Marin’s *e-Inspection* Program for Energy Efficiency

BAY AREA REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK FORUM
November 18, 2014

William “Bill” Kelley, CBO
County of Marin
Voluntary photo-inspection for licensed contractors

• Local building permitting program to facilitate the timely installation of private residential solar systems
  o Improved workflow for installers translates to increased installation efficiency and productivity

• Increased efficiency for building permit staff
  o Inspection time savings due to eliminating drive time means lower permit fees for the customer

• Reduced carbon emissions and traffic congestion aligns with Marin’s Countywide Plan
  o Leveraging 21st Century technology to provide more sustainable service
Step 1

- Complete the voluntary Contractor’s Permit Application with e-Inspection
Step 2

- Follow the directions within the application package for reviewing applicable code requirements

Directions for using this electronic Inspection Residential PV Installation Permit Program

1. Obtain permit and Residential PV e-Inspection Compliance and Certification Form from Marin County Community Development Agency – Building and Safety Division prior to starting work.
   a. Completed permit application, permit fee payment and plans conforming to Minimum Mandatory PV Plans Checklist may be submitted in-person, by mail or by email.
   *We currently only accept cash or check submitted in person or via mail*

2. Review the Code requirements in the Residential PV Installation Code Reference Guide that are applicable to your PV project prior to starting construction.

3. Using your smart phone, smart device or digital camera photograph or video the existing installation location before any work has begun.

4. Using your e-Inspection Compliance and Certification Form as your guide:
   a. Perform each inspection as soon as the corresponding work has been performed to ensure each applicable code and/or manufacturer’s requirement is satisfied.

   b. Photograph/video each inspection you perform to establish clear evidence that each corresponding code and/or manufacturer’s requirement is satisfied. Email each photograph/video to buildinginspection@marincounty.org as soon as you take it. CDA Building & Safety will catalog each photo/video to your permit file.

   c. Initial each inspection on your e-Inspection Compliance and Certification Form to certify you performed the inspection and that the work performed complies with the applicable code and/or manufacturer’s requirement. NOTE: Write NA in the initialed space for any inspection provision that is not applicable to your PV installation scope of work.
Step 3

- Using a smart phone or digital camera, photograph all aspects of construction work throughout progress—with special emphasis on each self-inspection for code compliance.
Step 4

- **Photograph the front and back of the completed Permit Compliance and Certification Form**
Step 5

- Email all photos to the building jurisdiction for review, verification and approval to finalize the building permit
Installers and Inspectors Benefit from:

- Time savings
- Lower costs
- Readily available technology
- Reduced environmental impacts
- Freedom of self-service
- Supports competitive edge for licensed contractors

Lessons Learned so far:

- Paradigm shift – takes time to catch on
- Will benefit from ongoing customer feedback loop
- Fire department support important for greatest effectiveness
- Self service using technology applicable to many permit types
Looking Forward

THE FUTURE OF BUILDING INSPECTION

- Greater use of technology for core business
- More self-service options for permit customers
- Certification in lieu of site inspection
William “Bill” Kelley, CBO
bkelley@marincounty.org
415-473-6556