



# Calaveras County

## Building Department

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## Code Compliance

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**Website: [www.co.calaveras.ca.us](http://www.co.calaveras.ca.us)**

To:

Gabriel Elliott, Planning Director

From:

Doug Oliver, Chief Building Official

Subject: Responses to Green House Gas Emissions Recommendations.

Greetings,

I have reviewed the recommendations and have made the following observations for the categories labeled Education and Outreach, Existing Buildings, and New Construction & Zero Net Energy Standards. All items not addressed are due to the scope of the item being in programs that are not typically developed or implemented by the Building Department. As a general note, our office supports incentive programs that rewards individuals for meeting higher standards rather than stricter mandates that may serve to encourage permit avoidance. In addition, since the Building Department is entirely funded by permit fees, incentive programs that alter the fee structure for the Building Department would reduce our effectiveness in implementing new energy programs and providing public outreach. In my experience, tax credits and/or development fee reductions have been the most effective at encouraging participation with government programs.

EO-1 – it is the goal of the Building Department to provided public outreach in conjunction with the triennial adoption the California Building Standards Code, which include the California Energy Code and Green Building Standards Code. This outreach will help to inform the public on changes to the Statewide adopted codes and well as any local amendments.

EB-1 – This region has a high volume of historic structures and remote occupied structures that are not designed to accept 100% electrical power without extensive retrofit that is not economically feasible and/or may damage the historic integrity of the structures. In addition, the power grid in several areas of the County is unreliable due to Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events as well as the distance from remote rural structures to the power grid. Therefore, a wholesale shift to electric power in this region does not appear to be feasible.

EB-3 – The Building Department already supports weatherization programs by providing streamlined permit processes for residential remodels and minor commercial alterations. The

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**Government Center**  
**891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249-9709**

Building Department can provide information at our customer service counter for any programs that may be developed moving forward.

ZNE-1 – The County has currently adopted the Green Building Standards code and is enforcing the Mandatory Measures. Considering the goals contained in the Housing Element of the County of Calaveras General Plan, implementing anything more restrictive may serve to act as a deterrent to housing availability during this housing crisis. I recommend no enforcement beyond the mandatory minimum, which is consistently improved during the Triennial code adoption process.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at (209)754-2823.