



2024 SOLAR PERMITTING / SOLARAPP+ BULLETIN

Building Department

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ATTENTION TO ALL SOLAR CONTRACTORS & APPLICANTS OF SOLAR PERMITTING

I. SolarAPP+

As of January 10, 2024, the City of Lathrop Building Department has adopted the use of the automated solar plan review software, SolarAPP+. SolarAPP+ is a collaborative effort between the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), local governments, and the solar industry to encourage the use of solar energy and streamline the permitting process. SolarAPP+ provides an automated code-compliance review for most residential rooftop photovoltaic (PV) projects. With the launch of this system, eligible PV projects and combined PV / Energy Storage System (ESS) projects can bypass the standard plan review process.

All projects submitted by Solar Companies / Contractors will be required to submit through SolarAPP+ for automated review, provided the project is eligible.

Please note that there are conditions for eligible solar projects with the use of SolarAPP+. Refer to our [Residential Solar Permitting Submittal Guidelines](#) for a comprehensive breakdown of the requirements and instructions on submissions. Most Solar Project that has 10kW PV or less, and up to two ESSs are eligible for SolarAPP+ instant plan review. If your project is not eligible, then it will be subject to a Plan Review with Building and Fire Dept, and subject to the Current Cycle Time for solar reviews.

II. Updated Solar Permitting Guidelines

In addition to the adoption of SolarAPP+, new guidelines have been created for all residential solar systems. Please review these [Residential Solar Permitting Submittal Guidelines](#) carefully and follow the direction closely, otherwise your project may be incorrectly submitted, and may have delays.

These guidelines highlight the different types of solar submittals: SolarAPP+ eligible systems, Solar Systems that are not eligible for SolarAPP+ (Over 10kW, Owner-Builder), and Standalone Energy Storage Systems added to existing PVs. These guidelines were created to simplify and breakdown the process of solar permitting to educate and inform applicants of the process and guide along the way to permit issuance and inspections. The Building Department hopes these guidelines will prove a useful asset to those who will be submitting solar projects.

Regards,

Ed Short

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Chief Building Official