

## **B-PERMIT PLAN CHECK MANUAL**

### **10. NON-STANDARD DESIGN REQUESTS**

Quite often B-Permit plans which contain non-standard design items that are not spelled out in the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering standard plans or specifications are submitted by the private engineer. The range of requests include paving tiles, rolled curbs, special catch basins and numerous other items that are approved by other governmental agencies. In many cases these requests are reasonable, but for liability purposes we must follow a strict review process.

There are two types of requests that can be made to the Design Standards and Investigation Group. The first is from a product manufacturer for a specific item such as paving tile or pre-cast drain structure. Once approved, this product becomes an approved item and can be used for any project (B-Permit or Capital Improvement) without resubmittal. The other type of request is for the use of a design configuration for a specific location. Many times the request is to use another agency's (i.e.: Caltrans, Orange County, etc.) standard plan in place of the City of Los Angeles standard. This type of approval if given is only valid for the specific location(s) on the plan in question and does not give universal approval for other submittals from the same private engineer, the same developer or a different developer who may point to the prior approval precedent.

When the plan checker receives a request for the use of a non-standard item or design, the request should be forwarded to the Design Standards and Investigation Group along with copies of the plan(s), calculations and specifications. The Design Standards and Investigation Group will charge their time to a special design B-Permit created for a product approval. The B-Permit for a design plan (BD) with a non-standard design will be time charged directly by the Design Standards and Investigation Group for the time spent on the approval process.

The standard portions of the B-Permit plan submittal can continue to be checked while the Design Standards and Investigation Group is doing their review. However the plan(s) can not be released until the non-standard items have approved or substituted for with something that has been previously approved.