. C-39 licensees are required to carry a workers' compensation insurance policy, even if they have no employees.

While you as a licensee can file your workers' compensation insurance exemption form online, you cannot submit your insurance policy information to CSLB. That information must be submitted by an authorized agent or employee of your insurance company. Most companies know this requirement and are familiar with filing policy information with CSLB.

This online system will update your license information in real-time. There's no need to send any copies to CSLB. The only time when a license record will not be updated immediately is for policies with a future effective date. Those licenses will automatically be updated on the policy's effective date.

If you're using a leasing company for workers, that information should still be sent to CSLB by mail.

There's also an online submission process available to provide CSLB with your general liability insurance information.

Multimedia Resources

- [Submit Workers' Compensation Exemption Form \(Licensees Only\)](#)
- [Submit Workers' Compensation Insurance Policy Information \(Insurance Companies Only\)](#)
- [Submit General Liability Insurance Policy Information \(Insurance Companies Only\)](#)



New CSLB Resource Highlights Importance of Pulling Building Permits

CSLB along with building officials from around California, have developed a video training course focused on building permit requirements, why it's important to pull permits, and how not pulling permits hurts homeowners and your business.

The 15-minute course is broken down into five sections:

1. Building Permit Overview
2. Why are Building Permits Required?
3. Who Can Pull a Permit & Who is Responsible?
4. How to Pull a Permit
5. After You Pull a Permit

Licensees caught violating permit requirements may be required to take the course, and a quiz that accompanies it. But the video also is available for you to watch, without having to take the quiz.

In the meantime, there is no ambiguity in the law - contractors working in trades that require a building permit for their project must pull the permit before starting a job.

Do not be fooled into thinking that no one will know if a permit is not pulled. CSLB enforcement staff often catch contractors who lack a building permit when investigating a complaint. Be aware that anyone can file an anonymous complaint against a contractor with CSLB solely for their failure to pull a required building permit.

In such cases, the contractor who performed the work will be responsible for bringing the project into compliance at their own expense, including any penalties imposed by the local building department.

Multimedia Resources

CSLB's Building Permit Training Course





CSLB's Building Permit Violation Form

The form is titled "Building Permit Violation Referral" and is used to report any contractor who fails to pull a building permit for construction activity. It includes sections for "COMPLAINT" and "CONTRACTOR INFORMATION", with fields for name, license number, and project details. There is also a section for "PROJECT INFORMATION" and a table for "FOR OFFICE USE ONLY".

CSLB's Building Permit Page



Quick Way to Place Your License Information on Your Website

California law requires you to place your state contractor's license number on all advertising. That includes your company website. But, instead of simply putting the number there you can turn it into a promotional opportunity by quickly allowing prospective customers a chance to check the real-time status of your license. The process couldn't be easier!

Let's say your license number is #345678; the link to your CSLB license lookup would be: www.cslb.ca.gov/345678. If your license number is #456789, the link would be: www.cslb.ca.gov/456789. Just use your actual license number in place of our examples.

CSLB encourages you to change your license number listing to this hyperlink, then forget about it. The link will always contain your up-to-the-second license information.

You can also use that link to create things like QR Codes or other ways to help prospective customers learn more about the license you worked so hard to get and maintain.



Caltrans Looking for Small, Disadvantaged, and Disabled Veteran Contracting Businesses to Repair California Roads

CSLB has partnered with Caltrans to inform you about some unique opportunities available for small or disadvantaged businesses and disabled veteran businesses. To put it shortly, Caltrans needs YOU!

In 2017, the Road Repair and Accountability Act, or Senate Bill (SB) 1, passed to fix California's roads. This generates \$5.4 billion each year to repair or replace 17,000 miles of pavement; 55,000 culverts or drains; 7,700 signals, signs and sensors; and 500 bridges.

SB 1 requires Caltrans to increase the dollar value of contracts awarded to small businesses, disadvantaged businesses, and disabled veteran businesses. Caltrans created a [Small Business Outreach Plan](#) which shows how they will continue working with these businesses.

