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Comments on PV panel requirement for Truckee

The requirements of the CEC for addressing the issue of the PV requirement for Truckee due to high snow loads implies that sliding roofs be considered in designing roofs for PV installation. In many parts of Truckee sliding roofs will shed snow onto neighboring properties, especially onto propane tanks which are still in use in parts of Truckee. In addition sliding roofs are potentially dangerous, especially to children, who may be buried by sliding snow. Our house, for example, has a deed restriction imposed by the Town prohibiting a sliding roof. Our house and utility lines have been damaged by snow sliding from the neighbor's roof. Sliding roofs should not be considered an acceptable design feature to allow installation of solar panels.

Roofs in Truckee are covered by snow for up to 6 months of the year, which are the 6 months of highest energy use. Air conditioning in the summer months is rare in residential buildings here. OTOH snow provides additional insulation—another reason sliding roofs should be discouraged.

The snow load at our house is 440 psf.