

## Notice of Exemption

TO: [Office of Planning and Research](#)  
[1400 Tenth Street, Room 212](#)  
[Sacramento, California 95814](#)

FROM: California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Project Title: Energy Conservation Manual (ECM)

Project Location: [715 P Street Sacramento, California 95814](#)

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Public Resources Code, section 25402.1(e) directs the California Energy Commission (CEC) to certify an energy conservation manual for use by designers, builders, and contractors of residential and nonresidential buildings no later than 180 days after approval of the updates to Parts 1 and 6 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (Energy Code).

To implement the requirement of section 25402.1(e), CEC staff developed an energy conservation manual that is comprised of several documents, including alternative calculation method reference manuals, compliance manuals, a data registry requirements manual, and other compliance documents, all of which contain information to assist designers, builders, and contractors in demonstrating compliance with the 2025 Energy Code, including forms, charts, and other data.

The CEC developed new content for the Single-family Residential Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manual and the Nonresidential and Multifamily Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manual (ACM Reference Manuals), which document the modeling methods used in the 2025 compliance software for demonstrating performance compliance with the 2025 Energy Code.

The CEC developed new content for the Single-family Residential Compliance Manual, the Nonresidential Compliance Manual, and the Multifamily Compliance Manual (Compliance Manuals), which provide references and instructional guides to aid in compliance with the 2025 Energy Code.

The CEC developed new content for the Data Registry Requirements Manual, which is a resource for data registry providers to aid in the design and implementation of software procedures and user interface features for their data registries that meet the requirements in the 2025 Energy Code.

The CEC developed new content for the Compliance Documents, which are used to demonstrate compliance with the 2025 Energy Code.

The CEC certified the ACM Reference Manuals at the June 11, 2025, CEC Business Meeting.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Energy Commission

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption: State type and section number: \_\_\_\_\_

Statutory Exemption: State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: Common-Sense (Sec. 15061(b)(3))

Reasons why the project is exempt:

The Energy Conservation Manual (ECM) is not a project because it does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15061(a)). The CEC certifies an ECM to assist interested persons with demonstrating compliance with the Energy Code, pursuant to Public Resources Code, section 25402.1(e). The ECM provides information regarding the 2025 Energy Code, which was previously adopted on September 11, 2024, and approved by the California Building Standards Commission on December 17, 2024. The ECM does not impose any new requirements and, therefore, has no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Accordingly, the ECM does not meet the definition of a project under CEQA.

Further, even if the ECM was considered a "project," it would not be subject to CEQA under the "common-sense" exemption (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15061(b)(3)) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the action may have a significant effect on the environment. The ECM acts as a reference and instructional guide that reiterates the regulatory language already contained in the 2025 Energy Code. The ECM contains no new requirements to comply with the 2025 Energy Code. Thus, it can be seen with certainty that the ECM does not have the potential to have a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person

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Date: 6/12/2025

Title: Deputy Director, Building Standards

Signed by the Lead Agency

Date received for filing by \_\_\_\_\_