The California Homebuilding Foundation and ConSol join forces in "WISE" training program focused on 2016 Title 24 requirements

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SACRAMENTO—Implemented by ConSol, an energy consulting company, and administrated by the California Homebuilding Foundation (CHF), the state's nonprofit hub for construction industry research and education, the new Workforce Instruction for Standards and Efficiency (WISE) program is designed to elevate knowledge and application of new building techniques vital to the success of the 2016 Energy Efficient Building Standards throughout California.

The California homebuilding industry is currently experiencing a severe deficit in skilled labor and construction trades. Meanwhile, skills for installing new residential energy efficiency measures are in increasingly high demand. As this educational chasm widens, new efficiency measures may be improperly installed, leading to potential construction defects and diminished energy savings. WISE will develop training and installation protocols for workers to successfully implement these new building techniques, which will reduce costs and risks to California homeowners and assist in moving the building industry towards the State's ultimate goal of producing Zero Net Energy (ZNE) homes.

CHF's WISE program will specifically encourage in-depth understanding and training to construct High Performance Attics (HPA) and High Performance Walls (HPW), while providing technical support to enhance the program's success. WISE also promotes field training of the homebuilders, subcontractors and construction crews to become proficient with proper HPA and HPW building practices.

The program addresses builders' questions and concerns regarding these statewide requirements and reduces their reluctance to change construction procedures to which they are accustomed. HERS raters, building inspectors, architects and engineers, manufacturers and consultants will be engaged as stakeholders and provided with compliance training on the new wall and attic requirements.

CHF, a leader in the non-profit sector with a history of developing successful industry employment programs and expertise in grant proposals, will be assigned the task of WISE program administration and budget management. The execution of the program including all technical aspects will be conducted by ConSol.

The program will prepare workers for current and future employment positions in the building industry and will increase the supply of skilled workers with a background in HPA and HPW assemblies. WISE will help develop a new wave of California workers with the knowledge and experience to effectively install advanced energy systems, resulting in financial savings and pushing toward the frontier of highly efficient, ZNE California homes.

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About the California Homebuilding Foundation
The California Homebuilding Foundation (CHF) invests in the future of the homebuilding through: Endowments that provide scholarships and fund industry research; publishing current construction and new home statistics; presenting training seminars; and supporting high school courses that encourage young people to choose careers in the industry. The Foundation also hosts California's top industry award, Hall of Fame. http://www.mychf.org/

About ConSol
ConSol has been providing energy efficiency and green building solutions for builders, government agencies, utilities trade associations and developers since 1983. ConSol offers leading-edge research and energy consulting in systems, technologies and codes to improve sustainability of new and existing residential and commercial buildings and developments. http://www.consol.ws/index.php