



**(This is a Request for Information only - Complete Pages 1 and 2 for each initiative)**

**Title of Proposed Initiative** (Alternative Approaches to Building Codes): Rethinking Code Compliance: Making licensed building professionals the responsible parties for ensuring building energy performance.

**Investment Areas** (Check one or more) – *For definitions, see First Triennial Investment Plan, page 12:*

- Applied Research and Development  
 Technology Demonstration and Deployment  
 Market Facilitation

**Electricity System Value Chain (Check only one):** See CPUC Decision 12-05-037, Ordering Paragraph 12.a. [http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/WORD\\_PDF/FINAL\\_DECISION/167664.PDF](http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/WORD_PDF/FINAL_DECISION/167664.PDF).

- Grid operations/market design  
 Generation  
 Transmission  
 Distribution  
 Demand-side management

California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED**

**12-EPIC-01**

TN 72612

FEB 14 2014

**Issues and Barriers:**

There is increasing concern that non-compliance with Title-24 may limit the State's ability to achieve its building energy performance goals. Building inspectors typically do not have the training or the time to ensure that commercial building new construction and retrofit projects conform to Title-24 once they are built, or even at the design stage. Another, related, barrier is the complexity of current performance-based code compliance procedures, especially in the context of small commercial buildings.

**Initiative Description and Purpose:**

1. Obtain quantitative information on code compliance by building type, ownership type, time of permitting and other factors in order to understand the magnitude and nature of non-compliance (\$200k-\$400k)
2. Develop and pilot test alternative approaches to code design and enforcement (\$500k-\$1M).
3. Develop and test processes and tools to implement successful approaches to code design and enforcement. (\$400k-\$750k)

**Stakeholders:**

CEC, CPUC.

**Background and the State-of-the-Art:**

- Little information is available on code compliance in California

- Regulatory frameworks for enforcement of accountability on the part of licensed professionals have been established in other parts of the US and in other parts of the world.
- The registry of design and compliance documentation recently established for residential buildings in California could provide an initial model for a non-residential registry that could enable enforcement of accountability on the part of licensed professionals

**Justification:**

Describe how this technology or strategy will provide California IOU electric ratepayer benefits and provide any estimates of quantified annual savings/benefits in California, including:

- Non-residential buildings:
  - ~100MWh/yr
- Quantifiable performance improvements for the proposed technology/strategy:
  - Unknown
- Maximum market potential, if successful:
  - All non-residential building new construct and retrofit projects
- Number of direct jobs created in California:
  - Unknown
- Why this research is appropriate for public funding:
  - Enforcement of State regulations

**Ratepayer Benefits** (Check one or more):

- Promote greater reliability
- Potential energy and cost savings
- Increased safety
- Societal benefits
- Environmental benefits:
  - reduced emissions of products of combustion leading to improved air quality
- GHG emissions mitigation/adaptation in the electricity sector at the lowest possible cost
- Low emission vehicles/transportation
- Waste reduction
- Economic development

Describe specific benefits (qualitative and quantitative) of the proposed initiative

**Public Utilities Code Sections 740.1 and 8360:**

Please describe how this technology or strategy addresses the principles articulated in California Public Utilities Code Sections 740.1 and 8360. The California Public Utilities Code is available online at [www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=puc](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=puc).

740.1: Satisfies #a, # b, #d, #e1, #e2, #e3; #c is not applicable

8360: not applicable