

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY AND  
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

June 6, 2012

**Relates to Item # 73 & 84**

In 2008, the Board of Supervisors enacted ordinances that made Los Angeles County (the County) a leader in green building, promoted drought-tolerant landscaping, and reduced stormwater runoff. In particular, the green building ordinance required that new buildings be 15% more energy efficient than the State's minimum requirement. To ensure the County remained at the forefront of the environmental effort even as State standards evolved, the 2008 ordinance set forth a process by which the ordinance's initial standards would be regularly updated by staff upon ratification by the Regional Planning Commission.

However, during the last update cycle, the Building Industry Association (BIA) urged the Commission not to ratify staff's recommendation for two reasons: 1) they argued that the County should fall in line with the rest of the State, and no longer be a leader in energy efficiency; and, 2) they wanted the County's stand-alone green building ordinance to be integrated within the County's building code to streamline the development process and help create jobs.

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____

The proposed ordinance before the Board of Supervisors (the Board) today adopts the BIA's second recommendation. As to the first recommendation, the proposed ordinance continues to protect the County's leadership position by maintaining the requirement that new buildings be 15% more energy efficient than the State's minimum standard. The County's standard would have real environmental benefits: on an annual basis, a large single-family home built in the warmest part of the County would produce 3,148 pounds of CO2 equivalent less than it would produce using the State's minimum standard. The proposed ordinance would therefore reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of a project roughly the size of Newhall Ranch by 66 million pounds of CO2 equivalent every single year. Moreover, according to numbers provided by the BIA, accomplishing this improvement would only add \$1,500 to the cost of a new home—just over one-half of 1% of the median home price in the County.

While the Board should not delay in achieving these environmental and economic improvements, every interested stakeholder must have adequate time and information to understand the proposed ordinance.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors continue Items 73 and 84 for 60 days, and:

- 1) Instruct the Director of the Department of Public Works to, within 14 days, update the cost-effectiveness study to account for expected increases in the cost of electricity, and include all affected building types in that analysis;
- 2) Within the next 30 days, analyze whether, in order to remain consistent with the intent of Los Angeles County's existing green building ordinance, all residential developments of more than four units should be required to comply with Cal Green

Tier 1, and prepare an alternative version of the ordinance that includes this requirement; and,

- 3) Instruct that the updated cost-effectiveness information be posted within 14 days to [green.lacounty.gov](http://green.lacounty.gov) and the websites of the Departments of Regional Planning and Public Works, and that a summary of the updated cost-effectiveness information be included within the updated Board letter.

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