

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION
TO BUILDING STANDARDS OF THE
DIVISION OF THE STATE ARCHITECT
REGARDING THE 2025 CALIFORNIA GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS CODE,
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 11
(DSA-SS 04/25)**

Notice is hereby given that the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) on behalf of Division of the State Architect proposes to adopt, approve, codify, and publish changes to building standards contained in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, Part 11. DSA-SS is proposing amendments to building standards related to mandatory measures for public schools and community colleges, embodied carbon reduction, rehabilitated landscape area, outdoor potable water use, and weather protection, and proposed note related to nonfunctional turf.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Reference: Government Code Sections 11346.5(a)(1), 11346.5(a)(15) and 11346.5(a)(17).

A public hearing has not been scheduled; however, written comments will be accepted from **March 27, 2026**, until midnight on **May 11, 2026**.

Comments may be submitted to CBSC via:

Email: cbsc@dgs.ca.gov

US Mail postmarked no later than **May 11, 2026**:
California Building Standards Commission
Attention: Public Comments
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130
Sacramento, CA 95833

All written comments received are considered part of the public record and will be made available for public inspection via [CBSC's website](#). Public comments may include personally identifiable information (PII) such as name, email address or mailing address. Interested persons are not required to submit their PII to comment on this rulemaking. However, any PII submitted is subject to posting on the publicly accessible [CBSC website](#) without redaction. Also, only comments received in an accessible format will be viewable on CBSC's website. Non-accessible comments will be listed on the website and made available upon request. Any interested person, or his or her duly authorized representative, may request no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period that a public hearing be held.

The public will have an opportunity to provide written and oral comments regarding the proposed action on building standards at a public meeting to be conducted by CBSC to be scheduled at a date near the end of the current adoption cycle. A meeting notice will be issued announcing the date, time and location of the public meeting.

POST-HEARING MODIFICATIONS TO THE TEXT OF THE REGULATIONS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(18).

Following the public comment period, CBSC may adopt the proposed building standards substantially as proposed in this notice or with modifications that are sufficiently related to

the original proposed text and notice of proposed changes. If modifications are made, the full text of the proposed modifications, clearly indicated, will be made available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date on which CBSC adopts, amends, or repeals the regulation(s). CBSC will accept written comments on the modified building standards during the 15-day period.

NOTE: To be notified of any modifications, you must submit written/oral comments or request that you be notified of any modifications.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(2).

CBSC proposes to adopt these building standards under the authority granted by Health and Safety Code Section 18949.1. The purpose of these building standards is to implement, interpret, or make specific the provisions of Education Code Sections 17280 through 17317, and 81130 through 81142 and Water Code Sections 10608.12 and 10608.14.

The Division of the State Architect is proposing this regulatory action based on Education Code Sections 17310 and 81142.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(3).

Summary of Existing Laws

Health and Safety Code Section 18949.1 transfers the responsibilities of DSA-SS to adopt regulations relating to building standards, to the California Building Standards Commission.

Education Code Sections 17280-17317 and 81130-81142 are known and cited as the “Field Act” and relate to public elementary and secondary (K-12) schools and community colleges respectively.

Education Code Sections 17310 and 81142 authorize the State Architect to establish building standards for the design, construction, and inspection of building systems for public elementary and secondary (K-12) schools and community colleges respectively.

Water Code Section 10608.12 provides definitions of nonfunctional turf and functional turf.

Water Code Section 10608.14 is a part of the California Water Code that states the use of potable water for the irrigation of nonfunctional turf located on institutional properties, which includes higher education institutions and school, is prohibited beginning January 1, 2028.

Summary of Existing Regulations

Existing green building standards apply to the planning, design, operation, construction, use and occupancy of every newly constructed building or structure throughout the State of California. It is not the intent that the green building standards substitute or be identified as meeting the certification requirements of any green building program. The green building standards for public elementary and secondary schools and community colleges are promulgated by the Division of the State Architect. These regulations are contained in

the California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen Code, Part 11, Title 24).

Summary of Effect

The proposed action will implement the proposed modifications to the California Green Building Standards Code for buildings within DSA-SS authority.

- The proposed amendments contain changes which clarify mandatory measures for public K-12 schools and community colleges.
- Clarify minimum rehabilitated landscape area requirements and embodied carbon requirements.
- The proposed amendments also contain an addition of a note which conform to nonfunctional turf requirements mandated by statute.

Once filed with Secretary of State, the standards will be codified and published by January 1, 2027, and will become effective July 1, 2027.

The Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) provides a complete description of the proposed building standards and their effect.

Comparable Federal Statute or Regulations

There are no federal statutes or regulations that are comparable to the proposed clarifying and conforming updates to the California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen Code).

Policy Statement Overview

These proposed actions are to clarify CALGreen Code and to conform with current state law, by amending the 2025 CALGreen Code. These proposed amendments within Part 11 Mandatory Measures applicable to Public K-12 Schools and Community Colleges are related to Nonfunctional Turf, Embodied Carbon Reduction, Rehabilitated Landscape Area, Outdoor Potable Water Use, and Weather Protection, and a note reference requirements mandated by statute.

