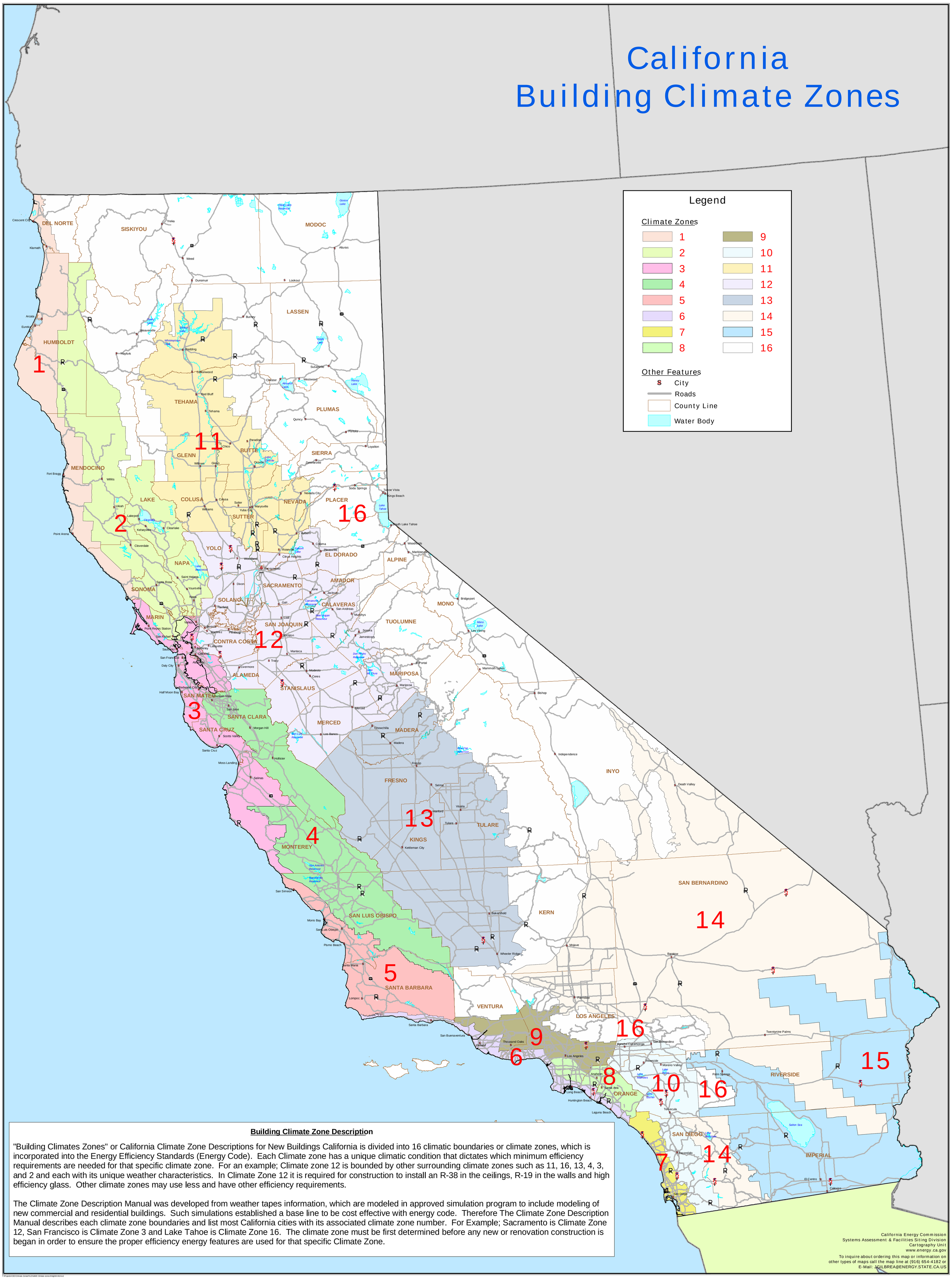
California
Building Climate Zones



Building Climate Zone Description

"Building Climates Zones" or California Climate Zone Descriptions for New Buildings California is divided into 16 climatic boundaries or climate zones, which is incorporated into the Energy Efficiency Standards (Energy Code). Each Climate zone has a unique climatic condition that dictates which minimum efficiency requirements are needed for that specific climate zone. For an example; Climate zone 12 is bounded by other surrounding climate zones such as 11, 16, 13, 4, 3, and 2 and each with its unique weather characteristics. In Climate Zone 12 it is required for construction to install an R-38 in the ceilings, R-19 in the walls and high efficiency glass. Other climate zones may use less and have other efficiency requirements.

The Climate Zone Description Manual was developed from weather tapes information, which are modeled in approved simulation program to include modeling of new commercial and residential buildings. Such simulations established a base line to be cost effective with energy code. Therefore The Climate Zone Description Manual describes each climate zone boundaries and list most California cities with its associated climate zone number. For Example; Sacramento is Climate Zone 12, San Francisco is Climate Zone 3 and Lake Tahoe is Climate Zone 16. The climate zone must be first determined before any new or renovation construction is began in order to ensure the proper efficiency energy features are used for that specific Climate Zone.

California Energy Commission
Systems Assessment & Facilities Siting Division
Cartography Unit
www.energy.ca.gov
To inquire about ordering this map or information on other types of maps call the map line at (916) 654-4182 or
E-Mail: JGILBREA@ENERGY.STATE.CA.US