

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-BSTD-03
Project Title:	2025 Energy Code Compliance Software, Manuals and Forms
TN #:	272984
Document Title:	Resolution Certifying Updated 2025 Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manual
Description:	N/A
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

RESOLUTION: Resolution Certifying the Updated Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manual for the 2025 Building Energy Efficiency Standards

RESOLUTION NO: 26-0909-09

WHEREAS, the 2025 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (2025 Energy Code), amending California Code of Regulations, title 24, parts 1 and 6, were adopted by the California Energy Commission (CEC) on September 11, 2024, with a proposed effective date of January 1, 2026, and

WHEREAS, these standards were approved by the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) on December 17, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Warren-Alquist Act, in Public Resources Code section 25402.1(e), requires the CEC to certify “an energy conservation manual for use by designers, builders and contractors of residential and nonresidential buildings” no later than 180 days after CBSC approves the Energy Code; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement the requirement of Public Resources Code section 25402.1(e), CEC staff has developed an energy conservation manual (ECM) that is comprised of several documents, including residential and nonresidential compliance manuals, residential and nonresidential alternative compliance method reference manuals, a data registry requirements manual, and other compliance forms, all of which contain information to assist designers, builders, and contractors in meeting the 2025 Energy Code, including forms, charts and other data; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Energy Code that was adopted by the CEC and approved by the CBSC, specifies, among other things, the requirement to update the Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manuals, which are part of the ECM; and

WHEREAS, CEC staff developed updated content for the Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manual, Publication Number CEC-400-2026-006-CMF (ACM Reference Manual), which document the modeling methods used in the 2025 compliance software, which demonstrates performance compliance with the 2025 Energy Code; and

WHEREAS, CEC staff has considered the application of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to certification of the updates made in the ACM Reference Manuals and find that the updates do not meet the definition of a “project” under Cal. Code Regs. Title 14, section 15061(a), because the updates in the ACM Reference Manual 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

certifying the updated ACM Reference Manual was to be 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 ACM Reference Manual would have a significant effect on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the CEC has considered staff’s proposed updates to the ACM Reference Manuals and finding that its adoption is exempt from CEQA; and

THEREFORE, THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION FINDS:

With regard to CEQA, certification of the updates to the ACM Reference Manual is not a “project,” as defined, subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and, alternatively, if it is a project, it is exempt pursuant to the “common sense exemption” in California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061(b)(3).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on the basis of the entire record before it, the CEC hereby adopts staff’s finding that the certification of the updates made in the ACM Reference Manual are not subject to CEQA; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Energy Commission hereby certifies the updated Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manual, Publication Number CEC-400-2026-006-CMF, used to support compliance with the 2025 Energy Code; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that documents and other materials that constitute the rulemaking record can be found at the CEC, 715 P Street, Sacramento, California, 95814 in the custody of the Docket Unit and online in [Docket 24-BSTD-03](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-BSTD-03), <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-BSTD-03>; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that, the CEC delegates the authority and directs the Executive Director or their designees to take, on behalf of the CEC, all actions reasonably necessary to have the ACM updates go into effect, including but not limited to making any appropriate non-substantive changes; and filing a notice of exemption with the Office of Planning and Research.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of September 2026, by the following vote:

AYE: Hochschild, McAllister, Gallardo, Skinner

NAY: None

ABSENT: Gunda

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 affirmative vote of the CEC at a meeting held on September 9, 2026.

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

Kim Todd
Secretariat