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2019_04_14 Encouraging more passive building construction approaches, not less

Hi all, I listened to part of two meetings on building decarbonization - the one in the LA area on April 8th and the one in SF on April 9th. I heard a public comment on passive building construction methods. I am writing into this docket to encourage that as well. Never does it seem more important to encourage us to be wary of using more energy. At this time, we actually seem to have more ways to use energy in our buildings. We have WiFi systems, plug in devices, SMART thermostats that keep things like HVAC on all the time - including during temperate time periods. We also have numerous energy efficient ways to cut down on use. Our energy efficiency methods will not save us, if they are not designed, installed and maintained correctly. Devices can make our lives uncomfortable too.

Examples! New LED lighting we install is much more powerful than what fluorescent and incandescent provided - and switching devices can be sophisticated enough to counter this. I was at the Sacramento Natural Food Cooperative this afternoon. I noticed the customer's women's restroom upstairs had its lights off. I have been in this restroom a lot over the past couple, or so, years. There is sky lighting in this room that I had never noticed until this day. The room was lit well enough, felt cool, and comfortable, not harsh with its lighting. This seems so important. At Sacramento City College, in 2018, someone had temporarily installed a powerful new light bulb, likely of LED style, on a main walking thoroughfare. It was overly bright and blinding. It seems a very real issue to make sure this does not happen. Security is one thing to want, but light pollution could cause other unhealthy human behavior or symptoms.

I was reluctant to write into the docket. Too many comments, too much to read, too much from me. I hope the CEC can endorse social media communications more. It might free up some eyeball strain from happening. However, I did feel that passive construction methods are important to endorse. It does take a while to acclimate to temperate changes, but people can. In the early nineties,

Example ! I worked for a company that had me working in a partially submerged Victorian basement. It was a comfortable environment. There was a window ac. There were windows, which the breezes flowed in and then throughout the large room, out other windows. I believe this worked for several of us. I don't remember people complaining; some got sleepier though. One dude would fall asleep at his desk on a warm summer afternoon.

Example ! A person, who I spoke to, managing the UCD Botanical Conservatory, believed that submerging greenhouses would be a way to counter the harsh summer climate that the Sacramento region typically has.

Also, please consider more ways allowing trees to continue to be part of our building landscapes, and to continue to shade buildings. I realize they take up lots of water, can be quite hazardous

and block solar panels. I do not think they are as evil as many grow to believe they can be. I realize CA has a more desert climate than most landscapers will admit to, but I hope we are careful to not remove the biology that sustains us. In some cases, like where my townhouse is situated, if the large trees are removed, I am certain the townhouse will heat up unlike most. It is close to street front asphalt. Maybe if they build a super tall sound walls around us, without trees, they could counter sun's radiating effects, but if not - the new heat pumps are going to be working like no other proceeding heat pumps have before. The sun seems stronger than ever.

Thanks for presenting.