

DOCKETED

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RESOLUTION NO: 25-1008-3e

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE ENERGY RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Resolution Approving Updated 2025 California Building Energy Code Compliance Software (CBECC 2025.2.0)

WHEREAS, the 2025 Energy Code, amending California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Parts 1 and 6, was adopted by the California Energy Commission (CEC) on September 11, 2024, with an effective date of January 1, 2026, and

WHEREAS, these standards were approved by the California Building Standards Commission on December 17, 2024, and will go into effect January 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Warren-Alquist Act, in Public Resources Code section 25402.1(a), requires the CEC to develop a public domain computer program, which will enable contractors, builders, architects, engineers, and government officials to estimate the energy consumed by residential and nonresidential buildings; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement the requirement of section 25402.1(a), CEC staff developed and approved the 2025 Single-family Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manual and the 2025 Nonresidential and Multifamily Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manual (together the 2025 ACM Reference Manuals), which specify the standard design and document the calculations and methods used by the compliance software to model building performance, calculate Long-term System Cost and Source Energy, and demonstrate performance compliance with the 2025 Energy Code; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement the requirement of section 25402.1(a), CEC staff developed a public domain computer program that is comprised of California Building Energy Code Compliance nonresidential software (CBECC 2025.1.0), which is used to estimate energy consumed by nonresidential and multifamily residential buildings and demonstrate performance compliance with the nonresidential and multifamily provisions of the 2025 Energy Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 10, and Part 6; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement the requirement of section 25402.1(a), CEC staff developed a public domain computer program that is comprised of California Building Energy Code Compliance residential software (CBECC-Res 2025.1.0), which is used to estimate energy consumed by single-family residential buildings and demonstrate performance compliance with the single-family residential provisions of the 2025 Energy Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 10, and Part 6; and

WHEREAS, CEC approved CBECC 2025.1.0 and CBECC-Res 2025.1.0 at the June 11, 2025, CEC business meeting; and

WHEREAS, CEC staff proposed an update to the 2025 ACM Reference Manuals at the October 8, 2025, CEC business meeting; and

WHEREAS, in order to align CBECC with the proposed changes to the 2025 ACM Reference Manuals, to improve the accuracy of the public domain computer program, to add functionality, and to respond to stakeholder comments, CEC staff developed the updated public domain computer program CBECC 2025.2.0; and

WHEREAS, CBECC 2025.2.0 is a public domain computer program, which is used to estimate energy consumed by nonresidential, multifamily residential, and single-family residential buildings and demonstrate performance compliance with the nonresidential, multifamily residential, and single-family residential provisions of the 2025 Energy Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 10, and Part 6; and

WHEREAS, as part of developing CBECC 2025.2.0, CEC staff has reviewed and tested CBECC 2025.2.0 to ensure it reflects the requirements of the 2025 Energy Code and the building energy modeling requirements of section 10-109(c), Title 24, Part 1, and aligns with the current version of the 2025 ACM Reference Manuals; and

WHEREAS, CEC staff has considered the application of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to the updates made in the CBECC 2025.2.0 compliance software and finds that the updates do not meet the definition of a “project” under California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061(a), because the updates in the compliance software have no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and even if the updated compliance software was considered a project, then the project would fall under the “common sense exemption” in California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the updated compliance software may have a significant effect on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the CEC has considered staff’s proposed updates to the CBECC 2025.2.0 compliance software and staff’s finding that its adoption is exempt from CEQA.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on the basis of the entire record before it, the CEC hereby adopts staff’s finding that the updates made to CBECC, resulting in the CBECC 2025.2.0 compliance software, is not subject to CEQA because it does not meet the definition of a “project” as it is not an activity that has the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and even if it were a project, it is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Common-Sense Exemption because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the approval may have a significant effect on the environment, including unusual circumstances; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the CEC approves the updates to CBECC and the resulting new version, CBECC 2025.2.0, which is used for estimating energy consumed by nonresidential, multifamily residential, and single-family buildings as specified in Public Resources Code section 25402.1, subdivision (a), and for demonstrating performance compliance with the nonresidential, multifamily residential, and single-family residential provisions of the 2025 Energy Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Parts 1 and 6; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to sections 10-116 and 10-109, Title 24, Part 1, upon the CEC's approval of the October 8th, 2025 CBECC software update, CBECC 2025.1.0 and any other alternative calculation methods incorporating the previously approved, June 11, 2025, compliance software used for estimating energy consumed by nonresidential and multifamily residential buildings as specified in Public Resources Code section 25402.1, subdivision (a), and for demonstrating compliance with the performance-based nonresidential and multifamily residential provisions of the 2025 Building Energy Efficiency Standards, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Parts 1 and 6 will expire and any permit applications made on or after January 7, 2026 will be subject to CBECC 2025.2.0; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to sections 10-116 and 10-109, Title 24, Part 1, upon the CEC's approval of the October 8th, 2025 CBECC software update, CBECC-Res 2025.1.0 and any other alternative calculation methods incorporating the previously approved, June 11, 2025, compliance software used for estimating energy consumed by single-family residential buildings as specified in Public Resources Code section 25402.1, subdivision (a), and for demonstrating compliance with the performance-based single-family residential provisions of the 2025 Building Energy Efficiency Standards, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Parts 1 and 6 will expire and any permit applications made on or after January 7, 2026 will be subject to CBECC 2025.2.0; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the CEC directs the executive director or their designee to take all actions reasonably necessary to make the above-referenced software available and maintain the software in good form, including but not limited to releasing bug fixes, correcting calculation and analytical errors, necessary ongoing software updates, user interface changes, and other minor updates.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretariat to the Commission does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the California Energy Commission held on October 8, 2025.

AYE: Gunda, McAllister, Gallardo, Skinner

NAY: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: Hochschild

Dated: October 9, 2025

SIGNED BY:

Kim Todd
Secretariat