



**California Energy Commission
September 9, 2026 Business Meeting
Backup Materials for Determination that 2025 Energy Code Meets or Exceeds
National Model Energy Code for Residential Buildings**

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

1. Proposed Resolution, attached below.
2. 2025 California Energy Code Impact Analysis Report, attached below.
3. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis, attached below.

For the complete record, please visit: Docket Number 24-BSTD-01 at
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-BSTD-01>.

To stay informed about this project and receive documents as they are filed, please subscribe to the proceeding Topic, which can be accessed here: [California Natural Resources Agency \(govdelivery.com\)](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/signup/31895) at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/signup/31895>. The Topic sends out email notifications and direct links when documents are filed in the proceeding docket.

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: Determination that 2025 Energy Code meets or exceeds national model energy code for residential buildings

RESOLUTION NO: [YY-MMDD]-XX

WHEREAS, that the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (CEC) has reviewed the staff California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings contained in the CEQA memo included as supporting materials for this item; and

WHEREAS, that whenever the national Model Energy Code for residential buildings, and its successor now published by the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), is revised, federal law (42 U.S.C. §6833(a)(5)(A)) directs the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy (Secretary of Energy) to make a determination as to whether the revision improves energy efficiency in residential buildings; and

WHEREAS, on December 30, 2024, the Secretary of Energy published an affirmative determination for the 2024 IECC in the Federal Register; and

WHEREAS, that federal law (42 U.S.C. §6833(a)(5)(B)) requires that within 2 years from the Secretary of Energy's determination each State to certify that it has reviewed provisions of its residential code regarding energy efficiency and made a determination as to whether it is appropriate for the State to revise the residential building code provisions to meet or exceed the revised IECC code, which is due by December 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, that the determination respecting state's residential building energy code shall be **(A)** made after public notice and hearing; **(B)** in writing; **(C)** based upon findings included in such determination and upon the evidence presented at the hearing; and **(D)** available to the public; and

WHEREAS, that under California law, the CEC updates California's Energy Code (Cal. Code Regs., Tit. 24, Part 6) every three years to improve energy efficiency in buildings, including residential buildings. The CEC adopted the 2025 Energy Code in August 2024, and these new standards took effect on January 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, that upon adoption of the 2025 Energy Code, the statewide impact of the new standards relative to the previous standards was evaluated and described in a report titled "2025 Energy Code Impact Analysis Report". This report describes the evaluation of impacts from the 2025 Energy Code, relative to the 2022 Energy Code, including the impact of interactive effects of changes in requirements, and provides an estimate of the energy, grid demand, and emissions savings resulting from the adoption of the 2025 Energy Code. This analysis also demonstrates that the 2025 Energy Code is at least as stringent as the national model energy code for residential buildings, that is

2024 IECC, and is the basis for California's residential building energy code certification required by federal law; and

WHEREAS, that the report titled "2025 Energy Code Impact Analysis Report" was shared with the public on August 13, 2026 at:

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2026/impact-analysis-2025-update-california-energy-code>. An email notifying the public of availability of the report was sent to proceeding Topic email list on August 13, 2026, in advance of the CEC's September 9, 2026 business meeting, which is open to the public.

THEREFORE, THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION FINDS:

With regard to CEQA:

The CEC has considered the application of CEQA to the proposed determination and concluded that the action is not a project, as defined, under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or, in the alternative, if it is a project, it is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the common-sense exemption.

With regard to the federal requirements for state certification of California's residential building energy code:

- The CEC finds that it is appropriate for California to revise its residential building code provisions to meet or exceed the revised IECC code for which the Secretary of Energy made a determination; and

With regard to California's residential building energy code:

The statewide impact of the 2025 Energy Code relative to the 2022 Energy Code was evaluated and described in a report titled "2025 Energy Code Impact Analysis Report". This analysis demonstrates that the 2025 Energy Code meets or exceeds the national model energy code, 2024 IECC, for residential buildings.

- The CEC finds the 2025 Energy Code does meet or exceed the revised IECC code for which the Secretary of Energy made a determination; and
- The CEC's determination regarding California's building energy code is **(A)** made after public notice and hearing at the September 9, 2026 business meeting; **(B)** in writing; **(C)** based upon findings included in such determination and upon the evidence presented at the hearing; and **(D)** available to the public.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, in accordance with federal law (42 U.S.C. §6833), the CEC has reviewed the provisions of the 2025 Energy Code for residential buildings; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that, in accordance with federal law (42 U.S.C. §6833), the CEC has determined it is appropriate to update the state's residential building code provisions and that the 2025 Energy Code meets or exceeds the national model energy code, 2024 IECC, for residential buildings; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that this action is not subject to CEQA or, if it is, it is exempt from CEQA under the common-sense exemption; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that, documents and other materials that constitute the record of this determination can be found at the CEC, 715 P Street, Sacramento, California, 95814 in the custody of the Docket Unit and online in [26-BUSMTG-01](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=26-BUSMTG-01) [<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=26-BUSMTG-01>]; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that, the CEC delegates the authority and directs CEC staff to take, on behalf of the CEC, all actions reasonably necessary to have the determination go into effect.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this xth day of MM YYYY, by the following vote:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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 approved and adopted by the affirmative vote of the CEC at a meeting held on MM DD, YYYY.

