

Katherine Douglas *Public Comment*

From: theo howe <theohowe@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2025 8:10 PM
To: laura@lauracapps.com
Cc: sbcob; ghart@countyofsb.org; bob.nelson@countyofsb.com
Subject: SB County permitting Re: Residential EVSE

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Theo Howe
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4/04/25

Supervisor Laura Capps
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Fourth Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Supervisor Capps,

I am writing to express my concern regarding Santa Barbara County's current permitting process for residential Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS). California Assembly Bill 1236 (2015) and Assembly Bill 970 (2021) mandate that local jurisdictions adopt an expedited and streamlined permitting process for EVSE installations. These laws aim to promote the adoption of zero-emission vehicles by facilitating the timely and cost-effective deployment of charging infrastructure.

However, it has come to my attention that our county requires applicants to complete the comprehensive Master Building Permit Application for EVSE installations, rather than utilizing an expedited process as required by state law. This approach not only places an undue burden on homeowners and electricians but also hinders the broader adoption of electric vehicles in our community.

Electric vehicles play a crucial role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, and decreasing our dependence on fossil fuels. By streamlining the permitting process for residential EVSE installations, we can encourage more residents to make the transition to electric vehicles, thereby contributing to a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

I respectfully urge you and the Board of Supervisors to take immediate action to align Santa Barbara County's permitting procedures with the requirements set forth in AB 1236 and AB 970. Specifically, I request the adoption of an ordinance that establishes an expedited, streamlined permitting process for EVSE installations, including the development of a checklist of all requirements for expedited review, as outlined in the state's guidelines.

By implementing these measures, Santa Barbara County can demonstrate its commitment to environmental stewardship and support the growth of clean transportation options for its residents.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your leadership in facilitating the adoption of electric vehicles in our community.

Sincerely,

Theo Howe
Howe Electric