

Date: 10/25/2013
From: Wendy DiPeso <wdipeso@gmail.com>
To: GA SBCC (GA)
Subject: Solar categorical exemption from proposed fire setbacks

Please adopt ALL of the recommendations that came from the technical advisory group, including an exemption from setback requirements when solar panels cover less than 40% of the home's roof area.

Without that exemption systems would be smaller in size and many homes with multiple roofs would be unable to, cost effectively, install any solar at all.

The setbacks are not necessary to fire safety since most solar installations are only installed on one side of the structure.

Requiring most potential solar installations to get fire official review before proceeding would put undue hardship on the solar contractors. It would seriously hurt sales in one of the few growing industries in the state.

These fire setback codes MAY be appropriate for California, where they were developed without public or industry input, but our typical installation is far different from theirs.

Thanks so much for listening.

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