

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	23-HERS-02
Project Title:	Whole-House Home Energy Rating and Labeling Pre-Rulemaking
TN #:	252987
Document Title:	CEC Regulatory Advisory - California Home Energy Rating Services
Description:	CEC-issued advisory for California Home Energy Rating Services.
Filer:	Will Vicent
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	11/6/2023 5:16:24 PM
Docketed Date:	11/6/2023



Regulatory Advisory November 6, 2023

California Home Energy Rating Services

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has long been a leader in advancing energy efficiency for new and existing residential buildings. Efforts to address energy efficiency in residential buildings are critical to achieving California's climate action and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Recently, the CEC addressed the permissibility of national home energy rating services in California. National home energy rating services, including the use of "HERS" as a generic term for home energy rating systems, are distinct from state-specific California Whole-House Home Energy Rating and Labeling services. National incentive programs; rating programs (such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design); mortgage-backed green bond incentives; and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) benchmarking using national home energy rating services are out of the scope of the California Code of Regulations and remain permissible. This clarification was also provided in the July-September 2023 issue of the [CEC Blueprint Newsletter](#).

In August 2023, a cease-and-desist letter was issued by the CEC underscoring that it is unlawful to perform home energy rating services as described in the California Code of Regulations without CEC certification. This letter intended to address marketing materials that may have caused confusion between the California Whole-House Home Energy Rating and Labeling Program and other nationally recognized home energy rating services. This issue has since been resolved.

During the 2019 Energy Code cycle, the CEC was monitoring a pilot project conducted by RESNET with support from CalCERTS, Inc. to determine whether a RESNET HERS Index could be generated using CBECC-Res compliance software. This pilot has since ended. Information and data gathered from the pilot was provided to the CEC by CalCERTS, Inc. and RESNET. This information and data may be considered as part of future amendments to California's Whole-House Home Energy Rating and Labeling Program.

The CEC is currently pursuing two separate but related rulemakings. One for the California Field Verification & Diagnostic Testing Program and another for California's Whole-House Home Energy Rating and Labeling Program. The CEC welcomes all stakeholders to participate in these two separate but related

rulemakings. The California Field Verification & Diagnostic Testing Program rulemaking is located under Docket [22-BSTD-03](#). The California Whole-House Home Energy Rating and Labeling Program preliminary rulemaking is located under Docket [23-HERS-02](#).

Further Information

For additional information or questions, please contact the California Energy Code Title 24 Hotline at 1-800-772-3300, toll-free in California, or via email at Title24@energy.ca.gov. Information on additional aspects of California's HERS Program can be found at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/home-energy-rating-system-hers-program>.