

August 16, 2019

Cal/OSHA gets a new Chief (finally!) – Welcome to Doug Parker

Cal/OSHA has a new Chief – welcome to Doug Parker of Worksafe!

But the new Chief will have his work cut out for him as Cal/OSHA lost ground while in limbo.

Here are the stats for the August 2019 levels of field enforcement inspectors:

- The number of compliance safety and health officers (CSHOs) vacancies is now 37 – one more than in July;
- The vacancy rate is 14.8% -- the highest since September 2017 (15.5%);
- Region I (Bay Area) has 14 CSHO vacancies while Region III (Los Angeles) has 10 vacancies – crippling their enforcement capability;
- The total number of filled and vacant positions (249 in August) is two less than July 2019, and five less than in August 2017.

And there are the usual continuing problems:

- No Director of the Department of Industrial Relations;
- Vacancies in leadership positions – one Regional Manager, three District Managers, and six Senior Safety Engineers;
- Cal/OSHA continues to have worse (less protective) ratios of inspectors to workers than Oregon, Washington state, or even the 1980 Fed OSHA program;
- No progress has been made in increasing the number of bilingual or multilingual field inspectors.

We wish Doug Parker all the best at Cal/OSHA – he will have his hands full trying to make up for lost time in Newsom Administration and the inheritance from the Brown Administration. And we are still short a Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, which may mean that Doug will not have much leeway until that position is filled.

Best, Garrett Brown