

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	24-BSTD-05
Project Title:	2025 Energy Code Compliance Initiatives
TN #:	272985
Document Title:	September 28, 2026, Presentation Slides From Compliance Initiatives Workshop
Description:	Presentation slides from the September 28, 2026, Compliance Initiatives Workshop. All materials related to this workshop, including a recording of this workshop will be posted on the event website at https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/workshop/2026-09/compliance-initiatives-workshop .
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Docketed Date:	9/30/2026



Energy Code Compliance Workshop

September 28, 2026

Housekeeping

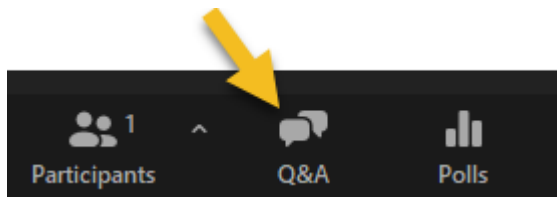


General Notes

- The workshop will be recorded.
- The slide presentation will be posted on the docket.
- Comments or suggestions can be made through our online docket 24-BSTD-05 visit:
 - <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/EComment.aspx?docketnumber=24-BSTD-05>

Public Comments

- We will have Chat turned off, but please feel free to use the Zoom Q/A feature



Public Comments

Zoom App/Online

- Click “raise hand”

Telephone

- Press *9 to raise hand
- Press *6 to Mute/Unmute

When called upon

- CEC will open your line
- Unmute on your end
- Spell name and state affiliation, if any
- 2 minutes or less per speaker, 1 speaker per entity

Agenda



1. **Opening Remarks - Commissioner McAllister**
2. **Presentations**
 - Introduction and Framing, Compliance Imperatives - Mike Sokol
 - Office of Compliance Assistance & Enforcement (OCAE) – Nichole Johnson
 - Quality Assurance in CHEERS ECC Program – David Choo
3. **Public Comments**
4. **Break (10 min)**
5. **Panel Discussion**
6. **Public Comments**
7. **Closing**

Opening Remarks



J. Andrew McAllister, Ph.D.
Commissioner
California Energy Commission





Energy Code Compliance Updates

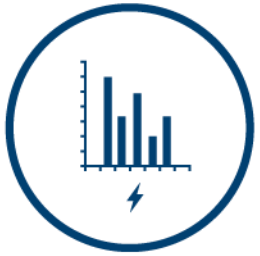
Michael Sokol, Director, Efficiency Division

Michael.Sokol@energy.ca.gov



California Energy Commission

Leading the State to 100% Clean Energy For All



**Advances State
Energy Policy**



**Invests in Energy
Innovation**



**Develops
Renewable Energy**



**Prepares for
Emergencies**



**Achieves Energy
Efficiency**



**Transforms
Transportation**



**Oversees Energy
Infrastructure**



**Collaborates Across
Governments**

Warren-Alquist Act

CEC's foundational authority to pursue energy standards



- Establishes building energy efficiency standards to be updated every three years
- Establishes Appliance Efficiency Standards to conserve energy and water
- Establishes load flexibility standards as a key tool to support cost savings and emissions reduction
- Standards must be cost-effective and technically feasible
- Provides low-cost means to achieve CA's climate actions goals while saving ratepayers money



Efficiency Provides a Key Affordability Tool for California Households



Source: American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) 2025 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard

2025 Energy Code

Saves Californians \$4.8B in energy costs over 30 years

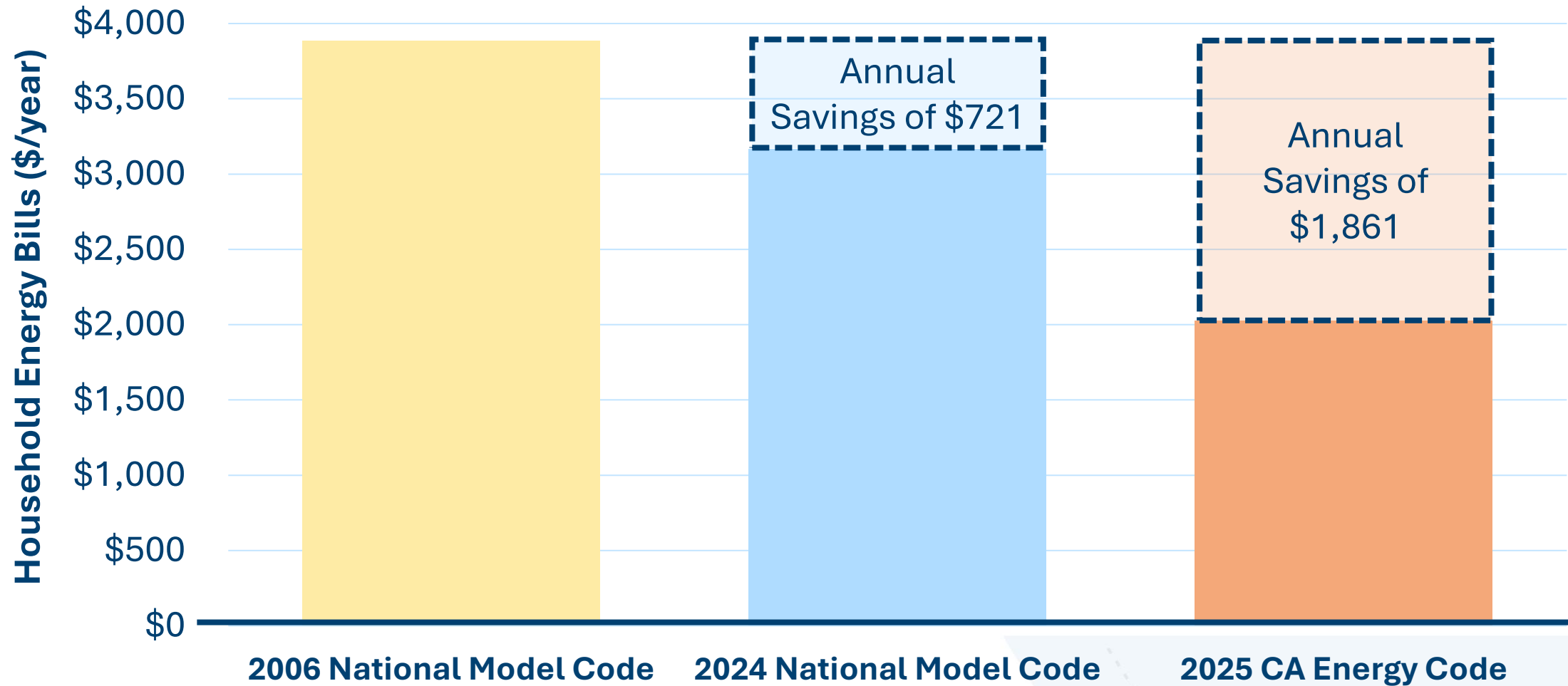


Effective January 1, 2026

- Standardizes efficient electric heat pumps for space and water heating in newly constructed single-family, multifamily, and select nonresidential building types
- Standardizes heat pumps when replacing end-of-life rooftop HVAC single-zone units less than 65,000 Btu/h for existing retail, existing schools, and existing offices and libraries
- Establishes electric-ready requirements for commercial kitchens and some multifamily buildings, so owners can more easily switch to electric when ready
- Updates solar PV and battery energy storage standards for assembly buildings, religious worship, sport, and recreation buildings to minimize exports to the grid and protect cost effectiveness
- Strengthens ventilation standards to improve indoor air quality in multifamily buildings
- Summary resources available on [CEC's Energy Code Support Center](#)
- 7x benefit to cost ratio