What kind of contractors are they looking for? Caltrans needs contractors to install irrigation and vegetation, construct curbs, excavate, control traffic, pour and pave concrete, install signs and fencing – and much more!

To get started, the first step is to get certified through Caltrans so you can take advantage of these opportunities.

Small business or disabled veteran business enterprise owners can apply [here](#) to get certified. Disadvantaged business enterprise owners can apply [here](#) to see if they're eligible.

Learn more about SB 1 [here](#).





Licensees Have Opportunity to Earn Money and Help Homeowners

Get Earthquake Ready

There's a new program that helps homeowners get their residences earthquake ready, and an opportunity for you to expand your business.



The Earthquake Brace+Bolt (EBB) program offers homeowners grants for retrofit work. Contractors can get involved in [EBB](#) with free online Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) seismic retrofit training and a free listing that allows you to include your logo, information about your company and customer reviews.

Once you take the FEMA training, you're listed on the EBB Contractor Directory and you have access to free marketing materials, such as program flyers, contractor checklist, and yard signs.

Homeowners in the EBB program have the option to do the retrofit work themselves or hire a contractor. If they chose the latter, they must hire a company listed on the EBB Contractor Directory.

Homeowners can find a contractor's listing a few different ways. An enhanced feature enables them to contact randomly selected contractors to request bids. They also can search for contractors who work in their ZIP Code. Or, they can search for you by name, especially if you've used the free EBB marketing materials to spread the word that you're available.

For a trained contractor, an EBB retrofit is a relatively simple job that usually takes only one to three days.

In 2020, additional FEMA funding has made it possible for the Brace + Bolt programs to invite more homeowners into the program than ever before. Each year since 2015 when the program first started, EBB has grown. With help from CSLB licensed contractors the program will continue to grow and help communities become more resilient. Learn more or sign up at EarthquakeBolt.com.



Apprentice Programs Available for Potential Future Contractors

In order to help workers obtain the skills and education they need to get their own contractor's license, CSLB is working to raise awareness about apprentice programs being offered around California.

[The Department of Industrial Relations](#) (DIR) has put together a list of apprenticeship programs. Educational requirements vary; some programs prefer applicants with a high school diploma or its equivalent, while others have different standards.

To become an apprentice, you can use DIR's [search tool](#) to look for opportunities by county, occupation, and a program's age and education requirements. There are also specific resources geared toward veterans, women, and youth.

Remember, you need at least four years of experience as a journeyman, foreperson, supervising employee, or contractor in the trade being applied for, to qualify for a state contractor license. Participating in an apprenticeship program is one way to gain that experience.

Also consider attending a future free [CSLB license applicant workshop](#) in either Sacramento (Northern California) or Norwalk (Southern California). Stay tuned to CSLB website for new interactive online licensing workshops coming this spring.





CSLB's Industry Expert Program Helps Licensees Expand Their Business and Knowledge While Giving Back to the Industry

CSLB's Industry Expert Program offers licensees a way to expand their knowledge of their trade and help fellow contractors, while earning some extra money.

CSLB utilizes trained members of the program to help investigate consumer complaints, including inspecting projects and rendering opinions on workmanship. They also may participate on teams that help CSLB update its more than 40 license exams.

Mike Briggs has been a licensed General Building Contractor (B) and Plumbing Contractor (C-36) for more than 30 years. He says the Industry Expert Program has been invaluable to his contracting experience. "One of the best things here, being involved in this, is the opportunity to learn and stay current with everything," said Briggs.



A few times a year Briggs travels from Southern California to CSLB headquarters in Sacramento to help update license exams. He's currently involved with updating the C-36 exam. "Every trip up here I meet new people. It's very rewarding to actually get an opportunity to meet all these people and be able to learn something every time I come here."

Experts are compensated for their time and expenses. To join the Industry Expert program, you must be:

- A qualifier for at least 5 years on a current contractor license that is free of unresolved licensing and enforcement actions;
- Knowledgeable about currently accepted trade standards in your area of expertise;
- Effective at verbal communications;
- Able to write an effective expert opinion; and
- Able to testify at arbitration or disciplinary hearings, as needed.

