



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: April 16, 2014

03

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: EXPLORING UPDATES TO THE COUNTY BUILDING CODE TO SUPPORT ENERGY EFFICIENCIES AND GREEN BUILDING TECHNOLOGY (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Overview

With the emergence of green building technology and continued advancements toward greater energy efficiencies, consumers are discovering a growing range of options to help reduce energy consumption and costs. The County of San Diego has already undertaken efforts to support energy-efficiency and green-building development such as permit fee waivers for residential photovoltaic systems and permit fee reductions for new construction projects that meet the state's green-building standards.

Today's board letter directs the Chief Administrative Officer to research and develop potential updates to the County Building Code that would further promote green-building technologies and encourage energy-efficiencies through cost-effective measures aimed at reducing energy bills and working towards energy independence.

Recommendation(s)

CHAIRWOMAN DIANNE JACOB AND SUPERVISOR DAVE ROBERTS

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to research and develop potential updates to the County Building Code that would further promote green-building technologies and encourage energy-efficiency through cost-effective measures aimed at reducing energy bills and working towards energy independence.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a work-plan, including time and cost estimates, for implementing any potential Building Code updates.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return back to the Board within 120 days.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

SUBJECT: EXPLORING UPDATES TO THE COUNTY BUILDING CODE TO SUPPORT ENERGY EFFICIENCIES AND GREEN BUILDING TECHNOLOGY (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

Background

With the emergence of green building technology and continued advancements toward greater energy efficiencies, consumers are discovering a growing range of options to help reduce energy consumption and costs. The County of San Diego has already undertaken efforts to support energy-efficiency and green-building development such as permit fee waivers for residential photovoltaic systems and permit fee reductions for new construction projects that meet the state's green-building standards.

The County's Green Building Incentive Program provides expedited permitting services for projects that use resource efficient construction materials, make use of water conservation methods (such as gray water systems), or exceed the minimum energy efficiency standards established by the State of California. The County has also adopted new regulations for wind and solar projects, meteorological testing facilities and work is currently underway to develop a Comprehensive Renewable Energy Plan for all renewable energy projects. Lastly, the County has also adopted a Strategic Energy Plan with the purpose to provide high-level energy and sustainability objectives and goals in the areas of energy and water conservation and efficiency, sustainability, distributed generation, transportation, consumer choice and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Despite all these efforts, additional opportunities to update our County Building Code may exist through the research of today's building industry and any current trends and technologies.

Among areas that should be considered in this effort are the financial implications and cost-benefit analysis of pre-wiring buildings for technologies such as roof-top solar and electrical vehicle charging stations during initial constructions versus retrofitting for these technologies at a later date. Research should also consider technologies such as solar water heating and water recirculation systems.

Researching potential Building Code amendments that consider these most recent advancements in energy-efficiencies and green-building technologies may be beneficial and continue the County's history of supporting green energy.

Today's board letter directs the Chief Administrative Officer to research and develop potential updates to the County Building Code that would further promote green-building technologies and encourage energy-efficiencies through cost-effective measures aimed at reducing energy bills and working towards energy independence.

SUBJECT: EXPLORING UPDATES TO THE COUNTY BUILDING CODE TO SUPPORT ENERGY EFFICIENCIES AND GREEN BUILDING TECHNOLOGY (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB
Chairwoman, Second District

DAVE ROBERTS
Supervisor, Third District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

SUBJECT: EXPLORING UPDATES TO THE COUNTY BUILDING CODE TO SUPPORT ENERGY EFFICIENCIES AND GREEN BUILDING TECHNOLOGY (DISTRICTS: ALL)

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

September 26, 2007 (12), Waive Permit Fees and Establish Expedited Processing for Small Wind Turbine Systems Consistent with the County’s Green Building Program.
April 15, 1997 (41), adopted Green Building Incentive Program

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

F-50 Voluntary Resource-Efficient Guidelines on New Construction and Building Renovation Projects.

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):

N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Chairwomen Dianne Jacob and Supervisor Dave Roberts

OTHER CONCURRENCES(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Adam Wilson

Name
(619) 531-5522

Phone
Adam.Wilson@sdcounty.ca.gov

E-mail

Sachiko Kohatsu

Name
(619) 531-5533

Phone
Sachiko.Kohatsu@sdcounty.ca.gov

E-mail