

Information on Old Business agenda item: "Ad Hoc IECC committee consensus statement"

May 23, 2023 Climate and Environment Commission Agenda

Members of the Building Construction Codes Commission and the Climate and Environment Commission formed a small, ad hoc task group with the goal of reaching a consensus on adoption of building energy codes. The group has met several times to discuss the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) 2021 code, the IECC 2024 code, and related matters.

On May 8, 2023, the group scheduled a meeting with the intent on developing a consensus statement based on the deliberations of the group.

Attendees at the May 8 meeting:

BCCC: Brian Connell, Richard Shanker, Doug Muzzy

CEC: Leanne Tippett Mosby, Ryan Kaufmann

City staff: John Simon (BCCC liaison), Eric Hempel (CEC liaison)

At the May 8 meeting, the ad hoc group members present developed the following consensus statement to be taken back to their respective bodies for consideration:

- "It is the consensus of this ad hoc committee to recommend to City Council forgoing adoption of the 2021 Energy code and focus instead on reviewing the 2024 Energy code in anticipation that the 2024 code would provide additional flexibility and more benefit for investments made."

Because the same version of this will be taken to the BCCC and CEC as a proposed consensus statement, it can only be voted up or down by each body – not amended.

Following are some of the points of discussion in the ad hoc meetings:

- Some of the building envelope requirements added in the 2021 code add significant additional cost without concomitant benefit (i.e., insulation requirements exceed the point of diminishing return on investment). While it is legally acceptable to adopt an amended energy code, there are technical constraints which make enforcement of an altered code impractical and potentially cost prohibitive.
- Due to continued supply chain disruptions and shortages, adopting the 2021 energy code would cause undue burden on builders.
- The IECC is taking a different approach to the 2024 code. It is anticipated the 2024 code will provide more flexibility, and allow money spent to be more effectively targeted toward measures that will provide energy efficiency benefits.

Also of note at the May 8th meeting: the Inflation Reduction Act is providing \$1 billion for states and local governments with the authority to adopt building codes through September 30, 2029.