



## **Photovoltaic Systems Advisory Notice**

Effective January 1, 2014

Please be advised that the city of San Jose's Municipal Fire Code section concerning Photovoltaic (PV) systems installations has been relinquished effective January 1, 2014.

With the adoption of the 2013 California Fire Code (CFC) effective January 1, 2014 additional regulations regarding the installation of PV systems have been introduced by the state as the minimum standard by which San Jose and the rest of the state may regulate. The new Section of the CFC, 605.11, supersedes and renders our local code section redundant. Hence, the PV section of our code is being retired.

Installers of PV systems are, as has been the procedure, required to acquire building permits and follow the appropriate Building and Electrical codes. Be advised that there are now requirements in the CFC as well that must be followed.

The language adopted in the CFC although similar to what was required by the SJ Muni Code, has some differences. By dropping our directive, we are in some instances becoming less restrictive as a city (we had 6' set back requirements for commercial properties which we now relinquish), but now align with the State and National Codes. However, to our local installation industry, the National and State Codes, and hence, San Jose, are going to be more restrictive as our current Ordinance excludes 1&2 family residences, which are now being regulated.

The new requirement being questioned the most at the time of the posting is the regulation requiring 3 foot set backs. Again, this is now the minimum standard of must be adhered to.

We appreciate the good work of our local industry and hope to continue to work closely with you to continue to keep San Jose one of the best large cities in America.