

## DOCKETED

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# Cooling Tower Efficiency

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Pre-Rulemaking Workshop  
Imbrecht Hearing Room  
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# Acknowledgements

California Statewide Codes and Standards Team

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# Background

Cooling Tower Efficiency was first regulated under the 2001 Building Energy Efficiency Standards

- 38.2 gpm/hp propeller or axial fan cooling tower
- 5% of towers could not meet

The cover of the 2001 Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings. It features a collage of images including a house, a person working on a computer, and a person in a hard hat. The text on the cover includes: "2001 ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS", "COMMISSION ADOPTED STANDARDS", "for RESIDENTIAL and NONRESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS", "(adopted pursuant to Assembly Bill 970, Statutes of 2000)", "EXCEPTION: Building energy efficiency standards compliance documentation submitted prior to June 1, 2001 using the Multiple Orientation Alternative of Section 151(c), shall be used to determine compliance through December 31, 2001.", "Effective Date June 1, 2001", "August 2001 P400-01-024", and "Gray Davis, Governor". The California Energy Commission logo is also present.



# Background

Attempts to increase cooling tower efficiency

## 2013 Rulemaking

- CASE Team found that 100 gpm/hp was cost effective

## Industry Reaction

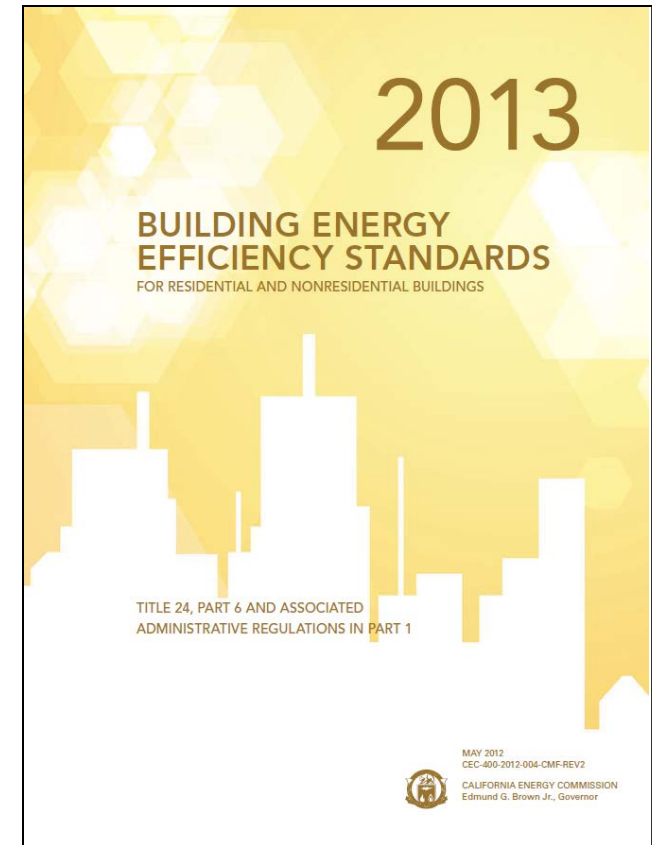
- Nearly 90% of the cooling towers available could not meet the efficiency
- Push industry to air cooled chiller plants



# Background

## Cooling Tower Efficiency updated under the 2013 Building Energy Efficiency Standards

- From 38.2 gpm/hp to 42.1 gpm/hp
- More efficient than 90.1
  - 40.1 gpm/hp





# Proposed Code Change

CASE Team is proposing an increase to open circuit cooling tower efficiency

- 42.1 gpm/hp to 80 gpm/hp
- Prescriptive
- Applicable to new or replacement
- For systems 900 gpm and larger



## Potential Issues

Previous attempts to increase efficiency resulted in concern about pushing the industry to air cooled systems

- Unlike 90.1, the Energy Efficiency Standards require chiller plants over 300 tons to be water cooled

