

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS
FOR PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS
OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
REGARDING THE 2025 CALIFORNIA GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS CODE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 11
(HCD 01/25)**

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) requires that an Initial Statement of Reasons be available to the public upon request when rulemaking action is being undertaken. The following information required by the APA pertains to this particular rulemaking action:

STATEMENT OF SPECIFIC PURPOSE, PROBLEM, RATIONALE and BENEFITS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(1) requires a statement of specific purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal and the problem the agency intends to address and the rationale for the determination by the agency that each adoption, amendment, or repeal is reasonably necessary to carry out the purpose and address the problem for which it is proposed. The statement shall enumerate the benefits anticipated from the regulatory action, including the benefits or goals provided in the authorizing statute.

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

[The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) proposes to adopt mandatory and voluntary green building standards for occupancies within its authority and further proposes to make amendments and clarifications to the 2025 Supplement to the California Green Building Standards Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 11 (CALGreen).]

ITEM 1

Chapter 3 Green Building, Section 301.1.1 Additions and alterations. HCD proposes to continue to adopt the above-referenced section with amendments as follows:

Rationale: HCD proposes to amend the existing language in this section to add “hotels and motels”. In response to Assembly Bill 1738 (Chapter 687, Statutes of 2022), HCD amended the scope of Section 4.106.4.3 to include hotels and motels during the 2024 Triennial Code Adoption Cycle. HCD is proposing to include hotels and motels in this section to harmonize and conform with Section 4.106.4.3 that includes hotels and motels. Additionally, HCD proposes to amend the Section number reference from “4.106.4.3” to “4.106.4.5”. This editorial change is part of code cleanup, in which HCD has proposed to relocate existing Section 4.106.4.3 to new Section 4.106.4.5, in Item 4 of this document.

There is no intended change in regulatory effect. Assembly Bill 130 (Chapter 22, Statutes of 2025) places strict limitations on what the state can consider during this Intervening Code Adoption Cycle, including the categories of amendments that are permitted during the Intervening Code Adoption Cycle pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 18942(a)(2). HCD has determined that the proposed changes are permissible under HSC section 18942(a)(2)(A) pertaining to technical updates to existing code requirements that are needed to effectuate or facilitate their incorporation or implementation since they are “clarifying, conforming, or coordinating changes that do not materially alter the substance or intent of the existing code provisions”.

CAC Recommendation:

TBD

Agency Response:

TBD

ITEM 2

Chapter 4 Residential Mandatory Measures, Section 4.106.4.3 Electric vehicle charging for additions and alterations of parking facilities serving existing multifamily buildings, hotels and motels. HCD proposes to continue to adopt the above-referenced section with amendments as follows:

Rationale: HCD proposes to renumber the existing section 4.106.4.3 to 4.106.5. Currently, the section about additions and alterations is located as a subsection under section 4.106.4 “Electric vehicle (EV) charging for new construction” but this subsection also applies to existing parking facilities serving multifamily buildings, hotels, and motels based on scoping in chapter 3, section 301.1.1. To provide clarity to the code user, HCD proposes to move EV charging provisions out of new construction and into its own section to create a distinction. This editorial change is part of code cleanup.

There is no intended change in regulatory effect. Assembly Bill 130 (Chapter 22, Statutes of 2025) places strict limitations on what the state can consider during this Intervening Code Adoption Cycle, including the categories of amendments that are permitted during the Intervening Code Adoption Cycle pursuant to HSC section 18942(a)(2). HCD has determined that the proposed changes are permissible under HSC section 18942(a)(2)(A) pertaining to technical updates to existing code requirements that are needed to effectuate or facilitate their incorporation or implementation since they are “clarifying, conforming, or coordinating changes that do not materially alter the substance or intent of the existing code provisions”.

CAC Recommendation:

TBD

Agency Response:

TBD

ITEM 3

Chapter 4 Residential Mandatory Measures, Section 4.106.4.4 Bicycle parking. HCD proposes to continue to adopt the above-referenced section with amendments as follows:

Rationale: HCD proposes to renumber section 4.106.4.4 to new section 4.106.6 (including subsections 4.106.6.1 through 4.106.6.3). Currently, bicycle parking requirements are located within section “Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging for New Construction” and are proposed for relocation to provide a distinction and to provide clarity to the code user. This editorial change is part of code cleanup.

