

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	22-BSTD-01
Project Title:	2025 Energy Code Pre-Rulemaking
TN #:	253251
Document Title:	California Energy Alliance Comments - CEA Comments on 2025 Energy Code Pre-Rulemaking Express Terms
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	California Energy Alliance
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	11/17/2023 5:03:47 PM
Docketed Date:	11/20/2023

*Comment Received From: California Energy Alliance
Submitted On: 11/17/2023
Docket Number: 22-BSTD-01*

**CEA Comments on 2025 Energy Code Pre-Rulemaking Express
Terms**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



November 17, 2023

California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Docket Number: 21-BSTD-01 - Comments on the Draft 2025 Energy Code Express Terms

Dear CEC Commissioners and Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the California Energy Commission (CEC) Draft 2025 Energy Code Express Terms. The California Energy Alliance (CEA) is a leading advocacy organization for California's energy stakeholders. Founded in 2016, CEA is a nonprofit, non-partisan alliance of business, government, and NGO leaders advocating for energy productivity to achieve economic growth, environmental justice, energy security, affordability, and resilience. Our work focuses on advocacy, outreach, research, and evolution of codes, standards, and policy.

CEA had the opportunity to work collaboratively with its Members, the CEC, and the IOU Case Team on improving and expanding upon the 2022 Building Energy Efficiency Standards. The joint work covered measures related to multilevel lighting controls, controlled environment horticulture, ASHRAE Guideline 36, and residential HVAC performance. Additionally, CEA is pleased to see the CEC adopt much of the recommendations from the Lighting Language Cleanup Initiative (Docket No: 22-BSTD-01, TN# 250676) that led to eliminating and cleaning up confusing language in the lighting and lighting controls sections of the Energy Code.

We applaud the CEC for listening to stakeholders and making the necessary updates to the Building Energy Efficiency Standards to continue leading the state towards a 100 percent clean energy future. While the above recommendations were generally accepted, CEA would like to comment on and address areas of concern in the 2025 Draft Energy Code Express Terms:

- 1) CEA submitted an energy savings measure proposal to the CEC (Docket Number: 22-BSTD-01, TN# 252270) regarding the expansion of Subsection 130.1(b) requirements for nonresidential Multilevel Lighting Controls.
 - a) Using the CEC's measure proposal template, CEA showed that lowering the connected lighting load threshold along with removing of certain exceptions

- meets the cost-effectiveness criteria set forth by the CEC. The changes to Subsection 130.1(b) were workshopped with CEA stakeholders and during numerous meetings with stakeholders taking part in the Lighting Language Cleanup Initiative referenced above. While many of the recommendations from the Cleanup Initiative were included in the 2025 Draft Express Terms, the lowering of the connected lighting load threshold from 0.5 W/sf to 0.4 W/sf was omitted.
- b) CEA respectfully asks the CEC to reconsider this measure proposal and include in the upcoming 2025 Draft Energy Code Rulemaking. This energy savings measure proposal supports the CEC's goal of reducing wasteful, uneconomical, and unnecessary uses of energy for the state.
- 2) Reinstating Plan Review Requirements for Enhanced Title 24, Part 6 Compliance in Section 130.4(a)1 per Docket 22-BSTD-01, TN# 252276. This proposal is essential for ensuring Energy Code compliance while introducing a more collaborative approach with the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). CEA respectfully asks the CEC to reconsider the TN#252276 proposal with the following update:
- a) Change "Certifies" to "Review"
- i) "~~Certifies~~ Review plans, specifications, installation certificates, and operating and maintenance information meet the requirements of Part 6."
- b) Reinstating these requirements allows the Acceptance Test Technician to be involved earlier in the design phase to help the responsible parties, such as the lead architect or engineer, with compliance by alerting them of any gaps in energy code requirements prior to construction.
- c) CEA asks that the language be inserted now with a proposal to have conversations with acceptance testing stakeholders in December/January to work out an explicit clarification through CEC letter -- or the like -- explaining why lighting but not mechanical is included, and explaining that the reinstated language is meant to be for evaluation purposes during the 2025 Energy Code to see if it intersects well with broader market (including liability and insurance) concerns and if it helps improve design-stage outcomes.
- 3) A core group of CEA members are part of California's Mechanical Acceptance Testing community, working to help the CEC ensure that the Energy Code works as intended. CEA would like to urge the CEC to consider the comments and concerns regarding "Modifications to Nonresidential Field Verification and Diagnostic Testing Requirements" and "Modifications to Section 10-103.2 –



Nonresidential Mechanical Acceptance Test Training and Certification as outlined in letters TN# 253241 and TN# 253242 submitted to Docket 22-BSTD-01.

CEA thanks the CEC for the opportunity to submit these comments, and we look forward to working with you further on these topics ahead of the 2025 Energy Code Rulemaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Dean".

Josh Dean
Executive Director
California Energy Alliance