Kim Todd
Secretariat



MEMORANDUM

TO: Docket 26-BUSMTG-01

FROM: Will Vicent, Deputy Director, Building Standards

SUBJECT: Basis for finding that the determination that 2025 Energy Code meets or exceeds national model energy code for residential buildings is not a project or is otherwise exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under the Common-Sense Exemption.

DATE: August 18, 2026

I. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

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

II. Federal Law requires states to review the most current federal model code and determine if the states code needs to be updated to meet or exceed the federal code.

Whenever national model energy codes - ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1 for commercial buildings and the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for residential buildings – are revised, federal law (42 U.S.C. §6833) directs the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to make a determination as to whether the revision improves energy efficiency. Once DOE makes an affirmative determination for a residential model energy code revision, each state is then required within two years to certify to DOE that it has reviewed its building code to determine whether or not it believes it is appropriate to update its residential building code to meet or exceed the model energy code, and submit to DOE the reasons for such determination. Under California law, the CEC updates California's Energy Code (Cal. Code Regs., Tit. 24, Part 6) every three years to improve energy efficiency.

The U.S. Department of Energy published affirmative determinations for the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) in the Federal Register for residential buildings on December 30, 2026.

The CEC adopted the 2025 Energy Code in August 2024, and these new standards took effect on January 1, 2026.

III. CEC’s determination that the 2025 Energy Code meets or exceeds the federal model code (the Project).

Upon adoption of the 2025 Energy Code, the statewide impact of the new standards relative to the previous standards was evaluated. The 2025 Energy Code Impact Analysis Report describes the evaluation of impacts from the 2025 Energy Code, relative to the 2022 Energy Code, including the impact of interactive effects of changes in requirements, and provides an estimate of the energy, grid demand, and emissions savings resulting from the adoption of the 2025 Energy Code. This analysis also demonstrates that the 2025 Energy Code is at least as stringent as the national model energy codes for commercial and residential buildings as a basis for the state’s certification required by federal law.

CEC staff published the 2025 Energy Code Impact Analysis Report for public review on August 13, 2026. CEC staff recommended the CEC approve the 2025 Energy Code Impact Analysis Report and the Report’s determination that the 2025 Energy Code meets or exceeds the most recent federal model code for residential buildings (the Project). The CEC is considering approving the 2025 Energy Code Impact Analysis Report at the CEC’s September 9, 2026, Business Meeting.

IV. CEC’s determination that the 2025 Energy Code meets or exceeds the federal model code is not a CEQA project.

A “project” under CEQA is defined as the “whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment” (CCR, Title 14, section 15378(a)). The definition of “project” does not include:

Organizational or administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. [CCR, Title 14, section 15378(b)(5).]

As described above, the 2025 Energy Code Impact Analysis Report evaluates the impacts from the 2025 Energy Code, relative to the 2022 Energy Code, including the impact of interactive effects of changes in requirements, and provides an estimate of the energy, grid demand, and emissions savings resulting from the adoption of the 2025 Energy Code. The 2025 Energy Code Impact Analysis Report does not affect any existing regulation and does not commit the CEC to any specific action. Rather, it is an administrative analysis demonstrating that the 2025 Energy Code is at least as stringent as the national model energy codes for commercial and residential buildings as a basis for the state’s certification required by federal law. Therefore, approval of the 2025 Energy Code Impact Analysis Report does not meet the definition of a project and is not subject to CEQA.

V. If CEC's determination that the 2025 Energy Code meets or exceeds the federal model code were considered a project, it is exempt from CEQA under the Common-Sense Exemption.

Even if considered a project under CEQA, the CEC's determination that the 2025 Energy Code meets or exceeds the federal model code is exempt from CEQA under the Common-Sense Exemption. The Common-Sense Exemption states that, "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" (CCR, Title 14, 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; CCR, Title 14, section 15382).

The Common-Sense Exemption would apply as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the CEC's determination that the 2025 Energy Code meets or exceeds the federal model code will have a significant effect on the environment (CCR, Title 14, sections 15061(b)(3) and 15061(a)). As discussed above, the CEC's determination that the 2025 Energy Code meets or exceeds the federal model code analyzes existing and effective California regulations and the analysis is conducted to meet federal requirements. It is an administrative analysis and does not require or commit the state or any political subdivision to engage in any specific activity. For these reasons, the CEC's determination that the 2025 Energy Code meets or exceeds the federal model code is not subject to CEQA under the Common-Sense Exemption, section 15061(b)(3).

VI. Conclusion

As provided above, the CEC's determination that the 2025 Energy Code meets or exceeds the federal model code is not subject to CEQA because the CEC's findings do not meet the definition of a "project" as it is administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. Even if it is a project, it is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Common-Sense Exemption (CCR, Title 14, section 15061(b)(3)) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment.