



2024 SOLAR PERMITTING / SOLARAPP+ BULLETIN #2

Building Department

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September 19, 2024

UPDATE TO THE 2024 SOLAR PERMITTING / SOLARAPP+ BULLETIN RELEASED 1/10/24

I. SolarAPP+ / Online, Automated Plan Review

The State of California passed [Senate Bill 379](#) on September 16, 2022, establishing requirements for California cities and counties to implement an online, automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits in real time for a Residential Solar Energy System, as defined, that is no larger than 38.4kW and a Residential Energy Storage System, as defined, paired with a Residential Solar Energy System that is no larger than 38.4kW.

By September 30, 2024, SB 379 must be fully executed to cities with a population less than 50,000. The City of Lathrop Building Department has worked diligently over the years to go fully electronic, in anticipation of industry advancements, and is now fully compliant with this Senate Bill. This became a three-part process for the City: An online, automated permitting platform that issues permits in real time, that verifies code compliance, and that allows for automated reviews of Residential Solar Energy Systems and Residential Energy Storage Systems up to 38.4kW.

The City of Lathrop fully implemented automated electronic permitting through its permitting software since 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic which has satisfied the requirement of an automated permitting platform that issues permits in real time.

On January 10, 2024, the City of Lathrop Building Department adopted the use of the automated solar plan review software, SolarAPP+. With the launch of this system, eligible PV projects and combined PV / Energy Storage System (ESS) projects bypass the standard plan review process and satisfied the requirements of an automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance. However, per the Lathrop Manteca Fire District, residential solar projects over 15kW would still require Fire Department Plan Review.

As of September 19, 2024, the Fire District has lifted this requirement, and the City of Lathrop is now fully compliant with the established requirements of SB 379.

Our [Residential Solar Permitting Submittal Guidelines](#) have been updated to reflect these changes to our process. Please review these updated guidelines. As a reminder, there are limitations to what SolarAPP+ allows for automated review. Please review the [Eligibility Checklists](#) provided by SolarAPP+ to confirm if your project is eligible.

Regards,

Ed Short

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