

# County of Santa Clara

## Department of Planning and Development

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September 14, 2010

To: California Energy Commission  
From: Tom Whisler, Building Official

Subject: Locally Adopted Energy Standards for Santa Clara County

Today the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. NS-1100.114 modifying to Chapter III, "Green Building Regulations," of Division C3 of the County Ordinance Code. This memo constitutes an official request for the California Energy Commission to find that the ordinance (attached along with the Climate Zone 4 Energy Cost-Effectiveness Study) will require buildings to be designed to consume no more energy than permitted by the California Energy Code (Part 6) of the California Building Code.

### Executive Summary of Ordinance

The modified green building regulations introduce the following requirements:

- New non-residential buildings between 5,000 and 25,000 square feet must obtain LEED certification and buildings larger than 25,000 square feet must obtain LEED Silver certification or equivalent.
- New multi-family buildings with 9 units or fewer must obtain GreenPoint Rated or LEED certification, and buildings with 10 units or more must obtain 70 points under GreenPoint Rated or LEED certification or equivalent.

The ordinance allows for alternate means to show that buildings meet a level of performance equivalent to GreenPoint Rated or LEED. The ordinance continues to include provisions specifically requiring each building to "meet or exceed the energy requirements contained in the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Title 24, Part 6) of the California Building Code."

### Finding

The County of Santa Clara finds that the regulations introduced by Ordinance No. NS-1100.114 will require buildings to be designed to consume no more energy than permitted by Part 6.

We look forward to receiving formal notification from the Energy Commission regarding approval of this finding.