

CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 17, 18 & 19, 2024

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Addendum

Agenda Item 6. California Energy Commission (CEC 02/24). *Proposed adoption of amendments to the 2025 California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen), Part 11, Title 24.*

Gypsy Achong with CEC provided an overview on the proposed voluntary 2025 California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen), Part 11, Title 24. She clarified that the public record for this proceeding can be found in Docket 24-BSTD-02 on CEC's website and was adopted by CEC on 11/11/24. She specified that adoption of CALGreen amendments is exempt from CEQA.

Comments and questions from the commissioners:

Commissioner Haskin asked why the CEC is presenting proposed amendments in CALGreen when CALGreen is under CBSC purview. He inquired about CEC adopting a standard outside their jurisdiction.

Viana Barbu, CBSC's Legal Counsel, asked CEC's Counsel to respond and inquired into CEC's legal review of the proposal.

Michael Murza, CEC's Legal Counsel, clarified that the CEC has specific authority in Part 11 for appendices A4 and A5; and that they are working with different jurisdictions who are trying to advance California's decarbonization goals while looking at the economics of the proposal.

Commissioner Klausbruckner requested clarification of the conditions under which the voluntary measures in Part 11 Appendices A4 and A5 would become mandatory requirements for homeowners, and if they should be called "voluntary" standards since they may become mandatory for homeowners if adopted by a local jurisdiction. She expressed concerns for the potential added financial burden of these standards to homeowners, including added costs to rural homeowners and those with older existing homes, and asked if the CEC had examined these potential financial impacts. She expressed a concern that these standards would require homeowners to replace broken air conditioners with heat pumps if the standards are adopted by the local jurisdiction where the home is located. She asked if the standards would become mandatory in

perpetuity once adopted by a local jurisdiction, or if they must be re-adopted by the local jurisdiction each code cycle.

Gypsy Achong stated that these standards are not mandatory throughout the state and would only become a requirement for homeowners in municipalities that choose to adopt these standards through a local public adoption process. She explained that locally adopted amendments related to energy standards are reviewed by CEC staff for compliance with CEC technical and legal requirements and are then presented publicly at CEC Commission Business Meetings for approval by the Commission. She stated that the Business Meeting provides an additional opportunity for the public to present any concerns directly to the CEC Commissioners. She stated that the CEC technical review includes a review of financial impacts, and local jurisdictions must demonstrate that the adopted standards are cost effective for their community. She added that the CEC provides resources that local jurisdictions may use to create their cost justifications, which include analysis based on climate zone, local utility rates, and the construction quality of existing housing stock in the area.

Michael Murza stated that the proposed standards in Part 11 are meant to be a guide, and that local jurisdictions may adopt the standards that are best suited to their community based on costs. He stated that local jurisdictions must adopt the standards through a local public adoption process and provide documentation to the CEC as described in Title 24 Part 1, Section 10-106. He added that the proposed standards must be re-approved with each 3-year code cycle and are not mandatory in perpetuity.

Commissioner Patel stated in his experience many local jurisdictions adopt voluntary measures to make the requirements mandatory, but that these local jurisdictions must provide detailed cost analysis specific to their community demonstrating the financial impact that the measures are expected to have. He noted that the CEC is thorough in reviewing local jurisdictions' public adoption process and supporting information when voluntary standards are adopted and made mandatory by a local jurisdiction.