

From: [Charles Porges](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Solar and Energy fees
Date: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:07:30 AM

To the Board of Directors,
I find the Solar and Energy fees unreasonable and unnecessary. As you know PG&E does a thorough review of the submitted plans and performs inspections as well.

With the proposed fees you will add a \$1300 disincentive to installing photovoltaic systems.

Photovoltaic systems with batteries will reduce the power required to be transmitted through PG&E lines which are a known fire hazard.

I request that you eliminate them or reduce them by a factor of ten.

Thank you,
Charles Porges

From: [Winnacker, David](#)
To: charles.porges@gmail.com
Cc: [Isaacs, Jeff](#); [Holbrook, Marcia](#)
Subject: RE: Solar and Energy fees
Date: Friday, March 1, 2024 12:35:22 PM

Charles,

Thank you for contacting the Fire District and your comments have been forwarded to the Board.

This item was addressed during our February Board meeting in response to questions raised by Director Danziger. A summary of the relevant discussion is included below for your consideration.

1. This is not a new fee per se as MOFD has always charged a plan review fee for solar systems as required by Chapter 12 of the Fire Code, it just did not previously have its own category. This caused confusion amongst applicants.
2. PG&E does not perform any type of plan review required by California Code of Regulations Title 24 and as an investor owned private company, does not have the authority to do so. PG&E's review is limited to the interconnect requirements associated with grid connection. Should a resident be installing an off-grid system, PG&E would not be involved.
3. California Fire Code requires that the Fire Code Official review plans and issue either a construction permit or operational permit.
4. The Office of the state Fire Marshal requires a construction permit for installation of energy storage systems regulated by Chapter 12 of the State Fire Code.

Section 105.6.5 Energy storage systems. A construction permit is required to install energy storage systems regulated by Section 1207.

California Fire Code Chapter 12 was added to address the current energy systems found in this code, and is provided for the introduction of a wide range of systems to generate and store energy in, on and adjacent to buildings and facilities. The expansion of such energy systems is related to meeting today's energy, environmental and economic challenges. Ensuring appropriate criteria to address the safety of such systems in building and fire codes is an important part of protecting the public at large, building occupants and emergency responders. More specifically, this chapter addresses standby and emergency power, portable generators, photovoltaic systems, fuel cell energy systems, and energy storage systems.

For further context, as addressed during the February Board Meeting, there are firefighter specific safety concerns related to roof access which are regulated by the Fire Code and enforced by MOFD in our role as the Fire Code Official. Of note, this is an area where MOFD adopted state minimum requirements and did not amend the Fire Code.

Thank you,

Dave Winnacker
Fire Chief