

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-327

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL, OF THE CITY OF CALABASAS CALIFORNIA, ADDING SUB SECTION D TO SECTION 15.04.740 AND SUBSECTION D TO SECTION 15.4.580 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE AMENDING ARTICLE 690 OF THE CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL CODE AND CALIFORNIA PLUMBING CODE SECTION 103, RELATING TO EXPEDITED PERMITTING PROCEDURES FOR SMALL RESIDENTIAL ROOFTOP SOLAR SYSTEMS.

WHEREAS, Citing the desire to foster a "modernized and standardized permitting process" for small-scale residential solar energy systems, the State Legislature recently passed AB 2188 to amend the Solar Rights Act of 1978;

WHEREAS, Subsection (a) of Section 65850.5 of the California Government Code , declares the implementation of consistent statewide standards to achieve the timely and cost-effective installation of solar energy systems is not a municipal affair, as that term is used in Section 5 of Article XI of the California Constitution, but is instead a matter of statewide concern;

WHEREAS, Subsection (a) of Section 65850.5 of the California Government Code provides that it is the policy of the State to promote and encourage the installation and use of solar energy systems by limiting obstacles to their use and by minimizing the permitting costs of such systems;

WHEREAS, Subdivision (g)(1) of Section 65850.5 of the California Government Code provides that, on or before September 30, 2015, every city, county, or city and county shall adopt an ordinance, consistent with the goals and intent of subdivision (a) of Section 65850.5, that creates an expedited, streamlined permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems.

WHEREAS, The intent of this proposed Ordinance is to comply with Subdivision (g)(1) of Section 65850.5 of the California Government Code by amending Article 690 of the California Electrical Code in order to implement an expedited, streamlined permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems;

WHEREAS, the City Council does hereby further find that in accordance with section 15061(b)(3) of the California Code of Regulations, the adoption of these local amendments to the California Building Standards Code, and amendments to the Calabasas Municipal Code are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act because such actions are administrative in nature as the actions create an expedited permitting process for certain small residential rooftop

solar energy systems as required by statute and will enhance, and not adversely affect the environment in any manner by promoting the development of small residential rooftop solar energy systems;

WHEREAS, this Ordinance does not impose a more restrictive California Electrical or Plumbing Code Standard based upon local climatic, geographical or topographical findings and is solely intended to create an administrative process to comply with Subsection (a) of Section 65850.5 of the California Government Code;

NOW, THEREFORE, in order to comply with Section 714 of the Civil Code and Section 65850.5 of the Government Code,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CALABASAS DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Subsection D., is hereby added to the Calabasas Municipal Code Section 15.04.740 to read as follows:

Article 690.1(A) is hereby added to the California Electrical Code for the City of Calabasas as follows:

**"EXPEDITED, STREAMLINED PERMITTING PROCESS FOR
SMALL RESIDENTIAL ROOFTOP SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS"**

1. A "small residential rooftop solar energy system" means all of the following:
 - 1.1. A photovoltaic solar energy system that is (i) no larger than 10 kilowatts alternating current nameplate rating or 30 kilowatts thermal and (ii) with all photovoltaic panels mounted on the rooftop of a single or duplex family residential structure.
 - 1.2. A solar energy system that conforms to all applicable state fire, structural, electrical, and other building codes as adopted or amended by the City and paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 714 of the Civil Code.
 - 1.3. A solar panel or module array that does not exceed the maximum legal building height as defined by the Calabasas Land and Development Use Code.
2. The following definitions apply to this article:
 - 2.1 "A feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific, adverse impact" includes, but is not limited to, any

cost-effective method, condition, or mitigation imposed by a city, county, or city and county on another similarly situated application in a prior successful application for a permit. The city shall use its best efforts to ensure that the selected method, condition, or mitigation meets the conditions of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 714 of the Civil Code.

