November 8, 2012

Mr. Robert Oglesby
Executive Director
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, Ca 95814-5514

Re: Green Building Ordinance and the Building Energy Efficiency Standards

Dear Mr. Oglesby,

Per the request of Commission Staff, the City of Cupertino would like to express our commitment to energy efficiency and sustainable building methods. This includes enforcement of the current Title 24, Part 6 Building Energy Efficiency Standards as part of the City’s permit review, approach, and inspection process related to its Green Building Ordinance.

Furthermore, the City adopted a Green Building Ordinance, with the first reading conducted on September 4th. The Ordinance requires larger development projects to earn certification per the LEED or Green Point Rated standards. As both of LEED and Green Point Rated include prerequisites that include an energy efficiency improvement better than the code minimum, the City is effectively establishing a local energy ordinance or reach code.

At the City Council meeting, a public hearing was held and the City’s Ordinance was introduced. The City Council reviewed the Ordinance and addressed issues of cost effectiveness. The Cost Effectiveness Study developed for Climate Zone 3 by PG&E, among other research into the costs and benefits of green building, were the basis of this discussion.

Because the requirements put in place by the Green Building Ordinance are more stringent than the code baseline for some projects, and the state code applies to all other projects, the City’s commitment to enforce these standards will require
buildings to consume no more energy than permitted by California Title 24, Part 6.

To ensure successful implementation of the Green Building Ordinance, the City will provide special training as needed to City staff on enforcement of the energy standards and the special requirements of the Green Building Ordinance.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Albert Salvador, Building Official
City of Cupertino