There is no intended change in regulatory effect. Assembly Bill 130 (Chapter 22, Statutes of 2025) places strict limitations on what the state can consider during this Intervening Code Adoption Cycle, including the categories of amendments that are permitted during the Intervening Code Adoption Cycle pursuant to HSC section 18942(a)(2). HCD has determined that the proposed changes are permissible under HSC section 18942(a)(2)(A) pertaining to technical updates to existing code requirements that are needed to effectuate

or facilitate their incorporation or implementation since they are “clarifying, conforming, or coordinating changes that do not materially alter the substance or intent of the existing code provisions”.

CAC Recommendation:

TBD

Agency Response:

TBD

ITEM 4

Chapter 4 Residential Mandatory Measures, Section 4.408.2 Construction waste management plan. HCD proposes to continue to adopt the above-referenced section with amendments as follows:

Rationale: HCD proposes to amend this section to provide a “note”, under subitem 3, which directs the code user to resources located on CalRecycle’s webpage for the preparing and diverting of waste materials. The proposed amendment is in response to petition P-01-24 that was submitted by Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE).

There is no intended change in regulatory effect. Assembly Bill 130 (Chapter 22, Statutes of 2025) places strict limitations on what the state can consider during this Intervening Code Adoption Cycle, including the categories of amendments that are permitted during the Intervening Code Adoption Cycle pursuant to HSC section 18942(a)(2). HCD has determined that the proposed changes are permissible under HSC section 18942(a)(2)(A) pertaining to technical updates to existing code requirements that are needed to effectuate or facilitate their incorporation or implementation since they are “clarifying, conforming, or coordinating changes that do not materially alter the substance or intent of the existing code provisions”.

CAC Recommendation:

TBD

Agency Response:

TBD

ITEM 5

Chapter 4 Residential Mandatory Measures, Section 4.507.2 Heating and air conditioning system design. HCD proposes to continue to adopt the above-referenced section with amendments as follows:

Rationale: In coordination with the California Energy Commission, HCD proposes to amend this section regarding the heating and air-conditioning sizing, design, and equipment selection requirements. The proposed amendments remove outdated reference manuals and provide pointers to the load calculation and system selection requirements in Section 150.0(h)(1), (2), and (5) of the California Energy Code (Title 24, Part 6). HCD proposes to remove an exception that references alternate design temperatures, as this is no longer relevant, and include a pointer to the California Energy Code.

There is no intended change in regulatory effect. Assembly Bill 130 (Chapter 22, Statutes of 2025) places strict limitations on what the state can consider during this Intervening Code Adoption Cycle, including the categories of amendments that are permitted during

the Intervening Code Adoption Cycle pursuant to HSC section 18942(a)(2). HCD has determined that the proposed changes are permissible under HSC section 18942(a)(2)(A) pertaining to technical updates to existing code requirements that are needed to effectuate or facilitate their incorporation or implementation since they are “clarifying, conforming, or coordinating changes that do not materially alter the substance or intent of the existing code provisions”.

CAC Recommendation:

TBD

Agency Response:

TBD

ITEM 6

Appendix A4 Residential Voluntary Measures, Section A4.602 Residential Occupancies Application Checklist. HCD proposes to continue to adopt the above-referenced section with amendments as follows:

Rationale: HCD proposes to amend the above-referenced section (checklist) to coordinate with the proposed sections renumbering in this building standards package.

There is no intended change in regulatory effect. Assembly Bill 130 (Chapter 22, Statutes of 2025) places strict limitations on what the state can consider during this Intervening Code Adoption Cycle, including the categories of amendments that are permitted during the Intervening Code Adoption Cycle pursuant to HSC section 18942(a)(2). HCD has determined that the proposed changes are permissible under HSC section 18942(a)(2)(A) pertaining to technical updates to existing code requirements that are needed to effectuate or facilitate their incorporation or implementation since they are “clarifying, conforming, or coordinating changes that do not materially alter the substance or intent of the existing code provisions”.

CAC Recommendation:

TBD

Agency Response:

TBD

STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION FOR PRESCRIPTIVE STANDARDS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(1) requires a statement of the reasons why an agency believes any mandates for specific technologies or equipment or prescriptive standards are required.

