

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: 2022 Building Energy Efficiency Standards

Lead Agency: California Energy Commission

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Project Location: _____ Statewide

City

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

See Attachment A

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

While the Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Energy Code) relates to new construction, it does not cause new construction to occur within the state. The Energy Code also does not regulate where such construction occurs nor does it change the application of zoning laws, land use restrictions, or any other laws that affect the siting of specific building projects.

Rather, the Energy Code is a set of design and construction requirements that apply once a decision to begin a construction project has been made and a building permit requested (i.e., the Energy Code provides conditions attached to the permit to construct a given improvement). The Energy Code sets design and construction standards for specific building components to ensure the building achieves a minimum level of overall energy efficiency.

Rather, improvements in energy efficiency act to lower a building's wasteful use of energy, thus avoiding potentially negative impacts that would otherwise have occurred. The majority of efficiency improvements considered in the proposed amendments to the Energy Code do not increase the amount of ground disturbance needed for a given building nor change the type or character of equipment or materials installed into the building as a part of its construction. Potential impacts were identified for transport and installation of lithium ion batteries required by on-site storage standards, increased refrigerant use required by heat pump equipment, and cumulative effects of moving to electric baselines for prescriptive and performance-based requirements in parallel with separate efforts to electrify transportation.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Certain environmental groups assert that failure to ban gas appliances in newly constructed buildings may have a significant impact on the environment. The California Energy Commission (CEC) is conducting its environmental review and believes these proposed amendments will not have a significant impact on the environment. There is no mandatory duty to ban gas appliances by adopting an all-electric building standard or any other measure that goes beyond the current proposed amendments.

Pace of Decarbonization. Heat pumps accomplish building space heating and water heating while decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. The CEC has proposed a transitional step towards building decarbonization by setting "energy budgets" in the 2022 Building Energy Efficiency Standards for particular, newly constructed buildings based on heat pumps for either space or water heating.

Cost Effectiveness and Feasibility. A coalition of industry and labor organizations assert that the proposed baselines will increase housing construction costs, raise monthly utility bills, and result in job loss for workers who make a living installing gas piping in buildings. In response, a coalition of environmental advocacy organizations, assert that building decarbonization will lead to decreased costs for housing construction costs and utility bills and dispute the claims of negative impact to the employment market.

Environmental Justice. Certain fossil fuel and labor affiliated organizations have argued that phasing out fossil fuel use will have a disproportionate effect on the cost of energy for low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

The CEC has identified by the California Building Standards Commission as a responsible agency. The CEC has not identified any trustee agencies for the project.

Attachment A

Project Description

The Warren-Alquist Act establishes the CEC as California's primary energy policy and planning agency. Public Resources Code sections 25213, 25402, 25402.1, 25402.4, 25402.5, 25402.8, and 25910 mandate and/or authorize that the CEC adopt rules and regulations, as necessary, to reduce the wasteful, uneconomic, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy and water in new residential and new nonresidential buildings.

One of the ways the CEC satisfies this requirement is through the Energy Code. The Energy Code includes the energy efficiency requirements applicable to newly constructed buildings and permitted additions and alterations to existing buildings. The CEC updates the Energy Code on a three-year cycle as part of the California Building Standards Code.

The current project is the latest triennial update to the Energy Code. The proposed amendments, if adopted, would be incorporated into the 2022 edition of the Energy Code and become effective on January 1, 2023. The CEC is proposing the following amendments to the Energy Code:

- Revise the prescriptive compliance path available for building projects to include only heat pump technology in specific circumstances;
- Revise the "standard design" used for the modeling-based performance compliance path available for building projects to establish the performance baseline based on heat pump technologies in specific circumstances;
- Improve existing residential energy efficiency standards for solar photovoltaic systems, including battery storage, and associated compliance options;
- Add new prescriptive solar photovoltaic and battery requirements for the following newly constructed nonresidential building types: high-rise multifamily, hotel-motel, tenant-space, office, medical office or clinic, restaurant, grocery store, retail store, school, and theater/auditorium/convention center buildings;
- Add new requirements that mixed fuel buildings be electric ready, meaning that electrical connections and other features needed to allow use of non-combustion equipment options are installed at the time of initial construction;
- Establish new energy efficiency standards for lighting, envelope, and space conditioning systems serving controlled environment horticulture spaces;
- Improve energy efficiency standards for commercial and industrial process loads, including, computer room air conditioning, refrigerated areas, fan systems, compressed air systems, and steam traps;
- Improve nonresidential and multifamily efficiency standards for building envelopes (e.g., exterior walls, windows, roofs, and floors), fan and duct systems, HVAC controls, boilers and service water heating systems, indoor and outdoor

lighting systems, and grid integration equipment such as demand responsive controls;

- Improve minimum standards for residential kitchen ventilation;
- Update and enhance requirements relating to duct sealing and ventilation; and
- Make numerous minor revisions to existing provisions to improve the clarity of the regulations.