For more information on the Industry Expert Program, click [here](#). To apply, please email your qualifications and preferred work location to: IndustryExpert@cslb.ca.gov.



How You Can Help CSLB Sting Unlicensed Contractors

Spring is quickly approaching. It’s a busy season when homeowners begin renovation projects and others tackle the long rebuilding process after a wildfire disaster. Each Spring there is a spike in unlicensed contracting and CSLB needs your help to stem the tide of illegal activity.

Undercover sting operations are the best way for CSLB to catch individuals in the act of contracting without a license. In order to continue these efforts to curb the underground economy, CSLB needs access to more residential and commercial properties to use as sting sites.

Licensed contractors have long been one of CSLB's main sources for properties – whether occupied or unoccupied – for the one- and two-day operations. Every year hundreds of alleged unlicensed contractors are caught in undercover operations throughout California.

It's hoped that more licensees will support CSLB's commitment to leveling the playing field for licensed contractors that follow the rules by helping to identify and secure sting properties.

Here’s a list of areas in most need of sting properties:

- Areas effected by disastrous wildfires. Properties that suffered structural damage are a top priority to reduce unlicensed activity in these regions;
- Ideal properties include single family homes, small commercial buildings, especially in strip malls, and industrial buildings;
- Central California counties, including Kings, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Ventura; and
- Southern California counties, particularly Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego.

To learn more contact the SWIFT office closest to you:

LOCATION	EMAIL	PHONE
Northern California	SWIFTNorth@cslb.ca.gov	(916) 255-2924
Central California	SWIFTCentral@cslb.ca.gov	(559) 490-0580
Southern California	SWIFTSouth@cslb.ca.gov	(562) 345-7600



Licensees Reminded to Stay Alert While Driving Construction Vehicles Near Train Tracks

Licensees driving to and from work sites are being asked to slow down and stay alert when approaching train tracks. [California Operation Lifesaver \(CAOL\)](#) has a new campaign to raise rail safety awareness across the state.



According to CAOL, California continues to see dangerous behavior around railroad tracks. In the past ten years, the organization reports that California ranked first in the nation in trespass casualties (both injuries and fatalities) and second in grade crossing incidents.

Licensed contractors operating large machinery and vehicles are asked to be especially vigilant by turning off music and not talking on phones when near railroad tracks. Drivers should also take off headphones near tracks. These can be a deadly distraction because they may prevent drivers from hearing an approaching train.

Licensees are also asked to:

- Never drive around lowered crossing gates; it's illegal and can be deadly;
- Call the emergency number posted on the blue Emergency Notification System sign (ENS) located near railroad crossings or call your local law enforcement; if you suspect crossing gates are malfunctioning;
- Never text and drive, especially near railroad tracks.

Multimedia Resources

California Operation Lifesaver Safety Tips Video





Licensees Can Save Money and Help the Planet by Using Refillable Propane Containers

Licensees can save money and help the environment by making a simple change when it comes to purchasing propane. The California Product Stewardship Council ([CPSC](#)) is urging you to consider using reusable one-pound (1 lb.) propane cylinders for your construction projects.

The 1 lb. propane containers are typically used by contractors as fuel for smaller devices, like industrial handheld blowtorches.

CPSC says single-use propane cylinders are a growing environmental problem, with about four million being thrown away in California each year. Nationally, about 40 million are tossed out annually.

