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## **California Code of Regulations**

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When the contract between the California Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and Barclay's Law Publishers (now West Group) for publishing the Official California Code of Regulations (CCR) was due to expire in 1998, OAL developed and evaluated a Request for Proposal for a publisher for both the print and free online versions of the CCR. A free online version of the CCR was required by Government Code Section 11344, enacted by the Legislature in 1997.

OAL convened the Director's Advisory Committee composed of state attorneys, a procurement officer from the state Department of General Services, and a manager from the state Department of Information Technology to consult on content and form for both the print and online CCR in addition to public contract issues. I am happy to say that law librarians were also present. Nanna Frye from the 4th District Court of Appeal Law Library in San Diego, SCALL President David McFadden, from Southwestern University School of Law Library in Los Angeles and I were invited to be members of the Director's Committee. The committee met once a month in person in Sacramento and via conference call from July to November.

I was interested in offering the opinions of our members on such important issues as copyright of the regulations, frequency of updates, history notes, free print copies of the regulations and updates to each county clerk or law library and search capabilities for the online version. More mundane but no less important issues to libraries such as preserving the 8 ½ x 11 format, simplifying the filing of paper copy releases and minimizing the number of pages to be filed with each release in the print version of the CCR were discussed.

I am pleased to announce that OAL has awarded the three year contract for publishing the print and online CCR to West Group. The online version has been available on the Internet since December 30, 1998 and is updated on a weekly basis. The URL is <http://www.calregs.com> and is also available through a link from OAL's home page (<http://ccr.oal.ca.gov/>) and the NOCALL California resources page (<http://www.nocall.org/calif.html>). Researchers can search for specific code sections, multiple titles at once, recent changes to the CCR for tracking regulations, and the all-important keyword searching of all or part of the CCR with the search terms highlighted in the results.

The print version remains the Official California Code of Regulations and continues to be updated with weekly releases. Subscribers need only renew subscriptions rather than buy a new complete set. I am grateful to OAL for the opportunity to express the views of NOCALL members regarding the form and content of the CCR. California now has its statutes and bills, published court decisions, (until published in the California Official Reports) and regulations available to the public free of charge on the Internet.

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