- 2.2 "Solar energy system" has the same meaning set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 801.5 of the Civil Code, as such section or subdivision may be amended, renumbered, or redesignated from time to time.
- 2.3 "Specific, adverse impact" means a significant, quantifiable, direct, and unavoidable impact, based on objective, identified, and written public health or safety standards, policies, or conditions as they existed on the date the application was deemed complete.
3. The city shall not condition approval for any solar energy system permit on the approval of a solar energy system by an association, as that term is defined in Section 4080 of the Civil Code.
4. Section 65850.5 of the California Government Code provides that, on or before September 30, 2015, every city, county, or city and county shall adopt an ordinance that creates an expedited, streamlined permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems.
5. Section 65850.5 of the California Government Code provides that in developing an expedited permitting process, the city shall adopt a checklist of all requirements with which small rooftop solar energy systems shall comply to be eligible for expedited review. The building official is hereby authorized and directed to develop and adopt such checklist.
6. The intent of this article, is to substantially conform the City's expedited, streamlined permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems with the recommendations for expedited permitting, including the eligibility checklists and standard plans contained in the most current version of the California Solar Permitting Guidebook adopted by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.
7. The small residential rooftop solar energy system eligibility checklist developed and promulgated by the building official shall be published

on the city's internet website. The applicant may submit the permit application and associated documentation to the City's building division by personal, mailed, or electronic submittal together with any required permit processing and inspection fees. In the case of electronic submittal, the electronic signature of the applicant on all forms, applications and other documentation may be used in lieu of a wet signature. Should the City not have the capability to accept electronic signatures, no signature shall be required.

8. "Electronic submittal" means the utilization of one or more of the following:

- 8.1. E-mail,
- 8.2. The internet,
- 8.3. Facsimile.

9. Prior to submitting an application, the applicant shall:

9.1. Verify to the applicant's reasonable satisfaction through the use of standard engineering evaluation techniques that the support structure for the small residential rooftop solar energy system is stable and adequate to transfer all wind, seismic, and dead and live loads associated with the system to the building foundation; and

9.2. At the applicant's cost, verify to the applicant's reasonable satisfaction using standard electrical inspection techniques that the existing electrical system including existing line, load, ground and bonding wiring as well as main panel and subpanel sizes are adequately sized, based on the existing electrical system's current use, to carry all new photovoltaic electrical loads.

10. An application that satisfies the information requirements in the eligibility checklist, as determined by the building official, shall be deemed complete. Upon receipt of an incomplete application, the building official shall issue a written correction notice detailing all deficiencies in the application and any additional information required to be eligible for expedited permit issuance.

11. Upon confirmation by the building official of the application and supporting documentation being complete and meeting the requirements of the eligibility checklist, the building official shall administratively

approve the application and issue all required permits or authorizations. Such approval does not authorize an applicant to connect the small residential rooftop energy system to the local utility provider's electricity grid. The applicant is responsible for obtaining such approval or permission from the local utility provider.

12. For a small residential rooftop solar energy system eligible for expedited review, only one inspection shall be required, which shall be done in a timely manner and includes a consolidated inspection by building and safety staff, as agreed to by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. If a small residential rooftop solar energy system fails inspection, a subsequent inspection is authorized, however the subsequent inspection need not conform to the requirements of this subdivision.

SECTION 2. Subsection D., is hereby added to the Calabasas Municipal Code Section 15.04.580 to read as follows:

Section 103.9 is hereby added to the California Plumbing Code for the City of Calabasas as follows:

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 - 1.2. A solar energy system that conforms to all applicable state fire, structural, electrical, and other building codes as adopted or amended by the City and paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 714 of the Civil Code.
 - 1.3. A solar panel or module array that does not exceed the maximum legal building height as defined by the Calabasas Land and Development Use Code.
2. The following definitions apply to this code:
 - 2.1 "A feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific, adverse impact" includes, but is not limited to, any

cost-effective method, condition, or mitigation imposed by a city, county, or city and county on another similarly situated application in a prior successful application for a permit. The city shall use its best efforts to ensure that the selected method, condition, or mitigation meets the conditions of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 714 of the Civil Code.

