California’s Regulatory Landscape & Implications for Local Governments on Municipal Building Projects

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California Regulatory Agencies

- California Air Resources Board (CARB)
- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
- California Energy Commission (CEC)
Other Relevant Regulatory & Standards-Setting Entities

• International Code Council (ICC) → IECC
• National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) → NEC
• U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) → Energy Star
• Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) & UL → technical requirements & equipment certifications
Relevant CPUC-led Regulatory Efforts Impacting CA Building Decarbonization

- **Building Decarbonization**
  - Rulemaking Regarding Building Decarbonization (R. 19-01-011)
    - Phase II Scoping Memo
  - Order Instituting Rulemaking to Establish Policies, Processes, and Rules to Ensure Safe and Reliable Gas Systems in California and Perform Long-Term Gas System Planning (R.20-01-007)

- **Distributed Energy Resources**
  - “Rule 21” Interconnection, Operation and Metering
  - NEM Successor Tariff Rulemaking (R.14-07-002)
  - Rulemaking Regarding Policies, Procedures, and Rules for Development of Distribution Resources Plans Pursuant to PUC Section 769 (R. 14-08-013)

- **Energy Efficiency**
  - Rulemaking Concerning Energy Efficiency Rolling Portfolios, Policies, Programs, Evaluations and Related Issues (R. 13-11-005)
Relevant CEC-led Regulatory Efforts Impacting Building Decarbonization Regulatory Efforts

- **California’s Building Standards Code (Title 24)**
  - 2022 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Dockets 19-BSTD-03 and 19-BSTD-04)
  - Voluntary “Reach” Standards (Tiers) → Model language for local governments

- **Energy Efficiency and Building Decarbonization (19-IEPR-06)**
  - California Energy Efficiency Action Plan
  - Building Decarbonization Pilots (BUILD and TECH)

- **Energy Conservation Assistance Act**
  - Low-Interest Loans for public entities
  - Zero Interest Loans for Schools
Key Observations

• Effective regulatory engagement starts with learning the process, protocols and procedures
• More cross-sector collaboration is needed
• Implementers and end-users should help inform policy design (2-way street)
• The collective local government voice is often missing from utility regulatory discussions
• More emphasis needed on effective public sector project finance, funding, and incentives
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