This guideline is developed by the Tri-chapter Uniform Code Committee and is intended to enhance regional consistency in application and enforcement of the Building Code. Please verify acceptance of this guideline with your local building department prior to its application.

ISSUE(S):

There is a substantial increase in the number of solar photovoltaic system installations as a result of the California Solar Initiative, the state’s net metering policies, Assembly Bill 2188 and the support for solar energy by the Governor. This guideline will promote uniformity and consistency in the permitting and inspection process for solar photovoltaic installations in our region which will help expedite permit issuance and inspection for approval of safe installations for both the jurisdiction and contractor. This policy is one of a series of policies specifically related to solar installations.

PROPOSED GUIDELINE:

To encourage consistency, and conformity to AB2188, jurisdictions shall consider adopting a Standard Plan as outlined in the California Solar Permitting Guidebook, as part of an expedited process.

1) **Minimum installation requirements:** The installation of the PV system shall conform to the requirements of CEC Article 690, including the Tentative Interim Amendments identified in the CBSC Informational Bulletin, the CFC, the CRC, and any other applicable articles or standards. Refer to other TUCC policies in the series for solar.

2) **Minimum plans requirements:** At a minimum, plans submitted for permit shall contain the following items, as outlined in the Submittal Requirements Bulletin of the California Solar Permitting Guidebook:
   a. Site diagram indicating location of the PV installation and layout of existing roof framing members that support the system;
   b. Details on mounting of PV modules, type and number of roof coverings, and subsequent weatherproofing of the roof;
   c. Electrical single-line diagram clearly identifying all devices installed in the PV system and indicating total kVA rating of system;
   d. Clearly identify the point of interconnection with the utility supplied wiring system and provide details on main breaker, PV breaker and rating of bussing;
e. Indicate type and size of all conduit and conductors throughout the PV system;

f. Provide manufacturer's cut-sheets and installation instructions for all PV modules, mounting systems, combiner boxes (if used), inverters, and disconnects;

g. Provide structural calculations, prepared by a registered California design professional, if the total weight of the photovoltaic system is over five pounds per square foot or required by the jurisdiction.

h. Fire classification for the photovoltaic panel system (if applicable) and the condition of the existing roof.

3) **Permitting Process:** The expedited process as required by AB 2188 for specified systems shall include, but is not limited to the following recommendations:

a. Adoption of an *Eligibility Checklist for Expedited Solar Photovoltaic Permitting* as outlined in the [California Solar Permitting Guidebook](#);

b. The following submittal method shall be provided:
   i. Over-the-counter processing, if available;
   ii. Electronic submission via email or fax, at minimum;
   iii. Electronic submission via an online portal, if available;

c. Maximum processing shall be completed with 1-3 days, including fire review;

d. Adoption of *Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Solar PV Plan Review and Inspection Services*, as outlined in the [California Solar Permitting Guidebook](#);

4) **Inspection Process:** The inspection process as required by AB2188 for specified systems shall include, but is not limited to the following recommendations:

a. Single final inspection upon completion of installation, including fire inspection (if applicable);

b. Adoption of an inspection checklist, which shall be published on the jurisdiction’s website;

c. Upon notification of completion of PV installation, provide next-day on-site inspection, if available. At a minimum, provide on-site inspection within 5 days;

d. Provide a scheduling time window for on-site inspection of no more than two hours, and utilize phone and/or email communication to provide information on anticipated inspection time;

e. Acceptance of electronic signature on permit and inspection documentation.

**REFERENCE(S):**

2016 CEC Article 690 Solar Photovoltaic Power Systems
2016 CBC Section 1510.7
2016 CRC Sections R324 & R907
AB 2188 California Expedited Solar Permitting Act
California Solar Permitting Guidebook
California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) Informational Bulletin No. 16-02.