California Energy Code

Sets the national standard for public benefit in energy efficiency



Energy Code Compliance Challenges

Inconsistent code compliance may result in unrealized energy and cost savings



Permit rates are estimated to be low for certain project types (~8%–28% for residential HVAC change-outs)



Energy Code and supporting materials and provider programs cited as too complex



Limited resources and competing priorities for local authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs)



Limited awareness – unclear value proposition and market value does not consistently reflect efficiency measures



Limited and inconsistent statewide data related to compliance

Energy Code Compliance Improvement Efforts

CEC is pursuing a range of initiatives to support statewide compliance



1. Compliance Rate Study and Sac County Pilot supported with federal funding (\$18.5M+)



2. Enhanced Energy Code Compliance (ECC) program effective Jan 1, 2026



3. Energy Code reformatting, technical edits, and streamlining nonregulatory documents and supporting tools (CEC Docket 24-BSTD-05)



4. Outreach and training direct to building departments w/ partners



5. Strengthening responsible contracting and consumer protections w/ CSLB



6. Data Collection and Analyses

- 7.
- CEC Commission Compliance Document Repository (CCDR)
 - Equipment Sales Data Tracking – HVAC and Water Heaters

Compliance Rate Study

Under IRA Codes Federal Grant



IRA Codes Federal Funding Goal

- For states to adopt and implement compliance and enforcement of latest building energy codes

CEC Defined Goals

- Increase energy code compliance intelligence and assistance
- Identify causes to noncompliance and develop effective enforcement strategies

CEC Strategy

- Conduct study of Energy Code compliance rates in California (Compliance Rate Study, Notice of Selection issued with contractor work commencing in 2027)
- Support workforce development for increased compliance
- Partner with enforcement agencies on best path forward

Residential HVAC Changeout Permitting Rates

Statewide Estimate



~18%

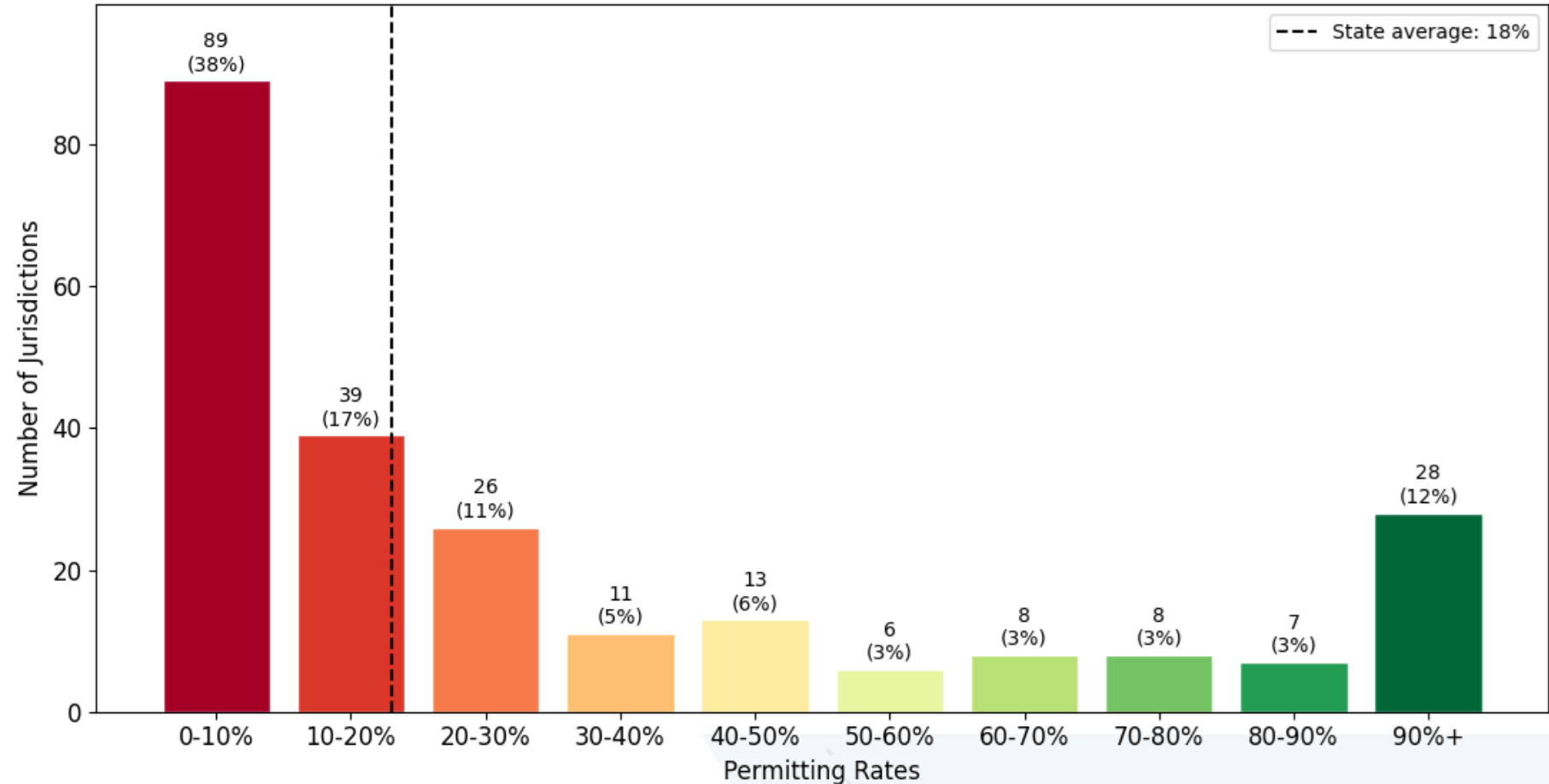
of residential HVAC
changeouts are permitted

