

Office of the Fire Marshal

Photovoltaic System Effective Date: January 1, 2023

1.0 Permit Requirements:

Photovoltaic (PV) systems require building permits and shall comply with 2022 California Building Code (CBC), California Electrical Code (CEC), California Fire Code (CFC), and California Residential Code (CRC) R327, as is applicable. Residential systems will be permitted and inspected in accordance with the California State requirements and San Jose Municipal Code 20.100.1030 (c 5) by the Building Division of The City of San Jose. Other systems will be subject to City of San Jose standard permitting and inspection procedures including fire review. See current Fee Schedule.

2.0 Design and Installation:

- 2.1 PV systems for Group R-3 Buildings shall adhere to requirements in 2022 CFC Section 1205.2
- 2.2 PV systems for Other than Group R-3 Buildings shall adhere to requirements in 2022 CFC Section 1205.3.1 through 1205.3.3
- 2.3 PV support Structure, elevated with usable space underneath shall follow requirements below:
 - 2.3.1 An independent photovoltaic panel support structure designed with useable space underneath with minimum clear height of 7'-6" intended for secondary use such as providing shade or parking or motor vehicles shall comply with CFC with SJFD Amendments for applicable sections for new building, including but not limited to Access, Hydrant location, Water flow, Sprinklers, Extinguishers, Etc.
 - 2.3.2 Elevated PV supporting structures mounted on rooftop of buildings with fire sprinklers are required to provide PV structures fully sprinklered.
 - 2.3.3 Photovoltaic supported by a structure over parking stalls shall be subject to 2022 CBC 503.1 Exception 3

2.4 Ground Mounted PV system

2.4.1 Ground-Mounted photovoltaic panel systems shall follow 2022 CFC section 1205.5

This document is subject to revisions. For general information and to verify that you have the most current document, see SJFD development website, or call (408) 535-7750 and request the current version date.