- 2.2 "Solar energy system" has the same meaning set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 801.5 of the Civil Code, as such section or subdivision may be amended, renumbered, or redesignated from time to time.
- 2.3 "Specific, adverse impact" means a significant, quantifiable, direct, and unavoidable impact, based on objective, identified, and written public health or safety standards, policies, or conditions as they existed on the date the application was deemed complete.
3. The city shall not condition approval for any solar energy system permit on the approval of a solar energy system by an association, as that term is defined in Section 4080 of the Civil Code.
4. Section 65850.5 of the California Government Code provides that, on or before September 30, 2015, every city, county, or city and county shall adopt an ordinance that creates an expedited, streamlined permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems.
5. Section 65850.5 of the California Government Code provides that in developing an expedited permitting process, the city shall adopt a checklist of all requirements with which small rooftop solar energy systems shall comply to be eligible for expedited review. The building official is hereby authorized and directed to develop and adopt such checklist.
6. The intent of this article, is to substantially conform the City's expedited, streamlined permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems with the recommendations for expedited permitting, including the eligibility checklists and standard plans contained in the most current version of the California Solar Permitting Guidebook adopted by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

7. The small residential rooftop solar energy system eligibility checklist developed by the building official shall be published on the city's internet website. The applicant may submit the permit application and associated documentation to the City's building division by personal, mailed, or electronic submittal together with any required permit processing and inspection fees. In the case of electronic submittal, the electronic signature of the applicant on all forms, applications and other documentation may be used in lieu of a wet signature. Should the City not have the capability to accept electronic signatures, no signature shall be required.
8. "Electronic submittal" means the utilization of one or more of the following:
 - 8.1. E-mail,
 - 8.2. The internet,
 - 8.3. Facsimile.
9. Prior to submitting an application, the applicant shall:
 - 9.1. Verify to the applicant's reasonable satisfaction through the use of standard engineering evaluation techniques that the support structure for the small residential rooftop solar energy system is stable and adequate to transfer all wind, seismic, and dead and live loads associated with the system to the building foundation; and
 - 9.2. At the applicant's cost, verify to the applicant's reasonable satisfaction using standard electrical inspection techniques that the existing electrical system including existing line, load, ground and bonding wiring as well as main panel and subpanel sizes are adequately sized, based on the existing electrical system's current use, to carry all new photovoltaic electrical loads.
10. An application that satisfies the information requirements in the eligibility checklist, as determined by the building official, shall be deemed complete. Upon receipt of an incomplete application, the building official shall issue a written correction notice detailing all deficiencies in the application and any additional information required to be eligible for expedited permit issuance.

11. Upon confirmation by the building official of the application and supporting documentation being complete and meeting the requirements of the eligibility checklist, the building official shall administratively approve the application and issue all required permits or authorizations. Such approval does not authorize an applicant to connect the small residential rooftop energy system to the local utility provider's electricity grid. The applicant is responsible for obtaining such approval or permission from the local utility provider.
12. For a small residential rooftop solar energy system eligible for expedited review, only one inspection shall be required, which shall be done in a timely manner and includes a consolidated inspection by building and safety staff, as agreed to by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. If a small residential rooftop solar energy system fails inspection, a subsequent inspection is authorized, however the subsequent inspection need not conform to the requirements of this subdivision.

SECTION 3. CEQA. This Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State Guidelines §15061 (b) (3) as a project that has no potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

SECTION 4. Certification. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this ordinance and shall cause the same to be processed in the manner required by law.

SECTION 5. Severability. Should any section, subsection, clause, or provision of this Ordinance for any reason be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions of this Ordinance; it being hereby expressly declared that this Ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase hereof would have been adopted irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance is adopted by the City Council and shall take effect in 30 days as required by law.

SECTION 7. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published in accordance with California Government Code Section 36933, shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance, and shall cause this Ordinance and its certification, together with proof of publication, to be entered in the Book of Ordinances of the City Council.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of September, 2015.




Lucy M. Martin, Mayor

ATTEST:



Maricela Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Scott H. Howard
City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) SS
CITY OF CALABASAS)


I, **MARICELA HERNANDEZ, MMC**, City Clerk of the City of Calabasas, California, **DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing ordinance, being **Ordinance No. 2015-327** was duly introduced and approved by the City Council of the City of Calabasas at a regular meeting held on the 26th day of August, 2015 and adopted and passed by said Council at a regular meeting held on the 9th day of September, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Martin, Mayor pro Tem Bozajian, Councilmembers Gaines Maurer and Shapiro.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.



Maricela Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk
City of Calabasas, California