Confidence Range:

~ 8% to 28%

(or 18% ± 10%)

How Do California Jurisdictions Vary in Permitting HVAC Replacements?



Compliance Questions



- What specific feedback do you have on current CEC Energy Code compliance initiatives?
- Are there additional areas where targeted action could meaningfully improve statewide compliance?
- Which specific resources or examples should CEC pursue to deepen our understanding of compliance gaps and enforcement challenges?
- How can the CEC leverage existing resources – such as utility programs, statewide training platforms, and federal technical-assistance tools – to strengthen and accelerate Energy Code compliance efforts?

Input and Feedback Welcome

CEC seeks ongoing engagement to further understand challenges and opportunities





Thank You

Michael Sokol, Director, Efficiency Division

Michael.Sokol@energy.ca.gov



OCAE

Partnering to Improve Energy Code Compliance

Office of Compliance Assistance and Enforcement

Nichole Johnson

Energy Code Compliance Initiatives Workshop
September 28, 2026



OCAE's Expanding Role

OUR FOUNDATION

Appliances
Title 20

EXPANDED FOCUS

Buildings and Benchmarking
Title 24, Part 6



Complaints & Inquiries

Review referrals and assess compliance.



Industry Collaboration

Coordinate with Efficiency Division staff and local partners.



Response and Resolution

Provide assistance, make referrals, or pursue enforcement as appropriate.

Partnerships and subject matter expertise strengthen our compliance and enforcement efforts.



Collaboration in Practice



Registry Providers and Raters

HERS QA/QC project reviews. Verification and quality assurance.



Building Departments (AHJs)

40+ AHJs engaged. Training, guidance and enforcement collaboration.



ATTCPs

Acceptance testing concerns informing planned provider follow-up and current collaboration.



Benchmarking

100 Buildings returned to compliance representing 24+M square feet.



Industry and Trades

Industry relationships with the trades, trade associations and CSLB that help identify contractor training needs.



