

# Memorandum

To: Melissa Jones  
Executive Director

Date: July 12, 2010

Telephone: (916) 654-5013

From: **California Energy Commission**  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Valerie T. Hall, Deputy Director  
Efficiency and Renewable Energy Division

Subject: **STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE CALIFORNIA CERTIFIED ENERGY RATING AND TESTING SERVICES (CaCERTS) AS A HOME ENERGY RATING SYSTEM (HERS) PROVIDER FOR HERS RATERS PERFORMING CALIFORNIA WHOLE-HOUSE HOME ENERGY RATINGS AND CALIFORNIA HOME ENERGY AUDITS, AND CALRATEPRO AS HERS RATING SOFTWARE; TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE JULY 28, 2010 BUSINESS MEETING**

## Summary of Item

The Energy Commission's HERS regulations, Title 20, Chapter 4, Article 8, Sections 1670 through 1675, authorize the Energy Commission to approve organizations to be HERS Providers, who oversee the training, certification, and oversight functions of California Whole-House Home Energy Raters (HERS Raters). The Title 20 regulations detail the functions and systems that must be included in a HERS Providers' program, application requirements, and other criteria that must be met for Energy Commission approval.

"Phase I" of the California HERS regulations, which became effective on June 17, 1999, established field verification and diagnostic testing services administered by Energy Commission-approved Providers. In October 2003, CaCERTS was approved by the Energy Commission as a HERS Provider to oversee HERS Raters providing Field Verification and Diagnostic Testing services.

"Phase II" of the HERS regulations expands the program to provide energy efficiency ratings for existing and newly constructed residential buildings that include single-family homes and multi-family buildings of three stories or less. The updated regulations establish a systematic process for the delivery of whole-house home energy ratings that provide California homeowners and home buyers with information about the energy efficiency of the homes they live in or homes they are considering for purchase. The ratings also provide evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of options to achieve greater energy efficiency in those homes.

In order to produce a California Whole-House Energy Rating or a California Home Energy Audit, in addition to performing diagnostic testing and evaluating the results of diagnostic testing, HERS Raters perform simulations and analyses to estimate the energy consumption of homes and generate a list of energy efficiency recommendations using information they gather on-site and Energy Commission-approved HERS rating software.

CalCERTS has submitted an application for approval as a HERS Provider to oversee HERS Raters conducting Whole-House HERS Ratings and Home Energy Audits. CalCERTS has also submitted a HERS rating software program for approval, called CalRatePro. CalRatePro is a special version of EnergyPro 5.1, which has been approved as compliance software for Title 24, as required by the HERS Regulations Section 1674(d). Staff has reviewed CalCERTS' application, training materials, and the CalRatePro software, and has determined that they satisfy the requirements specified in the HERS regulations and the HERS Technical Manual for a HERS Provider overseeing HERS Raters conducting California Whole-House Home Energy Ratings and California Home Energy Audits.

This approval will not include the categories of Building Performance Contractor or California Home Energy Inspector.

Project Co-Managers

Jim Holland, Building Standards Implementation Office  
Rashid Mir, Building Standards Implementation Office

Business Meeting Participants

Jim Holland, Building Standards Implementation Office  
Rashid Mir, Building Standards Implementation Office

Commission Action Requested

Approve CalCERTS as a HERS provider for HERS Raters conducting California Whole-House Home Energy Ratings and California Home Energy Audits, and CalRatePro as HERS rating software.

Original Signed By:

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VALERIE T. HALL, Deputy Director  
Efficiency and Renewable Energy Division