

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	19-BSTD-12
Project Title:	Town of Truckee Petition to Solar PV Requirement
TN #:	234386
Document Title:	CEC Response Letter to Truckee (4-6-20)
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Cheng Moua
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	8/20/2020 9:10:30 AM
Docketed Date:	8/20/2020



April 6, 2020

Mr. Dan West
Building Division Supervisor
Local Working Group
Town of Truckee
10183 Truckee Airport Road
Truckee, California 96161

Dear Mr. West:

Petition P-02-20-BSC, 2019 California Energy Code Solar PV Requirements

Thank you for your petition, forwarded to the California Energy Commission (CEC) from the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC), requesting exemption of solar photovoltaic (PV) requirements in the 2019 California Energy Code for high snow load areas. The PV requirements in the 2019 California Energy Code apply to newly constructed, low-rise residential buildings. The CEC finds that your request warrants collection of additional information, investigation and analysis, and public discussion. This would include engagement of California solar industry representatives and other stakeholders.

Initial CEC Staff Conclusions

- The 2019 California Energy Code requirements for PV systems and the PV system structural requirements in California Building Code 1510.7.2.1 and California Residential Code R324.4.1 should be simultaneously met in as many newly constructed, low-rise residential buildings as is feasible and attainable.
- PV systems should be designed to meet the snow load requirements in Chapter 7 of the American Society of Civil Engineers Standard 7-16 (ASCE 7-16).
- PV panels that are robustly designed and installed to address roof snow load conditions should be used to determine the feasibility of complying with the CEC PV requirements in high snow load areas of the state.
- PV panels should be expected to be installed with three rail support and mounting systems in high snow load areas.

Mr. Dan West
April 3, 2020
Page 2

- In some circumstances, PV panels might appropriately be considered as slippery surfaces that more readily shed snow, if there are otherwise no obstructions on roofs.
- Roof pitches greater than 7 on 12 are often installed on newly constructed homes in high snow load areas of the state.
- Determination of whether or not ASCE 7-16 Chapter 7 requirements can be met should be based on an analysis of the circumstances for each building.

Please provide any comments that you have on the Initial CEC Staff Conclusions by April 17, 2020. Once your comments are received, the CEC will initiate a public review process.

Sincerely,



Drew Bohan
Executive Director

cc: Michael Nearman, CBSC Deputy Executive Director
Craig Griesbach, Nevada County Director of Building
Timothy Wegner, Placer County Deputy Director of Building Services
Tim Beals, Sierra County Director of Planning and Building Official
Tom Perry, Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County Building Official