

# COUNTY OF PLACER Community Development Resource Agency

BUILDING

Administrative Policy PEX WATER PIPING

To:

**Building Department Staff** 

From:

Max Shoffner, Building Inspector II.

Approved:

Chief Building Official, Tim Wegner

Effective Date: July 13, 2010

## **ISSUE:**

As of July 1, 2010 the Alameda Superior Court has filed a judgment overturning the State approval of cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) plastic drinking water pipe for use in California.

The court has ordered the California Building Standards Commission to repeal provisions of the 2007 CPC allowing PEX plastic piping. The court order does not affect local ordinances allowing PEX piping.

## **BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

May of 2002 through and prior to August 1, 2009 the Board of Appeals approved the case-by-case use of PEX as an alternate method by request only.

August 1, 2009 the California Building Standards Commission adopted provisions of the 2007 CPC allowing the use of PEX plastic water piping.

As of July 1, 2010 the Alameda Superior Court has filed a judgment overturning the State approval of cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) plastic drinking water pipe for use in California. The court has ordered the California Building Standards Commission to repeal provisions of the 2007 CPC allowing PEX plastic piping. The court order does not affect local ordinances allowing PEX piping.

### **ANALYSIS:**

Due to the Alameda Superior Court judgment overturning the State approval of PEX plastic drinking water pipe, the County of Placer Building Department will reinstitute the following policy for using PEX plastic piping.

### **POLICY:**

The County of Placer Building Department will approve PEX under the following conditions as established by the Placer County Board of Appeals:

- 1.On a Case-by-case basis only.
- 2. The homeowner and contractor needs to complete the <u>request to use PEX</u> water pipe form prior to the installation of PEX water pipe. This request must be accompanied with documents showing the proposed piping is approved by ICC and/or IAPMO.
- 3. A representative of the manufacturer must inspect the installation at the frame stage and provide a letter for the record that the installation meets the manufacture's requirements. There are various manufactures, each with different fittings, etc.
- 4. For subdivisions, on December 18, 2002, the Building Board of Appeals approved the same process except that the manufacturer's representative only needs to review a sample of the homes, not less than 10%.