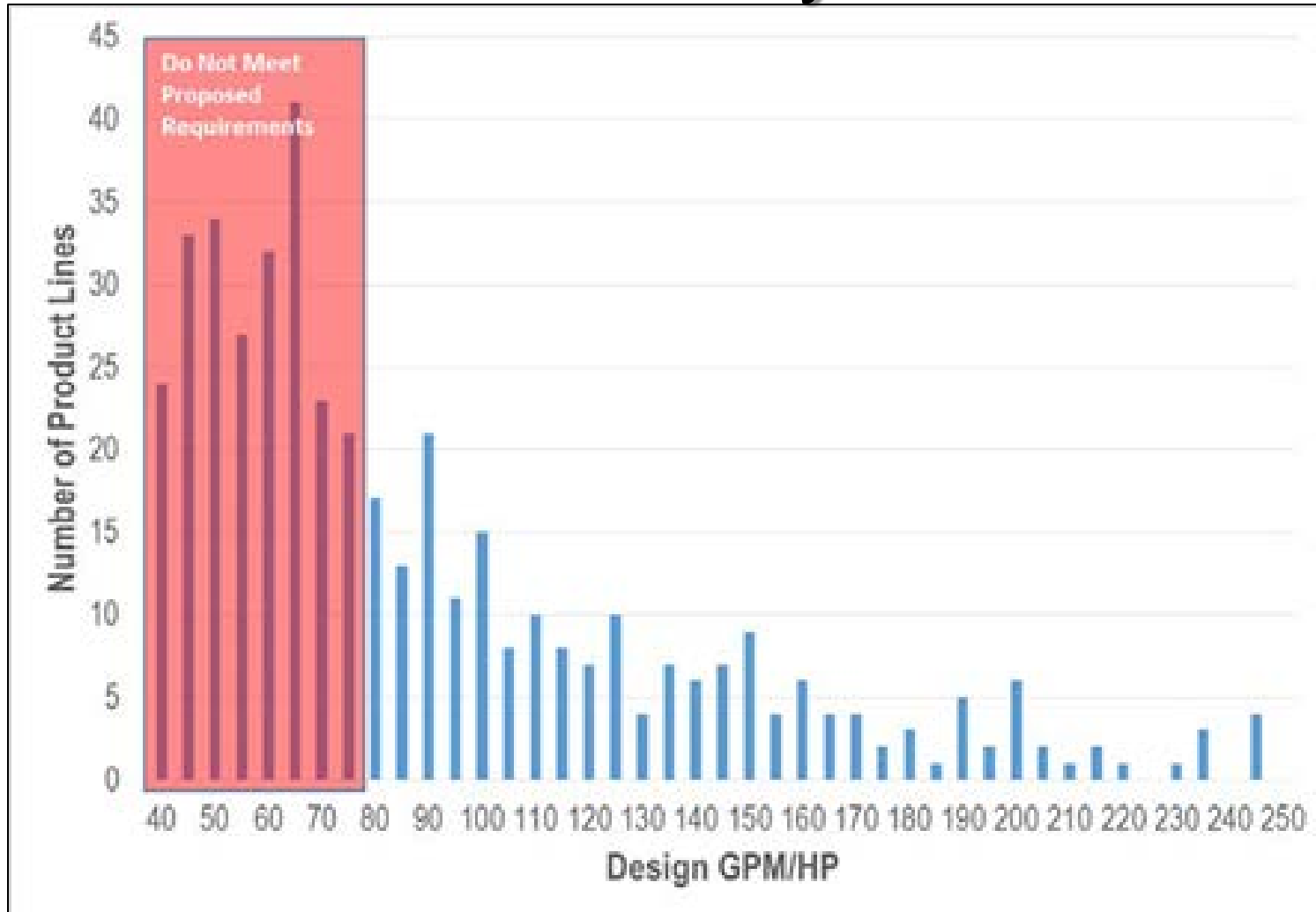
From previous Stakeholder Meetings

- Product availability
- Structural design
- Available space





# Product Availability





# Potential Issues

## Concern about added structural costs for building mounted towers

- CASE Team found that an 80 gpm/hp tower results in 30% – 40% more weight
- Interview with structural engineering firm
- Conclusion that the added weight will not result in a significant impact
- Double the weight could increase cost ~\$2,000 (cost of steel)



# Potential Issues

Concern about roof/space to accommodate a larger tower

- Proposed code change is prescriptive
- Towers can be taller
- Not all towers are roof mounted
- Exception for tower replacements for building mounted cooling towers



