



California Energy Commission

Public Workshop for Residential Solar Permit Reporting – Senate Bill 379

December 8, 2022



Agenda

- Welcome & Housekeeping
- SB 379 Proposed Guidelines
 - Background
 - Requirements
 - Exemptions
 - Compliance Schedule
 - Annual Reporting
- Public Comment
- Next Steps
- CalAPP Program Overview





Virtual Housekeeping

- Webinar conducted remotely via Zoom and is being recorded
- 3 ways to comment
 - Use the “raise hand” feature in Zoom
 - Over the telephone: dial *9 to “raise hand” and *6 to mute/unmute your phone line
 - Type your question in the Q&A window
 - Limit comment to 3 minutes per commenter or organization per topic
- Written comments due **January 9, 2023**
 - Submit through the [e-commenting system \(21-SOLAR-01\)](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=21-SOLAR-01):
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=21-SOLAR-01>
 - Subscribe to the [CalAPP Email List](https://www.energy.ca.gov/calapp): <https://www.energy.ca.gov/calapp>



Senate Bill 379 Background

Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senate Bill 379 (Wiener, Chapter 356, Statutes of 2022)
Who?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California cities & counties (with exemptions)
What?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement an online, automated permitting platform such as SolarAPP+
When?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• By September 30, 2023 or September 30, 2024 (depending on population size)
Why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase access and adoption of solar PV and solar + storage projects



SB 379 Requirements

Cities, counties, or cities and counties shall implement an online, automated permitting platform such as SolarAPP+, that meets the following requirements:

- Automatically verifies code compliance instantaneously
- Allows the jurisdiction to issue permits in real time to a licensed contractor for Solar PV and solar + storage
- Handles permits for system size up to 38.4 kilowatts AC
- Allows the jurisdiction to issue permits that SolarAPP+ is capable of processing.



Exemptions

Who?	Threshold
City	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Population fewer than 5,000
County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Population fewer than 150,000 (includes population of cities within)
Example 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City of Truckee (Population ~16,000) <u>NOT EXEMPT</u>
Example 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nevada County (Population ~97,000) <u>EXEMPT</u>



Compliance Schedule

Deadline	Description
September 30, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A city or county with a population of <u>greater</u> than 50,000 and not otherwise exempt
September 30, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A city with a population of 50,000 or <u>fewer</u> and not otherwise exempt



Annual Reporting

SB 379: “The Energy Commission shall set guidelines...to report on the number of permits issued and the relevant characteristics of those systems.”

- Data submitted to CEC
 - Authorized representatives of non-exempt reporting jurisdictions shall provide information to the Energy Commission that satisfies the requirements of SB 379
- Non-exempt jurisdictions will submit annual reports by June 30th every year following compliance until June 30, 2034
- Data shall cover the calendar year from January 1 – December 31 of the previous year.



Data Collection

- **Proposed Data Collection Fields:**

1. Name of Reporting Party
2. Data Submittal Timeframe
3. Estimated population
4. Total number of permits issued for **solar only**
 - a) Number of permits through automated, online system
5. Total number of permits issued for **solar paired with storage**
 - a) Number of permits through automated, online system
6. Electric utility service provider



Failure to Comply & Report

- Jurisdictions may be asked self-certify its compliance with SB 379 when applying for funds from Energy Commission.
 - Cities and counties that fail to comply may be ineligible for other funding opportunities offered by the CEC (not including CalAPP).
- Failing to comply with SB 379's requirements could lead to legal risk and consequences to cities, counties, and cities and counties. Consult with an attorney for advice about any possible risks or consequences, as the CEC does not give legal advice to others.



Public Comment

1. Public Comment

- Use the “raise hand” feature in Zoom
- Over the telephone: dial *9 to “raise hand” and *6 to mute/unmute your phone line
- Type your question in the Q&A window
- Limit comment to 3 minutes per commenter or organization per topic

2. Written comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on January 9, 2023

- Submit through the e-commenting system (21-SOLAR-01) at:
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=21-SOLAR-01>





Next Steps

- January 2023: Public Comment until 5:00 PM on January 9th, 2023
- E-comment:
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=21-SOLAR-01>
- Jan-Feb 2023: CEC reviews feedback and further develops Guidelines
 - Spring 2023: Anticipated adoption of Guidelines
- May 1, 2023: CalAPP Application deadline to reserve funding
- General Questions? Contact calapp@energy.ca.gov



CalAPP





CalAPP Program Overview

Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senate Bill 129 (Skinner, Budget Act of 2021)• "...support a grant program for cities, counties, or cities and counties to establish online solar permitting."
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$20 Million from General Fund• Up to \$1 Million for Administrative Costs
Application Deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May 1, 2023
Application Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://www.energy.ca.gov/calapp



CalAPP Funding Structure

Proposed Funding Allocation

Applicant Population	Maximum Award Amount
Less Than 50,000	\$40,000
50,000 to 99,999	\$60,000
100,000 to 200,000	\$80,000
Greater Than 200,000	\$100,000



CalAPP Allowable Costs

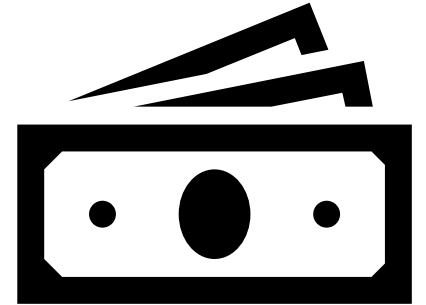
Eligible Costs

- Staff resource costs associated directly with the adoption and launch of an automated, online permitting platform, including:
 - In-house staff time, including IT resources
 - Third-party consultation services
- In-house staff time spent on training and development specific to the online, automated permitting platform
- Costs to train installers or other parties involved in the permitting process
- Note: Only activities conducted during the grant term may be reimbursed



Funding Available

- Approx \$16,000,000 is still available
- Funds are awarded on a first come first serve basis. Hustle!
- Application is simple and can be completed/submitted same day
- Apply to reserve funds before upcoming deadline of May 1st , 2023.





More Information

- For more information, please visit our SB 379 webpage at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/residential-solar-permit-reporting-sb-379>
- Please join our CalAPP Program email list server, available from our webpage or at https://ww2.energy.ca.gov/listservers/index_cms.html
- CEC Contact: calapp@energy.ca.gov



Thank You!

