

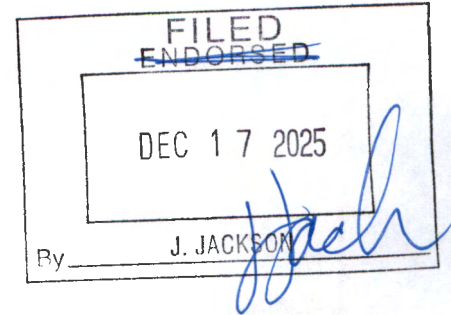
DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON

CHAPTER 5.5. Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems Certification

(Government Code 11347.3(b)(7))

The following data and other factual information, technical, theoretical, and empirical studies or reports were relied upon by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) in the adoption, amendment, or repeal of this regulation.

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Judgement and Injunction	1



**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO**

FIRE GUARD CORPORATION, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION, et
al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 34-2019-00249221

JUDGMENT AND INJUNCTION

Plaintiffs challenge regulations issued by the Office of State Fire Marshal (“OSFM”) in 2017 that imposed new registration/certification requirements on installers of water-based fire sprinkler systems. The subject regulations were codified at California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Chapter 5.5, sections 920-948 (“Regulations”).

The defendants are the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Office of the State Fire Marshal, Daniel Berlant in his official capacity as State Fire Marshal, and Jeffery Schwartz, in his official capacity as Deputy State Fire Marshal (“Defendants”).

Plaintiffs’ First Amended Complaint contained seven causes of action. Four causes of action came before this trial court for decision: the first and fourth causes of action, which claimed that the Regulations violate the Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution, and the sixth and seventh causes of action, which asserted violations of the California Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”), Government Code section 11340 et seq.

The due process claims were the subject of an evidentiary hearing. The APA claims were adjudicated based on the papers filed by the parties.

The Court issued a proposed statement of decision on August 22, 2025. Having finalized the statement of decision and having heard from the parties on the question of remedies, the Court now issues its judgment.

It is hereby ordered, adjudged, and decreed that judgment is entered in favor of Defendants and against Plaintiff Fire Guard Corporation as to all causes of action in the First Amended Complaint.

It is hereby ordered, adjudged, and decreed that judgment is entered in favor of Defendants and against Plaintiffs Bahman Brian Shahangian, the California Fire Protection Coalition, Vahe Zohrabian, and Plato Builders, Inc., dba Hydraulic Fire Protection, on the first and fourth causes of action in the First Amended Complaint, for alleged violations of the Due Process Clause.

It is hereby ordered, adjudged, and decreed that judgment is entered in favor of Plaintiffs Bahman Brian Shahangian, California Fire Protection Coalition, Vahe Zohrabian, and Plato Builders, Inc., on the sixth and seventh causes of action in the First Amended Complaint, for alleged violations of the APA.

Costs of suit are awarded in favor of Defendants, and against Fire Guard Corporation, in the amount of \$ _____, to be determined after Defendants file a memorandum of costs.

Costs of suit are awarded in favor of Plaintiffs California Fire Protection Coalition, Vahe Zohrabian, and Plato Builders, Inc., and against Defendants, in the amount of \$ _____, to be determined after Plaintiffs file a memorandum of costs.

Costs of suit are awarded in favor of Plaintiff Bahman Brian Shahangian and against Defendants in the amount of \$ _____, to be determined after Plaintiff files a memorandum of costs.

Regulation Provisions Invalidated

Pursuant to Government Code section 11350, the Court declares that the Regulations are invalid under the APA to the extent they require all persons who seek to work as fire sprinkler fitters to apply for, register for, participate in, or complete a State of California or federally approved fire sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program.

More specifically, the Court invalidates certain provisions of section 924.11 of the Regulations, relating to the definition of "Trainees," as shown in the stricken text below:

(a) Trainee. A person or individual working in the fire protection industry installing water-based fire protection systems ~~at an entry-level position~~ as described in Section 937.

The Court invalidates section 926 of the Regulations, relating to the maximum number of directly supervised employees, in its entirety.

The Court invalidates certain provisions of section 937 of the Regulations, relating to the registration and work of "Fire Sprinkler Fitter Trainees," as shown in the stricken text below:

~~(a) A person not registered in a California State or federally approved apprenticeship program, shall be registered with the Office of the State Fire Marshal as a Fire Sprinkler Fitter Trainee and work within the scope of these regulations as a trainee for up to one (1) year from their date of hire.~~

(b) To be registered as a trainee, an applicant shall meet the following requirements:

(1) Be 16 years of age or older.

