



Mariposa County Building Department

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April 2, 2021

Re: Digital Signatures as an Alternative to Original Wet Signatures on Engineered Plans

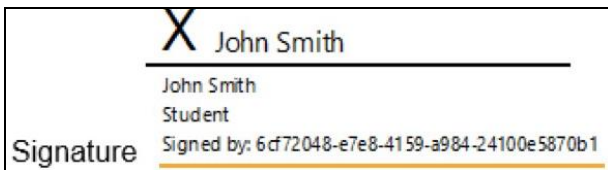
Dear Property Owner:

There has been some confusion regarding digital signatures as an alternative to original wet stamped and signed plans. If the engineered plans are copies and do not have the engineer's wet signature, a digital signature is required. Mariposa County does accept digital signatures on engineered plans. The digital signatures must meet the requirements of California Law. Under California Law, a digital signature is defined as "an electronic identifier, created by computer, intended by the party using it to have the same force and effect as the use of a manual signature." To be a legal digital signature, the "Signer" (the person who signs the document) must use an acceptable technology to uniquely link the message with the person sending it.

Government Code section 16.5 states that the use of a digital signature shall have the same force and effect as the use of a manual signature if and only if it embodies all of the following attributes:

1. It is unique to the person using it.
2. It is capable of verification.
3. It is under the sole control of the person using it.
4. It is linked to data in such a manner that if the data are changed, the digital signature is invalidated.
5. It conforms to regulations adopted by the Secretary of State.

Examples that meet the above requirements are: Zorrosign, DocuSign, AdobeSign. Below is an example of an acceptable digital signature.



A statement that a document is digitally signed alone would not be acceptable. The arrow above shows the certification number that is unique to the person signing.

We hope this clarifies the required process. If you have any additional questions, please contact Mariposa County Building Department at (209) 966-3934. Our office hours are 7:00 am to 4:00 pm. Monday through Friday.

Mike Kinslow
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