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BayREN Comments on Proposed Multifamily Restructuring

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



Local Governments Empowering Our Communities

December 18, 2020

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Submitted via Docket No. 19-BSTD-03, 2022 Energy Code Pre-Rulemaking

Re: Multifamily Restructuring Proposals for 2022

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

The San Francisco Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) Codes and Standards Program is pleased to submit these comments and recommendations as part of the pre-rulemaking process for the 2022 Building Energy Efficiency Standards. BayREN is a collaboration of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the nine Bay Area counties, and BayREN's Codes and Standards Program works to save energy by improving compliance with the Title 24 Parts 6 and 11, and by supporting and encouraging local energy policies such as reach codes. We work closely with local government staff from building departments and sustainability offices in particular. We are providing these comments in follow up to the BayREN comments submitted on October 27 and to the information presented at the December 2 CEC Workshop.

First, BayREN Codes and Standards would like to thank CEC staff for restructuring the multifamily energy standards. These changes make the energy standards easier to understand – and by extension – easier to enforce, thereby improving compliance and energy savings.

Second, we continue to recommend that the CEC package measures for cost-effectiveness calculations rather than requiring each individual improvement to pay for itself. Packaging measures is an important tool for simplifying the Energy Code and making it more user-friendly, resulting in greater ease of enforcement.

Part of the complexity of the Energy Code is the breadth of the coverage both in building types and climate zones. Requiring each individual energy-saving measure to be cost effective in each of these building types and climate zones means that some measures apply to certain buildings in certain climate zones, while other measures apply to others. As a result, the energy standards contain a patchwork of requirements, which is complex to understand and enforce.

Looking at cost effectiveness for packages of measures, however, would allow for energy standards that are more consistent and less complicated, while still being overall cost effective. This approach is consistent with the Warren-Alquist Act, which requires the standards to be cost effective "when taken in their entirety."¹ We do not intend to minimize the importance of cost

¹ Section 25402(b)(3)

effectiveness, but rather assert that to require each individual measure to be separately cost effective has unintended consequences that can be avoided through a more comprehensive approach.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this input, and thank the CEC for its careful consideration of these comments. We look forward to continuing to be involved in these important issues.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen Kristiansson
BayREN Codes & Standards Program Manager

Cc: Judy Roberson, CEC-BayREN Liaison