Evaluation of Consistency

There are no inconsistent or incompatible regulations proposed.

OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY STATUTE APPLICABLE TO THE AGENCY OR TO ANY SPECIFIC REGULATION OR CLASS OF REGULATIONS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(4).

There are no other matters prescribed by statute applicable to DSA-SS, or to any specific regulation or class of regulations.

MANDATE ON LOCAL AGENCIES OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(5).

DSA-SS has determined that the proposed regulatory action WOULD NOT impose a mandate on local agencies or school districts.

ESTIMATE OF COST OR SAVINGS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(6).

An estimate, prepared in accordance with instructions adopted by Department of Finance, of cost or savings to any state agency, local agency, or school district.

- A. Cost or Savings to any state agency: **NO**
- B. Cost to any local agency required to be reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4: **NO**
- C. Cost to any school district required to be reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4: **NO**
- D. Other nondiscretionary cost or savings imposed on local agencies: **NO**
- E. Cost or savings in federal funding to the state: **NO**

Estimate: \$0

INITIAL DETERMINATION OF NO SIGNIFICANT STATEWIDE ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON BUSINESSES

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(8).

If the agency makes an initial determination that the adoption/amendment/repeal of this regulation will not have a significant, statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states, it shall make a declaration to that effect.

DSA-SS has made an initial determination that the proposed amendments will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact on businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

Declaration of Evidence

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(8).

In making the declaration, the agency shall provide in the record of facts, evidence, documents, testimony, or other evidence that the agency relied upon to support its initial determination of no effect.

These proposals are necessary for clarity and conformance of existing regulations and do not materially alter the substance or intent of the existing regulations. As indicated in the Economic and Fiscal Impact Statement (399) documents and the Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) which are part of this rulemaking, these proposals do not pose an economic impact on businesses.

No facts, evidence, documents, testimony or other evidence has been relied upon to support the initial determination of no effect.

COST IMPACT ON REPRESENTATIVE PRIVATE PERSON OR BUSINESS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(9).

Describe all cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action. If no cost impact, provide the following statement:

DSA-SS is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

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

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(10).

The DSA-SS has assessed whether and to what extent the proposals will effect the following:

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

DSA-SS has determined the proposed amendments to existing regulations will not have an effect upon the creation or 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.

DSA-SS has determined the proposed amendments to regulations will not have an effect upon the creation or the elimination of businesses in the State of California.

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

DSA-SS has determined the proposed amendments to regulations will not have an effect upon 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.

DSA-SS has determined the proposed amendments to existing regulations will not have an effect upon the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment.

FINDING OF NECESSITY FOR THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH, SAFETY, OR WELFARE

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(11).

Any regulation that requires a report shall not apply to businesses, unless the agency makes a finding that it is necessary for the health, safety, or welfare of the public that the regulations apply to businesses.

N/A

ESTIMATED COST OF COMPLIANCE OF STANDARDS THAT WOULD IMPACT HOUSING

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(12).

DSA-SS has determined that this proposal would not have an effect on public housing costs at Community Colleges or K-12 public schools.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(13).

DSA-SS has determined that no reasonable alternative considered by DSA-SS or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of DSA-SS would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action. In addition, no reasonable alternative considered by DSA-SS or that has otherwise been identified and

brought to the attention of DSA-SS would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provisions of law.

AVAILABILITY OF RULEMAKING DOCUMENTS

Reference: Government Code Sections 11346.5(a)(16) and 11346.5(a)(20).

All of the information upon which the proposed regulations are based is contained in the rulemaking file, which is available for public review, by contacting the person named below. This notice, the express terms and initial statement of reasons can be accessed from the [CBSC website](https://www.dgs.ca.gov/BSC): [dgs.ca.gov/BSC](https://www.dgs.ca.gov/BSC).

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(19).

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the final statement of reasons, once it has been prepared, by making a written request to the contact person named below or at the [CBSC website](https://www.dgs.ca.gov/en/BSC): <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/en/BSC>.

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(21).

DSA-SS shall provide, upon request, a description of proposed changes included in the proposed action, in the manner provided by Section 11346.6, to accommodate a person with a visual or other disability for which effective communication is required under state or federal law. The statement shall note that providing the accessible description of proposed changes may require extending the period of public comment for the proposed action.

CBSC CONTACT PERSON FOR PROCEDURAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS

Reference: Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(14).

General questions regarding procedural and administrative issues should be addressed to:

Kevin Day, Deputy Executive Director
California Building Standards Commission
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130
Sacramento, CA 95833
Telephone: (916) 263-0916

PROPOSING STATE AGENCY CONTACT PERSON FOR SUBSTANTIVE OR TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BUILDING STANDARDS

Specific questions regarding the substantive or technical aspects of the proposed changes to the building standards should be addressed to:

Primary Contact:

Alicia Chavez, Supervising Architect
Department of General Services, Division of the State Architect
Telephone No.: (279) 799-4541
alicia.chavez@dgs.ca.gov

Back up Contact:

Eric Driever, Principal Architect
Department of General Services, Division of the State Architect
Telephone No.: (916) 443-9829

eric.driever@dgs.ca.gov