California Energy Commission
October 8, 2025 Business Meeting
Backup Materials for Updated 2025 California Building Energy Code Compliance Software (CBECC 2025.2.0)

The following backup materials for the above-referenced agenda item are available as described below:

1. Proposed Resolution, attached below.
2. CEQA memo, attached below.
3. CBECC 2025.2.0 Release Candidate (RC) compliance software and release notes.

   [https://bees.noresco.com/software2025.html]

For the complete record, please visit: 2025 Energy Code Compliance Software, Manuals and Forms Docket
[https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-BSTD-03]

To stay informed about this project and receive documents as they are filed, please subscribe to the proceeding Topic, which can be accessed here: https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/building-energy-efficiency-standards. The Topic sends out email notifications and direct links when documents are filed in the proceeding docket.

[PROPOSED]

RESOLUTION NO: 25-1008-3e

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

STATE ENERGY RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Resolution Approving Updated 2025 California Building Energy Code Compliance Software (CBECC 2025.2.0)

WHEREAS, the 2025 Energy Code, amending California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Parts 1 and 6, was adopted by the California Energy Commission (CEC) on September 11, 2024, with an effective date of January 1, 2026, and

WHEREAS, these standards were approved by the California Building Standards Commission on December 17, 2024, and will go into effect January 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Warren-Alquist Act, in Public Resources Code section 25402.1(a), requires the CEC to develop a public domain computer program, which will enable contractors, builders, architects, engineers, and government officials to estimate the energy consumed by residential and nonresidential buildings; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement the requirement of section 25402.1(a), CEC staff developed and approved the 2025 Single-family Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manual and the 2025 Nonresidential and Multifamily Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manual (together the 2025 ACM Reference Manuals), which specify the standard design and document the calculations and methods used by the compliance software to model building performance, calculate Long-term System Cost and Source Energy, and demonstrate performance compliance with the 2025 Energy Code; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement the requirement of section 25402.1(a), CEC staff developed a public domain computer program that is comprised of California Building Energy Code Compliance nonresidential software (CBECC 2025.1.0), which is used to estimate energy consumed by nonresidential and multifamily residential buildings and demonstrate performance compliance with the nonresidential and multifamily provisions of the 2025 Energy Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 10, and Part 6; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement the requirement of section 25402.1(a), CEC staff developed a public domain computer program that is comprised of California Building Energy Code Compliance residential software (CBECC-Res 2025.1.0), which is used to estimate energy consumed by single-family residential buildings and demonstrate performance compliance with the single-family residential provisions of the 2025 Energy Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 10, and Part 6; and

WHEREAS, CEC approved CBECC 2025.1.0 and CBECC-Res 2025.1.0 at the June 11, 2025, CEC business meeting; and

WHEREAS, CEC staff proposed an update to the 2025 ACM Reference Manuals at the October 8, 2025, CEC business meeting; and

WHEREAS, in order to align CBECC with the proposed changes to the 2025 ACM Reference Manuals, to improve the accuracy of the public domain computer program, to add functionality, and to respond to stakeholder comments, CEC staff developed the updated public domain computer program CBECC 2025.2.0; and

WHEREAS, CBECC 2025.2.0 is a public domain computer program, which is used to estimate energy consumed by nonresidential, multifamily residential, and single-family residential buildings and demonstrate performance compliance with the nonresidential, multifamily residential, and single-family residential provisions of the 2025 Energy Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 10, and Part 6; and

WHEREAS, as part of developing CBECC 2025.2.0, CEC staff has reviewed and tested CBECC 2025.2.0 to ensure it reflects the requirements of the 2025 Energy Code and the building energy modeling requirements of section 10-109(c), Title 24, Part 1, and aligns with the current version of the 2025 ACM Reference Manuals; and

