

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

The Professional Engineers' Act and the Land Surveyors' Act was amended on November 29, 2000. This amendment allows engineers to sign plans and certificates of compliance electronically. The California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Division 5, Section 411(e) states the following:

(e) The seal shall be capable of leaving a permanent ink representation, an opaque and permanent impression, or an electronically-generated representation on the documents. The signature may be applied to the documents electronically.

We'd like to address concerns of misuse of electronic signatures, so we've implemented two features-

1. The following text is placed on the first page of our engineering plans:

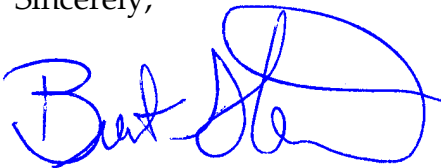
"To verify the authenticity of this document and its signature, an identical .pdf document has been posted at <http://stewartpe.com/project> . Please report any suspected alteration of this document to Brent Stewart, P.E."

2. The downloadable PDF file is signed with Adobe's "Digital Signature" option. The signing process places my signature and the Adobe logo on the drawing. When you view the document in your web browser, Adobe compares the encoded signature with a digital certificate, then informs you whether the document has been altered.

I'd like to encourage you to bring up this issue in your department. If these safeguards adequately address everyone's concerns, you might want to issue a policy statement for acceptance of electronic signatures.

The document is available online at <http://www.dca.ca.gov/pels/boardrules.pdf>
The laws webpage is at <http://www.dca.ca.gov/pels/laws.htm>

Sincerely,



Brent Stewart, P.E.
Consulting Engineer (Electrical)