HCD is statutorily required to propose adoption of (by reference) model building standards for other parts of the California Building Standards Code which contain prescriptive standards. The proposed CALGreen amendments have clarifying, conforming, or coordinating changes that do not materially alter the substance or intent of the existing code provisions.

ASSESSMENT OF EFFECT OF REGULATIONS UPON JOBS AND BUSINESS EXPANSION, ELIMINATION OR CREATION

Government Code Sections 11346.2(b)(2) and 11346.3(b)(1)

The California Department of Housing and Community Development has assessed whether and to what extent this proposal will affect the following:

A. The creation or elimination of jobs within the State of California.

These building standards will not affect the creation, or cause the elimination, of jobs within the State of California.

B. The creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within the State of California.

These regulations will not affect the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing business within the State of California.

C. The expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California.

These regulations will not affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California.

D. The benefits of the regulation to the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment.

HCD has determined this amendment to regulations will not affect the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment.

TECHNICAL, THEORETICAL, AND EMPIRICAL STUDY, REPORT, OR SIMILAR DOCUMENTS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(3) requires an identification of each technical, theoretical, and empirical study, report, or similar document, if any, upon which the agency relies in proposing the regulation(s).

1. Formal petition P-01-24 to propose for adoption amendments to Chapter 4, Residential Mandatory Measures, Section 4.408, Construction waste management.

CONSIDERATION OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(4)(A) requires a description of reasonable alternatives to the regulation and the agency's reasons for rejecting those alternatives. In the case of a regulation that would mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment or prescribe specific action or procedures, the imposition of performance standards shall be considered as an alternate. It is not the intent of this paragraph to require the agency to artificially construct alternatives or describe unreasonable alternatives.

There were no feasible alternatives available to HCD. There is no intended change in regulatory effect and the proposed amendments do not materially alter the substance or intent of the existing code provisions and are necessary for a complete 2025 CALGreen.

REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES THE AGENCY HAS IDENTIFIED THAT WOULD LESSEN ANY ADVERSE IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(4)(B) requires a description of any reasonable alternatives that have been identified or that have otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the agency that would lessen any adverse impact on small business.

None. There are no changes from the existing building standards in the CALGreen other than those proposed changes for editorial and clarification purposes.

FACTS, EVIDENCE, DOCUMENTS, TESTIMONY, OR OTHER EVIDENCE OF NO SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON BUSINESS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(5)(A) requires the facts, evidence, documents, testimony, or other evidence on which the agency relies to support an initial determination that the action will not have a significant adverse economic impact on business.

The proposed CALGreen amendments have clarifying, conforming, or coordinating changes that do not materially alter the substance or intent of the existing code provisions.

Therefore, there are no other facts, evidence, documents, testimony, or other evidence on which the HCD relies to support its initial determination of no effect pursuant to Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(5)(A). The public is welcome to submit any information, facts, or documents either supporting HCD's initial determination or finding to the contrary.

ESTIMATED COST OF COMPLIANCE, ESTIMATED POTENTIAL BENEFITS, AND RELATED ASSUMPTIONS USED FOR BUILDING STANDARDS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(5)(B)(i) states if a proposed regulation is a building standard, the initial statement of reasons shall include the estimated cost of compliance, the estimated potential benefits, and the related assumptions used to determine the estimates.

There is no increased cost of compliance for these regulations, which make only technical and non-substantive changes. Because this proposal makes only non-substantive, clarifying changes to existing code language resulting in no intended change in regulatory effect, HCD estimates there will be no additional cost for the regulated community to comply with these building standards. The potential benefits of the proposed building standards include increased clarity for the code user. The updates are limited to clarifying, conforming, or coordinating changes that do not materially alter the substance or intent of the existing code provisions

DUPLICATION OR CONFLICTS WITH FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(6) requires a department, board, or commission within the Environmental Protection Agency, the Resources Agency, or the Office of the State Fire Marshal to describe its efforts, in connection with a proposed rulemaking action, to avoid unnecessary duplication or conflicts with federal regulations contained in the Code of Federal Regulations addressing the same issues. These agencies may adopt regulations different from these federal regulations upon a finding of one or more of the following justifications: (A) The differing state regulations are authorized by law and/or (B) The cost of differing state regulations is justified by the benefit to human health, public safety, public welfare, or the environment.

HCD has made the initial determination that the regulations do not duplicate nor conflict with federal regulations.