

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	25-BSTD-04
Project Title:	Applications for Local Ordinances Exceeding the 2025 Energy Code
TN #:	270350
Document Title:	Resolution finding building energy efficiency standards contained in City of Santa Cruz Ordinance No 2025-22
Description:	Resolution No. 26-0526-03a resolution finding building energy efficiency standards contained in City of Santa Cruz's Ordinance no. 2025-22 satisfy statutory requirements under Public Resources Code section 25402.1(h)(2)
Filer:	Anushka Raut
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

RESOLUTION: LOCAL ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ

RESOLUTION NO: 26-0526-03a

WHEREAS, The State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (CEC) adopts the staff California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings contained in the CEQA analysis (attached below); and

WHEREAS, The City of Santa Cruz adopted Ordinance No. 2025-22, which establishes certain locally adopted building energy efficiency standards; and

WHEREAS, Public Resources Code section 25402(a) and (b) establishes that the CEC shall prescribe, by regulation, statewide building energy efficiency and conservation standards; and

WHEREAS, Public Resources Code section 25402.1(h)(2) provides that nothing in Public Resources Code section 25402(a) or (b) shall prohibit the enforcement of city or county building energy efficiency standards if: (1) the city or county files the basis of its determination that the standards are cost-effective with the CEC and (2) the CEC finds that the locally adopted standards will require the diminution of energy consumption levels permitted by the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25402(a) and (b); and

WHEREAS, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, section 10-106 establishes a process for local governmental agencies to submit an application to the CEC for a determination that locally adopted building energy efficiency standards meet the requirements set forth in Public Resources Code section 25402.1(h)(2); and

WHEREAS, The City of Santa Cruz submitted an application to the CEC that included (1) the basis of its determination that the locally adopted energy efficiency standards contained in Ordinance No. 2025-22 are cost-effective and (2) documentation that the locally adopted energy efficiency standards contained in Ordinance No. 2025-22 will require the diminution of energy consumption levels compared to the 2025 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Energy Code), as required by California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, section 10-106, on December 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, The City of Santa Cruz adopted a determination at a public meeting on November 18, 2025, that the locally adopted energy efficiency standards contained in Ordinance No. 2025-22 are cost-effective; and

WHEREAS, CEC staff has analyzed whether the locally adopted energy efficiency

standards contained in Ordinance No. 2025-22 will require the diminution of energy consumption levels compared to the 2025 Energy Code, and determined that it will do so; and

WHEREAS, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, section 10-106(b)(4) requires that the local governmental agency's application include any findings, determinations, declarations, or reports, including any negative declaration or environmental impact report, required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, The City of Santa Cruz, in its application to the CEC, submitted the California Environmental Quality Act documentation required by California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, section 10-106(b)(4); and

WHEREAS, CEC staff has considered the application of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to approval of the City of Santa Cruz's application to enforce its local energy efficiency ordinance and finds that the approval does not meet the definition of a "project" under California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15378(a), because the approval has no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Even if the approval was to be considered a project, the project would either be an exempt ministerial project under the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15286, as the required CEC findings for approval are non-discretionary, or 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 approval of the City of Santa Cruz's application would have a significant effect on the environment; and

WHEREAS, The locally adopted energy efficiency and conservation standards application filed by the City of Santa Cruz satisfies the requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, section 10-106; and

THEREFORE, THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION FINDS:

With regard to CEQA:

The CEC has considered the application of CEQA to the resolution and concluded that, on the basis of the entire record before it, the CEC hereby adopts staff's finding that the approval of the City of Santa Cruz's application to enforce its local energy efficiency ordinance is not subject to CEQA because the approval is ministerial and 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. Even if it was a project, it is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the "common sense exemption" (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061(b)(3)) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the

environment; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25402.1(h)(2), the CEC finds the following: (1) The City of Santa Cruz has filed the basis of its determination that the locally adopted energy efficiency standards contained in Ordinance No. 2025-22 are cost-effective, and (2) Ordinance No. 2025-22 will require the diminution of energy consumption levels compared to the 2025 Energy Code; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CEC directs the Executive Director to take all actions necessary to implement this Resolution.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 26th day of May 2026, by the following vote:

AYE: Hochschild, Gunda, McAllister, Gallardo, Skinner

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretariat to the CEC does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly approved and adopted by the affirmative vote of the CEC at a meeting held on May 26, 2026.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kim Todd".

Kim Todd
Secretariat