WHEREAS, CEC staff has considered the application of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to the updates made in the CBECC 2025.2.0 compliance software and finds that the updates do not meet the definition of a “project” under California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061(a), because the updates in the compliance software have no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and even if the updated compliance software was considered a project, then the project would fall under the “common sense exemption” in California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the updated compliance software may have a significant effect on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the CEC has considered staff’s proposed updates to the CBECC 2025.2.0 compliance software and staff’s finding that its adoption is exempt from CEQA.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on the basis of the entire record before it, the CEC hereby adopts staff’s finding that the updates made to CBECC, resulting in the CBECC 2025.2.0 compliance software, is not subject to CEQA because it does not meet the definition of a “project” as it is not an activity that has the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and even if it were a project, it is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Common-Sense Exemption because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the approval may have a significant effect on the environment, including unusual circumstances; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the CEC approves the updates to CBECC and the resulting new version, CBECC 2025.2.0, which is used for estimating energy consumed by nonresidential, multifamily residential, and single-family buildings as specified in Public Resources Code section 25402.1, subdivision (a), and for demonstrating performance compliance with the nonresidential, multifamily residential, and single-family residential provisions of the 2025 Energy Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Parts 1 and 6; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to sections 10-116 and 10-109, Title 24, Part 1, upon the CEC's approval of the October 8th, 2025 CBECC software update, CBECC 2025.1.0 and any other alternative calculation methods incorporating the previously approved, June 11, 2025, compliance software used for estimating energy consumed by nonresidential and multifamily residential buildings as specified in Public Resources Code section 25402.1, subdivision (a), and for demonstrating compliance with the performance-based nonresidential and multifamily residential provisions of the 2025 Building Energy Efficiency Standards, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Parts 1 and 6 will expire and any permit applications made on or after January 7, 2026 will be subject to CBECC 2025.2.0; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to sections 10-116 and 10-109, Title 24, Part 1, upon the CEC's approval of the October 8th, 2025 CBECC software update, CBECC-Res 2025.1.0 and any other alternative calculation methods incorporating the previously approved, June 11, 2025, compliance software used for estimating energy consumed by single-family residential buildings as specified in Public Resources Code section 25402.1, subdivision (a), and for demonstrating compliance with the performance-based single-family residential provisions of the 2025 Building Energy Efficiency Standards, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Parts 1 and 6 will expire and any permit applications made on or after January 7, 2026 will be subject to CBECC 2025.2.0; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the CEC directs the executive director or their designee to take all actions reasonably necessary to make the above-referenced software available and maintain the software in good form, including but not limited to releasing bug fixes, correcting calculation and analytical errors, necessary ongoing software updates, user interface changes, and other minor updates.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretariat to the CEC does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the CEC held on October 8, 2025.

AYE:
NAY:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Dated:

_____
Kim Todd
Secretariat

M e m o r a n d u m

To: Docket 24-BTSD-03 **Date:** **October 08, 2025**

From: **Will Vicent, Deputy Director**
Efficiency Division
California Energy Commission

Subject: Basis for finding that the updates made to the 2025 California Building Energy Code Compliance Software (CBECC) are not a project and are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under the Common-Sense Exemption

I. CEQA

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code sections 21000 *et seq.*, see also CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, sections 15000 *et seq.*) requires that state agencies consider the environmental impact of certain discretionary decisions. CEQA allows for certain projects to be exempted from its requirements. Of relevance here, and discussed further below, is the common-sense exemption (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061(b)(3)).

II. California Building Energy Code Compliance Software (CBECC) [Pub. Resources Code, Section 25402.1(a)]

Public Resources Code section 25402 requires the CEC to adopt building design and construction standards that increase the efficiency of energy and water use for new residential and new nonresidential buildings, and to adopt energy and water conservation design standards. The Energy Code is contained in Part 6 and associated administrative regulations in Part 1 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.

Further, Public Resources Code section 25402.1(a) requires the CEC to develop a public domain computer program which will enable contractors, builders, architects, engineers, and government officials to estimate the energy consumed by residential and nonresidential buildings. The commission may charge a fee for the use of the program, which fee shall be based upon the actual cost of the program, including any computer costs.

