

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

[energy.ca.gov](http://energy.ca.gov)

CEC-70 (Revised 2/2021)



*IN THE MATTER OF:*

*ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR  
THE PROPOSED 2022 UPDATE TO THE  
BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY  
STANDARDS (TITLE 24, PART 6)*

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

RE: Notice of Availability of the Environmental  
Impact Report for Public Review

## **Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report For Public Review**

**Date:** May 19, 2021

**To:** Agencies and Interested Parties

**Lead Agency:** California Energy Commission

**Review Period:** May 20, 2021 to July 8, 2021

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the California Energy Commission (CEC), acting as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the proposed 2022 amendments to the Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Energy Code). The 2022 amendments to the Energy Code is the “project” evaluated under the CEQA. The project involves amendments to the existing 2019 Energy Code to include new or updated standards to increase the energy efficiency of California’s newly constructed and altered buildings, including multiple building components and systems.

The review period will start on May 20, 2021 and end on July 8, 2021. The purpose of the review period is to provide public agencies and individuals the opportunity to comment on the possible environmental effects of the 2022 amendments to the Energy Code.

### **Project Description:**

The Warren-Alquist Act establishes the CEC as California’s primary energy policy and planning agency.<sup>1</sup> The CEC is required to adopt regulations to reduce the wasteful, uneconomic, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy, including the energy associated with the use of water, and

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<sup>1</sup> Pub. Resources Code, § 25000 et seq.

to manage energy loads to help maintain electrical grid reliability.”<sup>2</sup> This is done through amendments to the Energy Code contained in the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 6 on a three-year cycle. The Energy Code includes energy efficiency standards applicable to the construction of new buildings and additions and alterations to existing buildings.

The Draft EIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the 2022 amendments to the Energy Code. The 2022 amendments, if adopted, would be incorporated into the 2022 edition of the Energy Code, and become effective on January 1, 2023.

The following is a summary of the 2022 amendments that the CEC proposes 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.
- Revise existing residential energy efficiency standards for solar photovoltaic systems, including battery storage, and associated compliance options.
- Establish 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.
- Establish 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.
- Revise energy efficiency standards for commercial and industrial process loads, including, computer room air conditioning, refrigerated areas, fan systems, compressed air systems, and steam traps.
- Revise 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.
- Revise minimum standards for residential kitchen ventilation.
- Revise and enhance requirements relating to duct sealing and ventilation.

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<sup>2</sup> Pub. Resources Code, §§ 25402(a)-(b).

**Project Location:** The project is a change to existing requirements for building design and construction that are applicable statewide.

**Potential Environmental Impacts:** The Draft EIR identified that the project would result in less than significant impacts to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, energy resources, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

The Draft EIR identified that the project would result in no impacts associated with agriculture and forestry resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, and tribal cultural resources.

**Availability of Documents:** The Draft EIR and all documents incorporated by reference in the EIR are available on the CEC's website at the [docket for this proceeding, 21-BSTD-02](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=21-BSTD-02) at: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=21-BSTD-02>.

The [Express Terms for the proposed 2022 Energy Code](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=237784&DocumentContentId=71026) are available at: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=237784&DocumentContentId=71026>.

Additional information about the project can be obtained on the [2022 Energy Code webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/building-energy-efficiency-standards/2022-building-energy-efficiency) at: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/building-energy-efficiency-standards/2022-building-energy-efficiency>.

To obtain a physical copy of the Draft EIR and all documents incorporated by reference in the EIR, please contact the CEC's [Docket Unit](mailto:docket@energy.ca.gov) at [docket@energy.ca.gov](mailto:docket@energy.ca.gov) or call (916) 654-5076. Printed copies of the draft EIR and documents incorporated by reference in the EIR may be reviewed during the CEC's business hours at the following address:

California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814-5512

**Public Hearing:** The CEC anticipates that a public hearing will be held at a CEC business meeting in August 2021 to receive input from agencies and the public on the Final EIR. The CEC will file a public notice of hearing in the docket of this proceeding and notify all interested agencies and individuals of the date, time, and place of the public hearing on the proposed project.

**Comment Period:** Written comments must be submitted to the CEC Docket **by 5:00 p.m. on July 8, 2021**.

The CEC encourages use of its electronic commenting system. To submit comments electronically, visit the [e-commenting page](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=21-BSTD-02) at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=21-BSTD-02>, which links to the comment page for this docket. Enter your contact information and a comment title describing the subject of your comment(s). Comments may be included in the "Comment Text" box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in Microsoft® Word or Adobe® Acrobat®. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

Written comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine.

Written comments may be submitted by email. Include docket number 21-BSTD-02 and 2022 Energy Code Update CEQA Documentation in the subject line and email to [docket@energy.ca.gov](mailto:docket@energy.ca.gov).

A paper copy may be sent to:

California Energy Commission  
Docket Unit, MS-4  
Docket No. 21-BSTD-02  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814-5512