Partnering for Compliance

Have an enforcement opportunity
or a compliance concern to share?

Contact the Office of Compliance Assistance and Enforcement

buildingenforcement@energy.ca.gov



CHEERS

How the ECC Program Improved Quality Assurance

Energy Code Compliance Initiatives Workshop

September 28, 2026

David Choo

Director of Compliance, CHEERS



From the HERS program to the ECC program

Quality assurance and accountability provisions, by word count



The difference between an expectation and a regulatory tool.

Rulemaking led by the Commission and the Standards Compliance Branch.

One defined training standard for every Rater



HERS PROGRAM

Broad subject areas and a written and practical test. Delivery was left largely to each Provider.

ECC PROGRAM



Defined curriculum

Every field verification protocol and required subject areas, with more than twice the detail



In-person lab training

In a Commission-approved facility



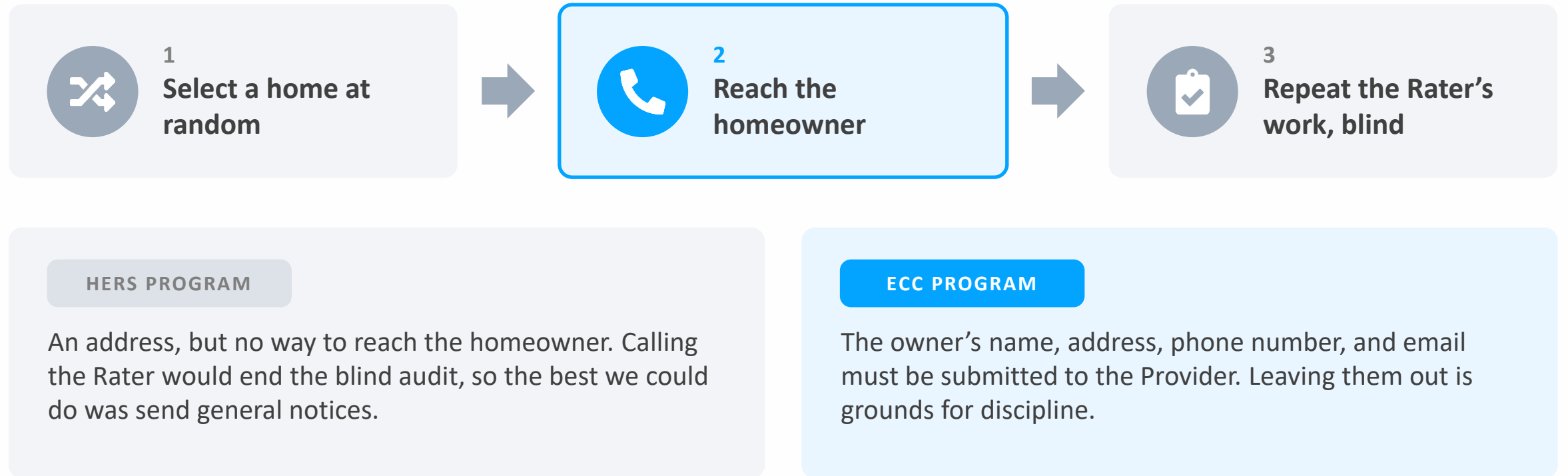
Proctored exams

Written and practical tests, with the practical test in person

What I didn't expect: some Raters are now asking for more, including continuing education.

Oversight that reaches the job

The routine Onsite Audit



What used to be a request is now a requirement.

Three quality assurance audit types



CORE AUDIT

Onsite Audit

A blind repeat of the Rater's verification, after the Rater has left.



NEW

Shadow Audit

An experienced reviewer observes a real Quality Insulation Installation verification, with clear feedback afterward.