(2) Complete an Apprentice/Trainee Registration Application (AES 1005A) accompanied by the fees prescribed in Section 925.1 of these regulations.

(3) Provide proof of employment with a licensed California Contractors State License Board C-16 contractor.

(c) Upon approval of 1 through 3 above, the applicant will be issued a Trainee Registration Card.

(d) Individuals may perform work within the scope of these regulations for no more than ninety (90) days prior to submitting an application to the OSFM.

~~(e) The trainee shall work under the direct supervision of a Certified Fire Sprinkler Fitter at all times and shall do the following:~~

~~(1) Only perform installation of water-based fire protection systems for a properly licensed California Contractors State License Board C-16 contractor.~~

~~(2) Be registered into a California State or federally approved fire sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program within one (1) year of their date of hire.~~

~~(f) If the trainee is not accepted into a California State or federally approved fire sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program within one (1) year of their date of hire, the individual shall no longer be registered to work within the scope of these regulations.~~

(g) An original trainee registration shall be valid from the date of issuance through June 30th. Thereafter, each trainee registration shall be renewed annually and is valid from July 1st through June 30th.

Injunction Against Enforcement of Invalidated Provisions

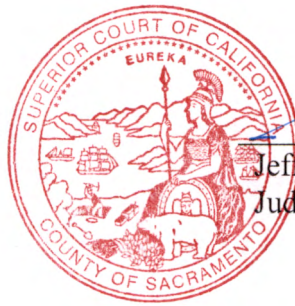
Defendants California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, California Office of the State Fire Marshal, Daniel Berlant in his official capacity as State Fire Marshal, and Jeffery Schwartz in his official capacity as Deputy State Fire Marshal, and their agents and successors in interest, and all persons acting in concert with them, are permanently restrained and enjoined from enforcing the above-stricken provisions of sections 924.11 and 937 of the Regulations and from enforcing section 926 of the Regulations.

The foregoing injunction, however, shall not prohibit Defendants or their agents from commencing or completing a new rulemaking proceeding, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws, to establish apprenticeship and/or other experience-related requirements for individuals who work as fire sprinkler fitters in the State of California.

To allow Defendants to provide notice to affected persons, this Judgment and Injunction shall become effective on January 7, 2026. Any costs memoranda shall be due and filed by the same date. The Clerk shall provide notice of entry of judgment per Code of Civil Procedure section 664.5.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: December 17, 2025



Jeffrey S. Galvin

Judge of the Superior Court

**CLERK'S NOTICE OF ENTRY OF JUDGMENT UNDER CODE OF CIVIL
PROCEDURE SECTION 664.5, AND CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that I am not a party to this cause, and on the date shown below, I served the foregoing
JUDGMENT AND INJUNCTION

☒ **BY MAIL:**

I placed the envelope for collection and mailing, following our ordinary business practices. On the same day that correspondence is placed for collection and mailing, it is deposited in the ordinary course of business with the United States Postal Service, in a sealed envelope with postage fully prepaid and addressed as set forth below.

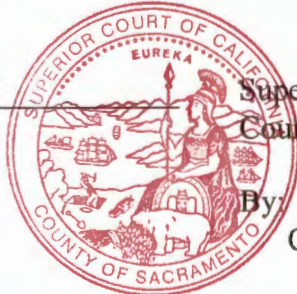
☒ **BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE:**

I caused the documents to be sent to the persons at the electronic mail addresses listed below.

Margaret Esquiroz Esquiroz Law, Inc. 4924 Balboa Boulevard, #500 Encino, CA 91316-3402 esquiroz@pm.me <i>Attorney for Plaintiffs: California Fire Protection Coalition, Vahe Zohrabian, Plato Builders, Inc.</i>	Jeremy Thomas California Department of Justice 1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 JeremyC.Thomas@doj.ca.gov Steven.Ngo@doj.ca.gov <i>Attorneys for Defendants</i>
Bahman Brian Shahangian 6603 Independence Avenue, Unit A Canoga Park, CA 91303 bahman.brian@mail.com <i>Self-Represented Plaintiff</i>	Fire Guard Corporation c/o Bahman Brian Shahangian 6603 Independence Avenue, Unit A Canoga Park, CA 91303 bahman.brian@mail.com <i>Plaintiff Without Counsel</i>

I, the undersigned deputy clerk, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: December 17, 2025



Superior Court of California,
County of Sacramento

By: J. Jackson
Courtroom Clerk