# Energy Analysis

- Two Prototype Buildings were used
- CBECC-Com with 2019 TDV

Prototype ID	Occupancy Type (Residential, Retail, Office, etc.)	Area (Square Feet)	Number of Stories	Statewide Area (Million Square Feet)
Prototype 1	Office	500,000	13	20.52
Prototype 2	School	210,885	2	6.35



# Energy Analysis – First Year Energy Savings per ft<sup>2</sup>

Large Office			
Climate Zone	Electricity Savings (kWh/yr)	Peak Electricity Demand Reductions (kW)	TDV Energy Savings (TDV kBtu/yr)
1	0.001	3.03E-05	0.03
2	0.032	4.06E-05	1.63
3	0.012	3.69E-05	0.59
4	0.036	4.35E-05	1.78
5	0.012	3.32E-05	0.45
6	0.053	4.40E-05	2.10
7	0.041	4.37E-05	1.80
8	0.054	4.26E-05	2.29
9	0.063	4.58E-05	2.78
10	0.061	5.40E-05	2.78
11	0.058	4.36E-05	2.55
12	0.048	4.27E-05	2.24
13	0.062	4.28E-05	2.63
14	0.046	3.95E-05	2.08
15	0.120	5.71E-05	4.53
16	0.010	3.00E-05	0.33



# Energy Analysis – First Year Energy Savings per ft<sup>2</sup>

Large School			
Climate Zone	Electricity Savings (kWh/yr)	Peak Electricity Demand Reductions (kW)	TDV Energy Savings (TDV kBtu/yr)
1	0.000	1.33E-05	0.01
2	0.014	2.55E-05	0.79
3	0.004	2.00E-05	0.24
4	0.016	2.70E-05	0.81
5	0.004	2.01E-05	0.16
6	0.023	2.43E-05	0.96
7	0.017	2.33E-05	0.79
8	0.024	2.45E-05	1.11
9	0.031	2.85E-05	1.52
10	0.028	2.90E-05	1.37
11	0.029	2.76E-05	1.30
12	0.023	2.60E-05	1.14
13	0.031	2.66E-05	1.34
14	0.023	2.49E-05	1.08
15	0.068	3.94E-05	2.70
16	0.004	1.94E-05	0.13



# Energy Analysis – 15 Year Energy Cost Savings per ft<sup>2</sup>

Large Office			
Climate Zone	15-Year TDV Electricity Cost Savings (2020 PV \$)	15-Year TDV Natural Gas Cost Savings (2020PV \$)	Total 15-Year TDV Energy Cost Savings (2020PV \$)
1	\$0.00	-	\$0.00
2	\$0.15	-	\$0.15
3	\$0.05	-	\$0.05
4	\$0.16	-	\$0.16
5	\$0.04	-	\$0.04
6	\$0.19	-	\$0.19
7	\$0.16	-	\$0.16
8	\$0.20	-	\$0.20
9	\$0.25	-	\$0.25
10	\$0.25	-	\$0.25
11	\$0.23	-	\$0.23
12	\$0.20	-	\$0.20
13	\$0.23	-	\$0.23
14	\$0.19	-	\$0.19
15	\$0.40	-	\$0.40
16	\$0.03	-	\$0.03



# Energy Analysis – 15 Year Energy Cost Savings per ft<sup>2</sup>

Large School			
Climate Zone	15-Year TDV Electricity Cost Savings (2020 PV \$)	15-Year TDV Natural Gas Cost Savings (2020PV \$)	Total 15-Year TDV Energy Cost Savings (2020PV \$)
1	\$0.00	-	\$0.00
2	\$0.07	-	\$0.07
3	\$0.02	-	\$0.02
4	\$0.07	-	\$0.07
5	\$0.01	-	\$0.01
6	\$0.09	-	\$0.09
7	\$0.07	-	\$0.07
8	\$0.10	-	\$0.10
9	\$0.14	-	\$0.14
10	\$0.12	-	\$0.12
11	\$0.12	-	\$0.12
12	\$0.10	-	\$0.10
13	\$0.12	-	\$0.12
14	\$0.10	-	\$0.10
15	\$0.24	-	\$0.24
16	\$0.01	-	\$0.01





