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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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CEC-57 (Revised 1/19)

**Notice of Availability and Public Comment Period
Staff Review and Analysis for City of Needles' Application
for a Solar Photovoltaic Determination**

Docket No. 19-BSTD-07

Purpose

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has posted a staff paper regarding the City of Needles' (Needles) application, pursuant to Section 10-109(k) of the 2019 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Energy Code). The application requests that the CEC determine whether new homes built in Needles shall not be required to comply with the Energy Code's photovoltaic (PV) system requirements based on its view that its residential energy rates are too low for the 2019 PV system requirements to be cost-effective. Staff have performed a cost-effectiveness analysis based on the public agency rules adopted by Needles and found that the criteria of Section 10-109(k) appear to be met, and therefore recommends approval of the application.

The CEC seeks public comments on the analysis included in the staff paper, *Staff Review and Analysis for City of Needles' Application for a Solar Photovoltaic Determination*.

The staff paper and related documents are available on the CEC's docket [web page](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=19-BSTD-07) at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=19-BSTD-07>.

Background

Effective January 1, 2020, the 2019 Energy Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, Chapter 10, and Part 6) required the installation of solar PV systems on newly constructed, low-rise residential buildings in section 150.1(c)14. As part of the adoption, Section 10-109(k) Photovoltaic System Requirement Determination, states:

“The Commission may, upon written application or its own motion, determine that the photovoltaic requirements in §150.1(c)14 shall not apply, if the Commission finds that the implementation of public agency rules regarding utility system costs and revenue requirements, compensation for customer-owned generation, or interconnection fees, causes the Commission's cost effectiveness conclusions, made pursuant to Public Resources Code 25402(b)(3), to not hold for particular buildings.”

Needles submitted an application for the CEC to determine that the PV system requirement should not apply to new homes in Needles. Staff reviewed the application and performed a cost-effectiveness analysis based on the public agency rules adopted by Needles. The staff paper documents staffs' analysis and recommendation to the CEC.

Public Comments

Written comments should be submitted by: **5:00 p.m. on January 25, 2021.**

The CEC encourages use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the [e-commenting page](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/EComment.aspx?docketnumber=19-BSTD-07) at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/EComment.aspx?docketnumber=19-BSTD-07>, which links to the comment page for this docket. Enter your contact information and a comment title describing the subject of your comment(s). Comments may be included in the "Comment Text" box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in Microsoft® Word or Adobe® Acrobat®. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

Written comments may be submitted by email. Include docket number 19-BSTD-07 and indicating "Photovoltaic System Requirement Determination for City of Needles" in the subject line. Email to docket@energy.ca.gov.

A paper copy may be sent to: Docket Unit
California Energy Commission
Docket No. 19-BSTD-07
1516 9th Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please note that your e-comments, emails, written letters, any attachments, and associated contact information (for example, address, phone number, and email address) become part of the viewable public record. Additionally, this information may become available via internet search engines.

Public Advisor and Other CEC Contacts

The CEC's Public Advisor's Office provides the public with assistance in participating in CEC proceedings. For information on participation or to request interpreting services or reasonable accommodations, please contact Public Advisor Noemí O. Gallardo at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov, by phone at (916) 654-4489, or toll free at (800) 822-6228. Requests for interpreting services and reasonable accommodations should be made at least five days in advance. The CEC will work diligently to accommodate all requests.

Direct media inquiries to mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4989.

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Direct general inquiries to Cheng Moua at cheng.moua@energy.ca.gov or (916) 651-3004.

The [proposal and supporting materials](#) can be downloaded at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=19-BSTD-07>.