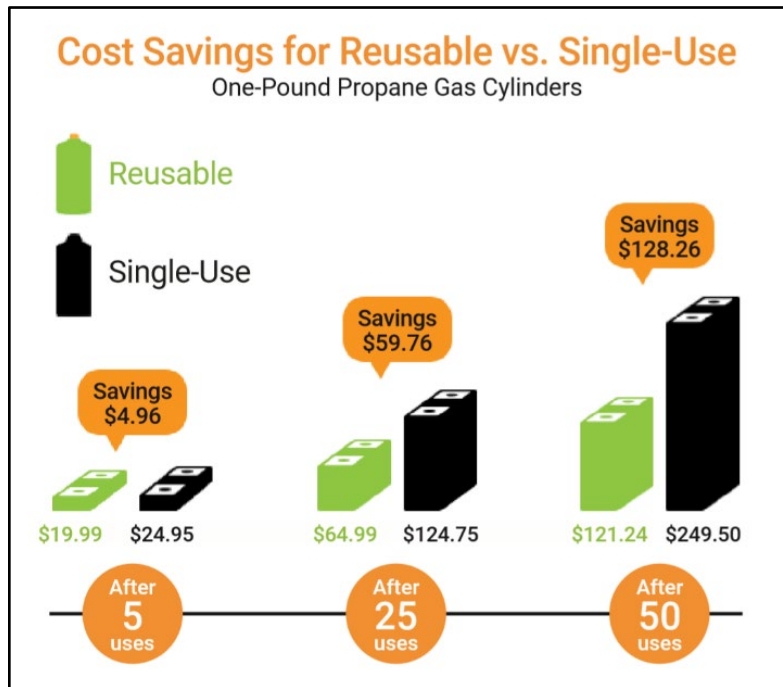


Single-use propane cylinders (left) are causing an environmental problem that can be solved using refillable propane (right).

“Empty propane containers can also contain a small amount of leftover fuel, posing a danger to sanitation and parks workers due to risk of explosion,” says Joanne Brasch, Special Projects Manager of the CPSC.

Reusable propane cylinders can save contractors cash and help the environment. Reusables can be refilled hundreds of times and last up to ten years. According to CPSC, after 50 uses, the cost of a refill (\$1.99-\$4.99) will save you more than \$128, compared to the cost of disposable propane cannisters.

For more information on reusable propane cylinders, check out CPSC’s [“Refuel Your Fun”](#) campaign.





CSLB Reminds Licensees to Stay Up to Date on Paid Sick Leave Laws

CSLB wants to make sure licensees are aware of California laws regarding paid sick leave ([Article 1.5 of the state's Labor Code](#)).

Employers must do several things to comply with the 2014 Healthy Workplace Family Act, including:

- Displaying a [poster](#) about paid sick leave where employees can read it easily;
- Providing written notice to employees with sick leave rights at the time of hire;
- Providing for accrual of one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked and allowing use of at least 24 hours or 3 days or provide at least 24 hours or 3 days of sick leave at the beginning of a 12-month period for each eligible employee to use per year;
- Allowing eligible employees to use accrued paid sick leave upon reasonable request;
- Showing how many days of paid sick leave an employee has available. This must be on a pay stub or a document issued the same day as a paycheck; and
- Keeping records showing how many hours of paid sick leave have been earned and used for three years

For more information on requirements involving paid sick leave, check out the [DIR website](#). To see what other workplace postings are required, visit [DIR's Workplace Postings page](#).



Contractors Reminded to Get Counted in 2020 Census

CSLB wants to remind all licensees and their employees to get counted in the upcoming 2020 census. Every ten years, people across the country and in California fill out the census in order to have an accurate count of all people in the United States.



The 2020 census will determine California's federal funding for important community services that help support our families. An undercount could impact funding for our schools, health services, childcare, emergency services, and other programs. The census will also decide the number of California's congressional members and electoral college votes.

Here in California the census form will be available to complete online or over the phone in 13 languages, including Telecommunication Device for the Deaf. Paper census forms in English and Spanish can be mailed back to the U.S. Census Bureau.

You can learn more by visiting the California Census [website](#) or its [Census 101](#) page.



CSLB Welcomes Three New Board Members

Did you know that CSLB policy is directed by a 15-member board? That includes gubernatorial appointment of five licensed contractor members and six public members, including one labor representative, one local building official, and one representative of a statewide senior citizen organization. Two public members are appointed by the Senate Rules Committee; two public members by the Speaker of the Assembly.