# Incremental Cost

Large Office Prototype				Large Schools Prototype			
Climate Zone	Flow Rate <sup>1</sup> (gpm)	Percent Cost Increase of Higher-efficiency Towers <sup>2</sup>	Average Actual Efficiency (gpm/hp)	Climate Zone	Flow Rate <sup>1</sup> (gpm)	Percent Cost Increase of Higher-efficiency Towers <sup>2</sup>	Average Actual Efficiency (gpm/hp)
1	1,125	17%	83.2	1	1,076	21%	92.6
2	1,506	21%	88.4	2	943	21%	107.7
3	1,369	18%	95.0	3	740	11%	94.6
4	1,610	16%	81.9	4	1,002	19%	105.7
5	1,231	14%	86.0	5	743	11%	94.6
6	1,627	15%	82.4	6	900	12%	93.4
7	1,619	16%	81.9	7	862	14%	90.9
8	1,579	18%	81.9	8	907	12%	93.4
9	1,696	17%	86.5	9	1,057	22%	100.2
10	2,002	13%	89.2	10	1,075	21%	92.6
11	1,614	16%	81.9	11	1,023	17%	105.7
12	1,581	18%	81.9	12	964	20%	113.2
13	1,585	16%	81.9	13	984	19%	113.2
14	1,464	20%	99.2	14	924	11%	93.4
15	2,115	8%	91.7	15	1,459	20%	99.2
16	1,487	21%	87.4	16	718	12%	100.0



# Lifecycle Cost Effectiveness Summary per ft<sup>2</sup>

Large Office			
Climate Zone	Benefits TDV Energy Cost Savings + Other PV Savings <sup>1</sup> (2020 PV \$)	Costs Total Incremental Present Valued (PV) Costs <sup>2</sup> (2020 PV \$)	Benefit-to- Cost Ratio
1	\$0.00	\$0.03	0.08
2	\$0.15	\$0.05	2.83
3	\$0.05	\$0.04	1.35
4	\$0.16	\$0.04	3.93
5	\$0.04	\$0.03	1.48
6	\$0.19	\$0.04	4.78
7	\$0.16	\$0.04	3.94
8	\$0.20	\$0.05	4.48
9	\$0.25	\$0.05	5.37
10	\$0.25	\$0.04	6.11
11	\$0.23	\$0.04	5.61
12	\$0.20	\$0.05	4.38
13	\$0.23	\$0.04	5.88
14	\$0.19	\$0.05	3.89
15	\$0.40	\$0.03	14.90
16	\$0.03	\$0.05	0.58



# Lifecycle Cost Effectiveness Summary per ft<sup>2</sup>

Large School			
Climate Zone	Benefits TDV Energy Cost Savings + Other PV Savings <sup>1</sup> (2020 PV \$)	Costs Total Incremental Present Valued (PV) Costs <sup>2</sup> (2020 PV \$)	Benefit-to- Cost Ratio
1	\$0.00	\$0.02	0.03
2	\$0.07	\$0.03	2.18
3	\$0.02	\$0.01	1.57
4	\$0.07	\$0.03	2.41
5	\$0.01	\$0.01	1.08
6	\$0.09	\$0.02	4.79
7	\$0.07	\$0.02	3.56
8	\$0.10	\$0.02	5.54
9	\$0.14	\$0.04	3.69
10	\$0.12	\$0.04	3.38
11	\$0.12	\$0.03	4.08
12	\$0.10	\$0.03	3.24
13	\$0.12	\$0.03	4.07
14	\$0.10	\$0.02	5.9
15	\$0.24	\$0.05	5.06
16	\$0.01	\$0.01	0.83



# Proposed Code Language

## SECTION 140.4 – PRESCRIPTIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR SPACE CONDITIONING SYSTEMS

### (h) Heat Rejection Systems.

**6. Cooling tower efficiency.** New or replacement open-circuit cooling towers serving condenser water loops which total 900 gpm or greater, shall have a rated efficiency of no less than 80 gpm/hp when rated in accordance to the test procedures and rating conditions as listed in Table 110.2-G.

**EXCEPTION 1 to Section 140.4(h)6:** Replacement of existing cooling towers that are inside an existing building or on an existing roof.

**EXCEPTION 2 to Section 140.4(h)6:** Buildings in Climate Zone 1 and 16



# Questions?

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Comments Due by July 7th

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