

# LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



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FIRE CHIEF

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BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
FILE NO. 12-137

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Brian L. Cummings, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: ELIMINATION OF TWO INSPECTOR II AND TWO INSPECTOR I  
SUB-AUTHORITIES

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

## **For Information Only**

Effective July 1, 2012, four sub-authorities in the Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) were eliminated. The four sub-authorities were for two Inspector II positions in the High Rise Retrofit program (created in 1996 and 2003, to work on earthquake Retrofit of high rise buildings), one Inspector I for the Asbestos Abatement program (created in 1986) and one Inspector I for the Staples Center (created in 2001). Each year, FPB requested regularization of these positions, as there was a continuing need for the work done by the Inspectors. However, the City Administrative Officer and the Mayor's final budget never upgraded the substitute authority positions to "Regular Authorities."

The loss of four Inspector positions will have the following impacts (listed below) to FPB Public Safety and Technical Sections involving fire/life safety inspections, construction plan checks, new construction, and tenant improvement inspections in the City of Los Angeles.

### **Inspector II (Environmental Unit, Underground Storage Tank (UST) Unit)**

The elimination of one Inspector II position will reduce UST Plan Check Unit staffing by 25%. This Inspector II conducts under ground storage tank plan review for installation, repair and removal of petroleum underground storage fuel. This position was fully fee supported by the Combined Unified Program Administrator (CUPA) and will represent a \$112,293 reduction in CUPA Fee revenues.

This Inspector II sub-authority was originally created to conduct High Rise "Retrofit" field inspections. Construction Services Inspector II's continue to conduct all new High Rise, High Rise "Retrofit", non high rise plan checks and field inspections. This reduction is following the four inspector II resolution authorities for low rise new construction that were eliminated in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 budget, reducing the New Construction Unit staffing by 20% at that time.

Inspector II (Legal Liaison Unit)

Elimination of this position reduces Legal Liaison Unit staffing by 20%. This Inspector II prepares legal cases for submission and works with the City Attorney's office for prosecution. The Legal Unit reduced staffing will be augmented by an Inspector II assigned to the CUPA for environmental cases. This position was funded in the Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) costs of the Inspector hourly rate, and will result in a loss of \$112,293 in revenue.

Also, this second Inspector II sub-authority was originally created to conduct High Rise "Retrofit" Field Inspections as described above.

Inspector I (High Rise Unit/Asbestos Abatement oversight)

Elimination of this position will reduce the High Rise Unit staffing by 7%. This Inspector I conducts high rise inspections as well as oversight of all asbestos removal operations. This sub-authority was created to provide a subject matter expert for asbestos removal projects, and now these duties will be reassigned to the members of the Construction Services Unit for inclusion in their work duties. This position was 50% supported by the high rise inspection fee's and will represent a \$52,965 reduction in High Rise Fee revenues.

Inspector I (Staples Center Public Assemblage Inspector, Public Assemblage Unit)

Elimination of this position represents a 10% reduction in the Public Assemblage Unit staffing. This sub-authority position was created to provide an on sight field inspector specializing in the Staples Center Complex. Elimination of this position will cause the reassignment of the Staples Center complex to a Public Assemblage inspector for inclusion with that member's current inspection district. The Staples Center may experience a reduction in the individual attention that they have received in the past with the reassignment of this position. This Inspectors position was not fee supported despite numerous attempts to secure funding for this position from the Staples Center management.

The eliminations of these four positions will force the FPB to reassign various functions while still trying to maintain its most critical public services.

Board report prepared by Mark Stormes, Deputy Chief, Bureau of Fire Prevention and Public Safety.