III. The Proposed Action

On September 11, 2024, the CEC adopted amendments to its Building Energy Efficiency Standards, located in Part 1, Chapter 10, and Part 6 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (2025 Energy Code), as authorized and directed by Public Resources Code 25402. On December 17, 2024, the California Building Standards Commission approved the 2025 Energy Code. The 2025 Energy Code will go into effect on January 1, 2026.

On September 11, 2024, the CEC adopted the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the 2025 Energy Code. The CEC considered air emissions, water savings at California power plants, indoor air pollution, and increased materials use associated with the 2025 Energy Code. The Negative Declaration concluded that the potential environmental impacts

associated with implementing the 2025 Energy Code were less than significant without need for mitigation. Thus, the Negative Declaration proposes no mitigation measures.

To implement the requirement of section 25402.1(a), CEC staff developed a public domain computer program that is comprised of CBECC 2025.1.0, nonresidential and multifamily software, and CBECC-Res 2025.1.0, residential software, which is used to demonstrate performance compliance with the 2025 Energy Code. At the June 11, 2025, CEC business meeting, the CEC approved CBECC 2025.1.0 and CBECC-Res 2025.1.0.

In order to align CBECC with the proposed changes to the 2025 ACM Reference Manuals, to improve the accuracy of the public domain computer program, to add functionality, and to respond to stake holder comments, CEC staff developed the updated public domain software, CBECC 2025.2.0. The CEC is considering approving this updated version of the public domain software at the October 8, 2025, CEC Business Meeting.

IV. The updated public domain software (CBECC 2025.2.0) is not a project.

CEQA only applies to an action "that has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment" (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061(a)).

As discussed above, the CEC develops, updates, and approves a public domain computer program to assist the building industry in demonstrating performance compliance with the 2025 Energy Code, pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25402.1(a). This public domain computer program, CBECC 2025.2.0, will be used as a tool to ensure compliance with the requirements outlined in the 2025 Energy Code and the building energy modeling requirements of section 10-109(c), Title 24, Part 1, which documents the calculations and methods used by the compliance software to model building performance. The updates made to the public domain computer program, resulting in CBECC 2025.2.0, do not impose any new requirements and therefore have no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Accordingly, the updates made to the public domain computer program, resulting in CBECC 2025.2.0, do not meet the definition of a project under CEQA.

V. If the updated public domain computer program (CBECC 2025.2.0) were considered a project, it is exempt from CEQA under the Common-Sense Exemption.

CBECC 2025.2.0 is exempt from CEQA under the Common-Sense Exemption. As stated above, CEQA only applies to projects that have the potential to cause a significant effect on the environment. "Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA." (14 CCR section 15061(b)(3)) A "significant effect on the environment" is defined as a substantial, or a potentially substantial, adverse change in the environment, and does not include an economic change by itself (Public Resources Code section 21068; California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15382).

CBECC 2025.2.0 is developed to assist the building industry in demonstrating performance compliance with the 2025 Energy Code. CBECC 2025.2.0 reflects the requirements outlined in the 2025 Energy Code and the building energy modeling requirements of section 10-109(c), Title 24, Part 1. CBECC 2025.2.0 contains no new requirements to comply with the 2025 Energy Code. As such, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the approval of the updated public domain computer program will have any significant effect on the

environment. Therefore, approving the CBECC updates that result in the CBECC 2025.2.0 is subject to the common-sense exemption in 14 CCR section 15061(b)(3).

VI. Conclusion

As shown above, it can be seen with reasonable certainty that the proposed updates to the public domain computer program (CBECC 2025.2.0) are not a project because they do not impose any new requirements and, therefore, have no potential for resulting in a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. If the updated public domain computer program, CBECC 2025.2.0, were to be considered a project subject to CEQA, it can be seen with certainty that the updates made to the public domain computer program would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, is exempt pursuant to the Common-Sense Exemption under California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061(b)(3).