

e-PlanREVIEW® Case Study

OFFICE OF STATEWIDE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (OSHPD)

ABOUT OSHPD

The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, commonly known as OSHPD, is the governing agency for hospital construction in the state of California. OSHPD regulates all aspects of the buildings, structures, and equipment in the hospitals and skilled nursing facilities throughout California and develops the building standards for licensed clinics, including outpatient surgery centers, and for Correction Treatment Centers. OSHPD's Facilities Development Department (FDD) is responsible for the safety of the 1700+ facilities and 4,000 buildings under its purview. Hospital construction, especially in California, is under the heaviest scrutiny due to essential facilities requirements of seismic and fire safety needed to ensure facilities can provide services at all times, even during emergencies and disasters. Typical projects requiring review are broad-ranging, from new buildings or building additions, to water heater replacements, ventilation and HVAC and installation of generators. FDD maintains a staff of engineers and architects who review the approximately 15,000 construction plans and permitting projects per year for compliance with the California building codes and state seismic safety standards. With such important responsibilities, efficacy, accuracy, and efficiency are key in every aspect of its operations.

BACKGROUND

As a forward-thinking agency, OSHPD leverages up-to-date, innovative solutions that will continually improve the efficiency of its operations. In 2014, OSHPD was one of the first State Agencies to transition its plan reviews from the traditional paper process to an electronic platform, selecting e-PlanCheck™ (ePC) from e-PlanSoft™. This initial upgrade to a digital streamlined workflow, reduced turn-around times, reduced costs, and improved collaboration and efficiency. At the time, ePC was selected, in part, for its tight integration with OSHPD's existing Accela Civic Access (ACA) platform. ePC's integration with ACA's back-office offered OSHPD a dramatic improvement in speed and accuracy for plan review cycles. Propelled by the success experienced with ePC, OSHPD elected to further upgrade its plan check solution to stay at the forefront of electronic plan review and continue to offer the best and most reliable ePlan solution available. With this purpose in mind, it sought a solution that would offer even more advanced features and functionality for both staff and applicants.



"OSHPD FDD is constantly leveraging modern technology in their mission to provide access to safe, quality healthcare environments that meet California's dynamic and diverse needs. e-PlanSoft's successful implementation of EPR aligns with our department's efforts to improve user experience while streamlining our business process with innovation in mind."

Paul Coleman

Deputy Director, Facilities Development Division

Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development

SOLUTION

FDD sought to adopt a cloud-based solution that would speed up the review process and reduce the effort needed for project intake. Department leaders also recognized that the optical character recognition (OCR) functionality and a reduction in the time spent resubmitting edited sheets would serve project participants well. Having worked with e-PlanSoft when e-PlanCheck was adopted, OSHPD was happy to work with the company again to provide feedback which was instrumental in the development of e-PlanREVIEW®, the next generation of electronic plan review. e-PlanSoft has a strong record of dependability, uptime, and providing the peace of mind that its cloud-based solution could keep pace with FDD's demanding project load. e-PlanREVIEW, with built-in utility, PDF Scout Inspector tool, allows for faster intake, remote collaboration across the organization, and streamlines the full cycle plan review process. It also provides enhanced integration with the Accela Civic Platform, offering further streamlining in workflows. The PDF Scout utility scans all files at intake to ensure that upload criteria are met and rejects files that don't comply with the file requirements, so when a file is uploaded, it's already been vetted to ensure compliance with the system. The built-in Infinite Render Engine can render all pages simultaneously, offering dramatic time savings over previous solutions that could only process single pages at a time, and the slip-sheeting feature allows stakeholders to resubmit only the affected sheets in a plan. The result of the many new features and enhancements in e-PlanREVIEW have a synergistic effect on the efficiency of the plan review process.

RESULTS

e-PlanSoft, in collaboration with Velosimo, Inc., and the OSHPD development team, implemented e-PlanREVIEW with 178 licenses and an additional 50 contributor licenses across OSHPD. OSHPD's many complex business processes are accommodated. Training videos and onsite training has made the transition to the new solution easy to adopt for both FDD staff and the private sector users who submit plans and documents for review. As a result, OSHPD has realized significantly faster plan reviews, saving an average of four weeks per project. There are no longer any time lags or issues with misinterpreted, undecipherable, and missed comments, as users can select standardized code comments from a drop-down menu and are included in a corrections report generated from selected comments. Comments can also be viewed within the PDF plan and can be quickly detected from the comments panel within the application. e-PlanREVIEW has proven to save space, time, and money. The physical space needed, along with shipping and storage is vastly reduced with the electronic plan solution, and productivity has increased as the number of iterations required has been reduced with e-PlanREVIEW.

KEY BENEFITS

- ✓ 50% faster plan review
- ✓ Remote collaboration
- ✓ Increased accountability
- ✓ Enhanced integration with Accela back office

CHALLENGES

- ✓ **Excessive time**
Slow, manual process that took up too much time and space
- ✓ **Tedious process**
Convuluted workflows for submitting and resubmitting drawings
- ✓ **Vulnerability**
Comments and change requirements easily missed or misinterpreted

SOLUTIONS

- ✓ **Efficiency**
Streamlined workflows save time and space and reduce expenses
- ✓ **Collaboration**
All required team members can collaborate remotely from any device with an internet connection
- ✓ **Accuracy**
OCR recognition menu code selection improves readability and reduces issues with deciphering comments

FOR MORE INFORMATION



or to request a demo, visit www.eplansoft.com/request-a-demo