

BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION

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BUILDING STANDARDS BULLETIN 12-02

DATE: August 2, 2012

TO: LOCAL BUILDING OFFICIALS
INTERESTED PARTIES

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA SOLAR PERMITTING GUIDEBOOK
[NOW AVAILABLE](#)

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research, in collaboration with the California Building Standards Commission, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Office of the State Fire Marshal and numerous stakeholders, served as the lead developer of the newly published *California Solar Permitting Guidebook: Improving Permit Review and Approval for Small Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Systems*. The guide may be viewed at www.bsc.ca.gov under Publications/Guidebooks.

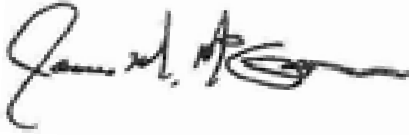
The guide is designed to specifically address confusion surrounding permitting requirements throughout the state for small solar photovoltaic installations (generally solar PV systems under 10 kilowatts [KW]) and assist local government and its permitting agencies to enhance its processes. Additionally, the guide is intended to assist building owners and solar installers navigate permitting processes as seamlessly and efficiently as possible. The practices recommended apply to permitting agencies of all sizes.

The *California Solar Permitting Guidebook* is organized into three parts:

- 1 **Current laws, regulations and codes:** Explains current legal requirements for solar PV installations in California;
- 2 **The Project Approval Process:** Explains important elements of permit review and project inspection; and
- 3 **Recommendations to improve local solar permitting:** Outlines a streamlined permitting process for small PV systems and information that will help local governments clarify current laws for installations of all sizes.

California is a world leader in renewable energy generation. At Governor Brown's direction, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research assembled a Solar Permitting Work Group to help expand small-scale renewable energy and to remove barriers surrounding implementation and use of new and emerging technologies, which are helping to power California's economy. Small-scale renewable energy efforts benefit communities throughout California. In addition to generating electricity near the areas it is consumed, it can also provide stable electricity prices for consumers and create jobs statewide.

If you have questions regarding this information bulletin you may contact the CBSC office at (916) 263-0916, or email your inquiry to cbsc@dgs.ca.gov. If you would like to comment and do not need a reply, use the *Feedback* feature on the CBSC website www.bsc.ca.gov. The commission welcomes your input.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim McGowan", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Jim McGowan
Executive Director