CITY OF
SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement

BUILDING DIVISION   **PLAN CHECK NOTE**

From: Building Plan Check   PCN #6
                                                         Previous Version: 7-1-2011
                                                         Revised: 1-1-2014

Subject: Use of computer software in analysis and design of structures

Reference: 2013 California Building Code

Purpose:
To provide direction to engineers regarding the use of computer software.

Findings:
Use of computer software is acceptable in performing structural calculations per the following conditions:

1. The program being used is software which has a long history of use and has been extensively utilized by the design professional (i.e. RISA, ETABS, ENERCALC, RAMSTEEL, etc.):
   In most cases only the input and output should be verified thoroughly (no independent verification of the program is required).
   In cases of complex models and/or dynamic analysis, a disk containing the input data is required in addition to the printed data. Or,

2. The program employed is one developed in-house by a design office (i.e. the program has no established track record of use in the design community): In this case independent verification for sample calculations shall be provided to substantiate the validity of the analyses. Such calculations may be performed either manually or with another software program acceptable to the reviewer.