

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	25-BSTD-03
Project Title:	2028 Energy Code Pre-Rulemaking.
TN #:	273090
Document Title:	Notice of Availability – Pre-Rulemaking Draft Regulatory Text
Description:	This file provides notice to the public of the availability of the pre-rulemaking draft regulatory text for the 2028 update to the California Energy Code (Title 24, Part 6).
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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CEC-70 (Revised 2/26)



IN THE MATTER OF:

2028 Energy Code Pre-Rulemaking

DOCKET NO. 25-BSTD-03

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

RE: Draft Regulatory Text for 2028 Energy
Code Update

Notice of Availability and Public Comment Period Pre-Rulemaking Draft Regulatory Text for the 2028 Energy Code

Purpose

The California Building Standards Code (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations) consists of twelve parts and is updated on a regular three-year cycle. The California Energy Commission (CEC) is the state's adopting agency for the California Energy Code, which is Title 24, Part 6. CEC staff is evaluating proposed amendments for possible inclusion in the 2028 Energy Code and has prepared draft regulatory text amendments to the currently effective 2025 Energy Code. On November 14, 2025, the 2025 Energy Code was provided in a restructured format on CEC's website with an opportunity for public comment. This Restructured 2025 Energy Code uses the 2025 Energy Code regulatory language, which went into effect on January 2, 2026, but is reorganized with renumbered sections to better align with entirety of the California Building Standards Code. Minor editorial edits were made to support the new structure however these changes did not alter the regulatory requirements.

CEC staff is publishing pre-rulemaking draft regulatory text amendments for possible inclusion in the 2028 Energy Code to inform the general public and to solicit feedback on the draft amendments within the context of the Restructured 2025 Energy Code. The CEC invites public comments on the 2028 Energy Code Pre-Rulemaking docket 25-BSTD-03, available at:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=25-BSTD-03>.

Background

The Warren-Alquist Act (California Public Resources Code Sections 25000 et seq.) establishes the CEC as California's primary energy policy and planning agency. The CEC is directed to adopt rules and regulations, as necessary, to reduce the wasteful, uneconomic, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy and water in newly constructed buildings and additions and alterations to existing buildings. One of the ways the CEC satisfies this requirement is through the California Energy Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 6, with associated administrative regulations in Part 1, Chapter 10).

The 2028 Energy Code update will improve upon the 2025 Energy Code by revising and updating energy efficiency standards for newly constructed buildings, as well as additions and alterations to existing buildings. The proposed updates to the 2028 Energy Code will:

- Restructure the Energy Code to better align with other parts of the California Building Standards Code;
- Update nonresidential photovoltaic and battery energy storage system standards;
- Expand heat pump standards for select nonresidential building types from capacities no greater than 65,000 Btu/h to no greater than 240,000 Btu/h, when altering air-conditioning equipment;
- Include requirements for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system upgrades and commissioning for existing nonresidential buildings;
- Include measures proposed by the public including:
 - Measures for data centers, covered process refrigeration, HVAC fault detection and diagnostics, fenestration, indoor lighting power density and controls, controlled environment horticulture, solar pool heating for existing buildings, and traction elevators (Codes and Standards Enhancement team);
 - Updates to the Acceptance Test Technician Certification Provider requirements and requirements for commissioning with an Acceptance Test Technician (Energy Code Compliance Forums).

Following the completion of this public comment period, staff will publish official proposed regulatory language for the 2028 Energy Code addressing the comments that are received to start a formal rulemaking proceeding and public comment period beginning in early 2027. Staff anticipates completing the rulemaking proceeding for the proposed 2028 Energy Code update during the first half of 2027, presenting it to the CEC for adoption, and subsequently submitting it to the California Building Standards Commission for approval, setting an effective date of January 1, 2029. Based on this schedule, the proposed 2028 Energy Code update will apply to building permit applications submitted on or after January 1, 2029.

Public Comment.

The CEC encourages the use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the e-commenting page for this docket [25-BSTD-03](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=25-BSTD-03) at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=25-BSTD-03>. Enter your contact information and a subject title that describes your comment. Comments may be included in the "Comment Text" box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document consistent with 20 Cal. Code Regs, section 1208.1, such as Microsoft® Word or Adobe® Acrobat®. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Unit by 5:00 p.m. on November 5, 2026. Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine. Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include docket number 25-BSTD-03 and 2028 Energy Code Pre-Rulemaking in the subject line and email to docket@energy.ca.gov.

A paper copy may be mailed to:
California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 25-BSTD-03
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Public Advisor. The CEC's Public Advisor assists the public with participation in CEC proceedings. To request assistance, interpreting services, or reasonable modifications and accommodations, call (916) 269-9595 or email publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov as soon as possible but at least five days in advance of the workshop. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on availability.

Media Inquiries. Email mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 654-4989.

Technical Subject Inquiries. Email EnergyCodeUpdateInquiries@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 232-9161.

General Inquiries: Email EnergyCodeUpdateInquiries@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 232-9161.

Availability of Documents: Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=25-BSTD-03>.

When new information is posted, an email will be sent to those subscribed to the Building Standards subscription list. To receive these notices or notices of other email subscription topics, visit [Subscriptions](https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions), at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions>.

Dated: October 12, 2026 at Sacramento, California.

Michael J. Sokol
Director, Efficiency Division

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