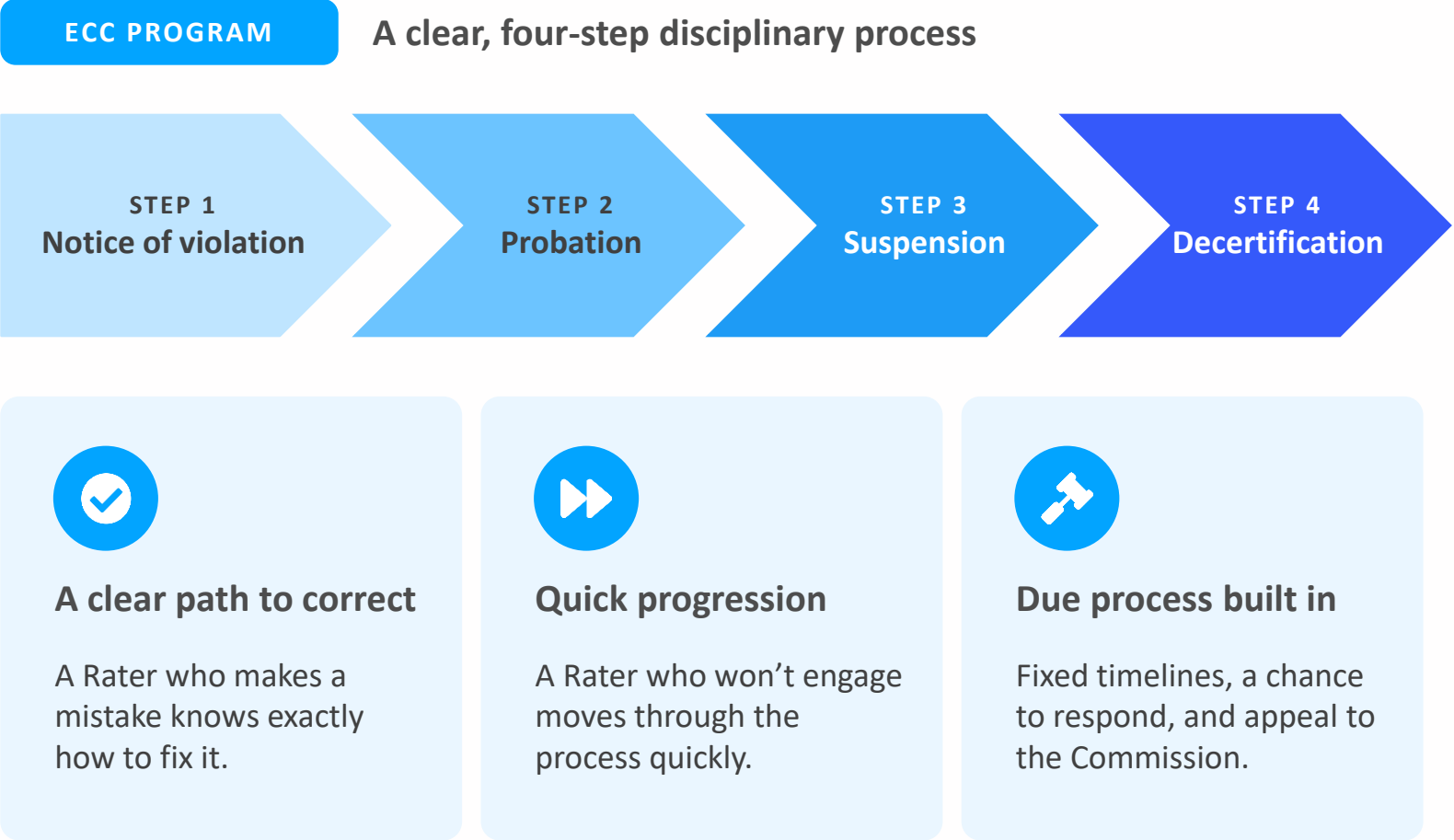
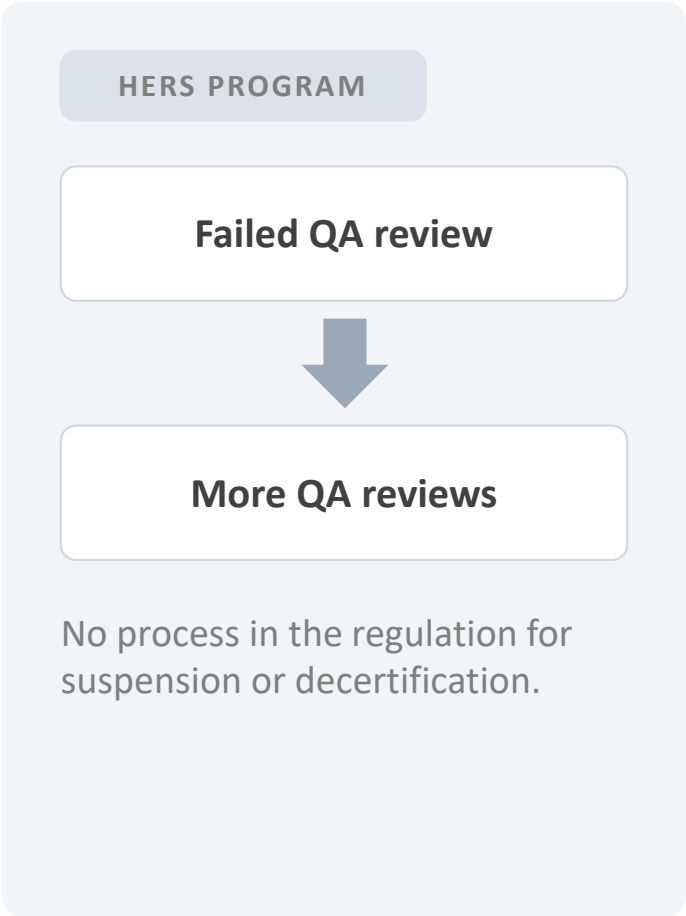