Governor Gavin Newsom appointed three new board members in fall 2019. On September 27, 2019, he named two contractor members; On October 7, 2019, he named a public member.

Mary Teichert - "A" General Engineering Contractor

Mary Teichert of Granite Bay has been the chief operating officer at Teichert Inc. since 2013 where she has held several positions since 2004, including vice president and general manager, estimator, project engineer, and miner.



Additionally, Ms. Teichert was the director of product strategy at Apple Computer from 2002 to 2004 and was a consultant at Bain and Company from 1998 to 2001.

She is a member of the Associated General Contractors of America, the Beavers, California Transportation Foundation, American Leadership Forum, Capital Region Family Business Center, United Contractors, and California Building Industry Association. Ms. Teichert also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard Business School.

Ms. Teichert's term continues through June 1, 2022.

James Ruane - "C" Specialty Contractor Member

James Ruane, of San Bruno, has been president of Patrick J. Ruane Inc. since 1976. He also is the president of the Wall and Ceiling Alliance and a board member of the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industry. In addition, Mr. Ruane served as mayor of San Bruno (San Mateo County) from 2009 to 2017, helping lead that city through the aftermath of a deadly gas line explosion in September 2010, that killed eight people and destroyed 38 homes.



Mr. Ruane's term continues through June 1, 2023.



Diana Love - Public Member, Senior Citizen Organization

Diana Love, of Palmdale, is a member and immediate past president of the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults, an ambassador for the City of Palmdale, treasurer of the Inland Communities Democratic Headquarters Political Action Committee, as well as a national district liaison for the AARP.



She is also a member of the California Senior Legislature, Mental Health of America Advisory Council—Antelope Valley/Lancaster, City of Palmdale Mobile Home Review Board, Friends of the Palmdale City Library, Forget Us Not Community Services, and Service Employees International Union Local 2015. From 2015 to 2017, Ms. Love was a children and youth group facilitator at Parents Anonymous Incorporated, a field representative in the Office of Assembly Member Steve Fox from 2013 to 2015, and a work and community volunteer for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Palmdale Station from 2008 to 2013.

Ms. Love's term continues through June 1, 2022.

Currently there are two open contractor board member positions. Appointment information is available on the Governor's [website](#).



Registrar of Contractors Appointed to Executive Position in National Organization

CSLB Registrar David Fogt has been appointed to a high-ranking position by the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA). Registrar Fogt was named NASCLA's 2nd Vice President last August, during the organization's annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

NASCLA is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote best practices for agencies that regulate the construction industry. CSLB has played a prominent role in the organization since its formation in 1962.

This year's NASCLA President is Tim Norman, the Executive Director of the North Carolina State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors. The 1st Vice President is Stephanie Lee, the Executive Director of the Mississippi State Board of Contractors.

Wendi Balvanz, the head of CSLB's Testing Unit, serves on NASCLA'S Accredited Examination Program Committee.

NASCLA's 2020 Annual Conference will take place here in California, from August 30 through September 3, in Coronado.





Upcoming Meeting Schedule

CSLB holds Board meetings quarterly, and Committee meetings on an as-needed basis. Agendas are posted at least 10 days prior to the meeting date [here](#). Minutes are posted after Board approval, which happens at the following quarterly Board meeting. CSLB plans live webcasts of all meetings.

Stakeholder meetings are held periodically to discuss issues of importance to the construction industry, and to gather input from interested parties. These meetings typically are conducted by staff and do not include Board members.

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION
March 30, 2020	Quarterly Board Meeting	South San Francisco
June 4-5, 2020	Quarterly Board Meeting	Orange County
September 1, 2020	Quarterly Board Meeting	Coronado
December, 2020	Quarterly Board Meeting	To Be Determined

List of Revoked Licenses

On CSLB’s website you can find a list of all licenses that were revoked during a previous month. The lists are updated on a regular basis. Click [here](#) to go to a list of years from 2007 through this year. Click on the year and then the month. To learn more about a specific licensee, enter the license number on license check [here](#).

