

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	25-BSTD-04
<b>Project Title:</b>	Applications for Local Ordinances Exceeding the 2025 Energy Code
<b>TN #:</b>	267654
<b>Document Title:</b>	City of Santa Cruz Cover Letter
<b>Description:</b>	Plain text of the City of Santa Cruz application cover letter to the CEC
<b>Filer:</b>	Anushka Raut
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
<b>Submission Date:</b>	11/19/2025 4:14:49 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	11/19/2025



**OFFICE OF CITY MANAGER**

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October 17, 2025

Attn: Drew Bohan  
Executive Director  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-37  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

**Re: Approval Requested for Locally Adopted Energy Standards by City of Santa Cruz in Accordance with the 2025 California Energy Code, Title 24, Part 6 of the California Code of Regulations**

Dear Drew Bohan

Please be advised that the Santa Cruz City Council has adopted amendments to the 2025 Edition of California's Energy Code (Title 24, Part 6) via Ordinance No. 2025-19, enclosed.

In accordance with California Health and Safety Code Sections 17958.5, 17958.7 and 18941.5, Public Resources Code Section 25402.1 (h)2 and California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, §10-106, this package of materials demonstrates that the City of Santa Cruz City Council determined that the local ordinance:

- Contains standards that are cost effective, and these standards were adopted at a public meeting on August 26, 2025 (1<sup>st</sup> reading) and September 9, 2025 (2<sup>nd</sup> reading), and
- Will result in buildings designed to consume less energy than permitted by the 2025 California Energy Code.

The ordinance and cost-effectiveness studies were presented to the City of Santa Cruz City Council on August 26, 2025. The ordinance will become effective on January 1, 2026, following approval by the California Energy Commission.

Please also note that during the CEC's courtesy review of our draft materials submitted in advance of City Council adoption, CEC staff provided the following questions on a portion of the ordinance pertaining to new construction:

Att. 1: Cover Letter

CEC Staff Comment: Amendments to Section 150.0(t): Would this exception allow projects to go below the requirements of the Energy Code (Part 6)? This scenario would be considered new construction and would be subject to the requirements of 150.0(t).

City Response: The ordinance states that Santa Cruz amendments don't apply to these ADUs [in Section 150.0(t)] in alignment with state law, and ADUs will still need to comply with state code requirements.

Please find the following materials enclosed:

- Att. 1: This cover letter
- Att. 2: Agenda report to the Santa Cruz City Council outlining the goals of the updated building standards. The report clearly shows that the City of Santa Cruz made an express finding that amendments to the building standards in the 2025 California Energy Code are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, topographical or environmental conditions.
- Att. 3: Ordinance No. 2025-19, which adopts local amendments to the 2025 California Energy Code baseline for residential and nonresidential buildings.
- Att. 4: Cost effectiveness results summary and relevant reports demonstrating the expected energy savings and the cost effectiveness of the ordinance in the City of Santa Cruz/Climate Zone 3.
- Att. 5: Evidence of CEQA compliance through the attached Notice of Exemption. The City of Santa Cruz found that under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15308 of the CEQA Guidelines, there is no possibility that the implementation of this ordinance will have a significant negative impact on the environment, and this is exempt from the requirements of CEQA.

Please consider approval of this ordinance pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 24 Part 1, Section 10-106. If you have any questions, please contact me at [twise-west@santacruzca.gov](mailto:twise-west@santacruzca.gov) or (831) - 420 -5433.

Sincerely,



Dr. Tiffany Wise-West, P.E.  
Sustainability and Resiliency Officer

cc: Farhad Farahmand, TRC  
Mayra Vega, TRC  
[LocalOrdinances@energy.ca.gov](mailto:LocalOrdinances@energy.ca.gov)