

March 12, 2015

Dear Colleagues: As you prepare for tomorrow's meeting of the Cal/OSHA Advisory Committee, you might be interested in reviewing the two attached documents related to the current Budget Change Proposal (BCP) for increasing DOSH staffing.

The documents are an initial analysis of the BCP's and its likely impact on the Division, and a summary of the DOSH Organization chart for February 2015 indicating the number of compliance officers currently in the field.

There are three issues in particular that may be discussed tomorrow:

(1) Will the current 14 recognized vacancies of field compliance officers be filled in addition to the 34 Associate Safety Engineers hires proposed in the BCP -- or will these 14 vacancies be filled out of the 34 new hires, leaving a net increase of only 20 Associate Safety Engineers for the 17 District Offices by June 2016?

(3) If the performance goal for District Office field compliance officers is raised by 50% (from 43 inspections a year to 62.5 inspections annually), how will the Division counteract pressure to meet production goals by doing "once over lightly" or "drive-by" inspections? How will the Division conduct thorough health inspections for exposures to chemicals, noise and infectious agents that require more time?

(3) If the California Labor Code is amended to allow the Division 30 days to respond to worker complaints (from the current 14 days), how will the Division conduct effective inspections in workplaces that rapidly change like construction and agriculture? How will the Division reconstruct what conditions existed a month prior, but no longer exist?

Good luck with your discussions tomorrow.

Best regards,
Garrett Brown

Attachments:
Initial Analysis of DIR's FY 2015-16 BCP
February 2015 Summary of CSHOs in the field