NEW

Desk Audit

Looks for patterns across a Rater's data, to help the Rater improve or catch a problem a single site visit might miss.

Accountability, with due process



Consequences written into the regulation



Remedy

A flawed verification is corrected with a new one, and the Rater covers the property owner's cost.



Rater Companies

Can be held accountable for their Raters' actions.



Decertification follows the Rater

The Commission is notified, and every Provider is instructed to cut off access.



Conflict of interest

The rules spell out clearly what a conflict is. When cited, the conflict usually stops.



Rater of Record

After a home fails verification, only that Rater, or their company, can record the pass.

**Clear, consistent,
enforceable**
Section 10-103.3

California is at the tip of the spear

Remarkable work is happening here

And much of it is because of this Commission and its staff.

Standards Compliance Branch

Open, frequent communication

Office of Compliance Assistance and Enforcement

Focused on practical ways to move compliance forward

When something in the field doesn't fit neatly, we work through it together.

The one thing verification can't reach

Fewer than 1 in 3

residential HVAC changeouts had permits pulled



Illustrative: permits were pulled for less than one-third of changeouts that required them.

“The best verification system in the world can’t verify a job it never sees.”

The contractor doing it right carries the cost of verification while competing with someone who never enters the system.



Thank you

David Choo

Director of Compliance, CHEERS



Public Comment Period

10 Minutes



Break

10 Minutes



Panel Discussion

Bob Wiseman – HVAC Contractor, 3-term IHACI President

Stephanie Gorton – Energuy, President

Greg Mahoney – Sacramento County, Chief Building Official

Karen Kristiansson – BayREN, Assistant Director



Public Comment Period

20 Minutes

Closing



1. Panel Questions Survey

- <https://tinyurl.com/yuvperd9>

2. Docket 24-BSTD-05

- Comments:
 - <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/EComment.aspx?docketnumber=24-BSTD-05>
- Docket Log:
 - <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-BSTD-05>

