

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	16-NSHP-01
Project Title:	Continuation of the New Solar Homes Partnership Program
TN #:	235989
Document Title:	Resolution - New Solar Homes Partnership Extension of Applicable Expired Reservations Due to COVID-19 Pandemic
Description:	Resolution No: 20-1209-1e
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

RESOLUTION – NEW SOLAR HOMES PARTNERSHIP EXTENSION OF
APPLICABLE EXPIRED RESERVATIONS
DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, Public Resources Code sections 25744.5 and 25780 – 25784 authorize the California Energy Commission (CEC) to develop and administer a program to encourage the installation of solar energy systems on new residential construction, and authorize the CEC to adopt guidelines to govern the administration of this program; and

WHEREAS, the CEC developed the New Solar Homes Partnership (NSHP) in December 2006 to carry out the purposes of sections 25744.5 and 25780–25784, and adopted guidelines, as set forth in the *New Solar Homes Partnership Guidebook*, to govern the administration of the NSHP pursuant to this authority; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, devastating effects on all aspects of life in California, the United States, and worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the current *New Solar Homes Partnership Guidebook* was established before COVID-19, and since COVID-19, CEC staff has witnessed reservations not meeting existing *Guidebook* deadlines and received inquiries for reservation extensions; and

WHEREAS, to address the effects of COVID-19 on the NSHP, CEC staff recommends the following:

- 1) All NSHP reservations that expired or will expire from October 1, 2019, through December 31, 2020, have their reservation expiration dates extended to March 31, 2021 (referred to in this Resolution as “COVID Affected Projects”); requiring at least the NSHP-2 payment claim form to be received no later than March 31, 2021; any COVID Affected Projects with an NSHP-2 payment claim form received after March 31, 2021, will not be accepted or processed for payment, without notice to applicants;
- 2) All COVID Affected Projects must still adhere to all other requirements in the applicable *New Solar Homes Partnership Guidebook*;

3) The “Limited Extensions of Time” section in the current *New Solar Homes Partnership Guidebook*, Appendix A, Section O, is not available to COVID Affected Projects since they have already received the extension in 1) above;

4) The current *New Solar Homes Partnership Guidebook* states on page 56:

If the complete NSHP-2 is mailed to the Energy Commission on or before the reservation expiration, the applicant is provided an additional three months or 90 calendar days, whichever is longer, after the reservation expiration date to complete and submit the remaining required supporting documentation that make up the payment claim package to the Energy Commission.

This extension of three months or 90 calendar days is not available to COVID Affected Projects since they have already received the extension in 1) above;

5) The current *New Solar Homes Partnership Guidebook* states on page 61:

The Energy Commission will allow the applicant up to 15 business days to respond with corrections to all the unclear information to approve payment provided that under no circumstances will applicants be given additional time beyond the August 31, 2021 deadline.

This 15-business day extension to correct mistakes is still available to COVID Affected Projects that submit an NSHP-2 payment claim form on or before the March 31, 2021 deadline. Payment claim packages deemed incomplete after the 15-business day extension will not be accepted or processed for payment;

6) Lastly, COVID Affected Projects are not guaranteed to receive funding under the NSHP; the CEC only has a certain timeframe in which to spend available funds under the NSHP and certain staff resources to process payment claims; the additional time allowed to COVID Affected Projects could lead to incredibly high volumes of payment claims all at once, which might be more than CEC staff can process in time to spend the funds; applicants are strongly encouraged to submit all required material as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, by November 25, 2020, the CEC had publically posted both the agenda for this business meeting, which included notice this item would be considered, as well as this proposed resolution, which explains all of the proposed changes. In addition, because this item involves the NSHP, the business meeting agenda was sent to the GOSOLAR list server. These methods of notice afforded stakeholders and interested members of the public the opportunity to provide comments at the business meeting.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the CEC hereby adopts staff's recommendations for COVID Affected Projects, and authorizes the executive director, or his designee, to administer the NSHP as specified herein.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretariat to the CEC does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the CEC held on December 9, 2020.

AYE: Hochschild, Scott, Douglas, McAllister, Monahan

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Cody Goldthrite

Cody Goldthrite
Secretariat