



# California Association Of Code Enforcement Officers CACEO Backgrounder

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The California Association of Code Enforcement Officers (CACEO) was established in the early 1980s to provide quality training and education for code enforcement officers, advocate in legislative and regulatory arenas and educate the public about the critical role code enforcement plays in California communities. CACEO was formally established in 2006 through the merger of the Southern California Association of Code Enforcement Officials (SCACEO) and the California Association of Code Enforcement (CACE). CACEO's mission is *to promote and advance the profession of code enforcement while serving and supporting its members by offering comprehensive education, providing legislative advocacy on issues of importance to the profession and facilitating a network for an exchange of information and technology.*

As the only organization advocating exclusively for code enforcement officers in California, CACEO's major goal is to raise the standards of living for Californians by raising the standards of its members and working in partnership with other public safety groups that maintain the same high quality of training, education and communication as CACEO.

Code enforcement is a function of local governments that protects public health and welfare, property values and the environment while reducing blight by gaining compliance with laws and regulations such as land use and zoning ordinances, health and housing codes, sign standards and uniform building and fire codes. Regulations governing air and water quality, transportation and storage of hazardous wastes and the Americans with Disabilities Act also have fallen into the domain of code enforcement.

Code enforcement officers are specially trained public servants whose responsibilities lie between policy making and the realms of law enforcement and litigation. Employed by a city and/or county, a code enforcement officer's primary duties include the prevention, detection, investigation and enforcement of violations of laws regulating public nuisance; public health, safety and welfare; public works; business activities and consumer protection; building standards; land use; and municipal affairs. Consequently, code enforcement officers must be fully acquainted with the regulations they enforce as well as the legal limits of their profession.

With more than 1,200 members, CACEO's united voice for code enforcement officers is heard throughout California. Actively promoting legislation for the protection of code enforcement officers, in 2008, CACEO helped to initiate AB 1931, which granted certain powers to Illegal dumping enforcement officers and AB 2245, which authorized Illegal dumping enforcement officers to use batons in the course of their duties provided they have satisfactorily completed a specified course of instruction. In 2009, CACEO sponsored legislation relative to Department of Motor Vehicle confidentiality, the codified definition of code enforcement officers and minimum standards and training for code enforcement officers.

Offering the only code-enforcement-directed education in California, CACEO's members also benefit from comprehensive and relevant training, education and certification classes.