



City Council Staff Report

Subject: Adoption of the 2025 Edition - California Building and Fire Codes

Date: October 14, 2025

Submitted By: Mike McGee, Chief Building Official
David Mohlenbrok, Director of Community Development
Reginald Williams, Fire Chief

Department: Community Development

Recommendation:

Introduce, Waive the Full Reading and Read by Title Only an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Rocklin Repealing and Reenacting Chapter 15.04 of the Rocklin Municipal Code, and Adopting by Reference: The 2025 California Building Standards Code, Incorporating the 2025 California Building Code, Residential Code, Energy Code, Historical Building Code, Existing Building Code, Green Building Standards Code, Reference Standards Code, and Administrative Code; the 2025 California Plumbing Code, Mechanical Code, Electrical Code and Fire Code; the 2024 International Property Maintenance Code; the 2024 Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa and Hot Tub Code, and Adopting Amendments Thereto, Making Findings and Directing the City Clerk to File a Copy Hereof with the California Building Standards Commission of the State of California.

Background:

In California there is a State mandated code adoption process promulgated by the Building Standards Commission. This process updates codes every three years, or sooner as necessary. The Building Standards Commission adopted the International Building Code (IBC) as well as the International Residential Code (IRC). The code adoption went through an extensive public review process that culminated in a final version for statewide implementation. This code is now mandatory in the State of California, however, there continues to be allowances for the City to adopt localized amendments to address local conditions of terrain, geology and climate. The proposed Ordinance includes the City's traditional Fire Department local amendment pertaining to a prohibition of open burning which would otherwise be permissible under current State codes. In addition, the proposed Ordinance includes an exception to the Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa and Hot Tub Code regarding barrier requirements because those are enforceable through the California Swimming Pool Safety Act (California Health and Safety Code, sections 115920 – 115929).

The 2025 editions of the California Building and Fire codes have been adopted by the Buildings Standards Commission and will become effective statewide on January 1, 2026. Although there are provisions in the codes that make adoption by default, it is recommended

that the City adopt these most recent versions of the California Building and Fire Codes by Ordinance to allow the inclusion of a local amendment that would prohibit open burning. It is also recommended that the City adopt the most recent version of the Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa Code and Hot Tub Code with an exception regarding barrier requirements to allow enforcement of those to align with the California Swimming Pool Safety Act. A list of the more significant changes that would be applicable to projects in Rocklin includes, but is not limited to:

- A new Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Code aimed at reducing the risk of wildfires has been created by consolidating previous wildfire-related construction and vegetation management requirements and imposing stronger defenses against wildfires through exterior wall coverings, roof vents and decking materials.
- A new Energy Storage Systems (ESS)/Lithium-Ion Battery Storage section for more stringent fire protection requirements for facilities manufacturing, using or storing lithium-ion batteries, such as additional permitting and inspections, higher level fire rating requirements, and added requirements for fire suppression, detection, ventilation and structural separation.
- A new Powered Micromobility Devices (e.g., e-bikes, e-scooters, hoverboards, electric skateboards) code that defines and regulates these devices and prohibits commercial charging of them within residential occupancies.
- New enhanced Fire Safety Systems such as Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm integration for buildings that have both a fire alarm system and carbon monoxide alarms will now be required to interconnect the CO alarm with the building fire alarm system, and CO alarms must now activate both audible and visual notifications, and two-way communication systems in stairways, elevators, and at horizontal exits.
- New Energy Code updates including new energy metrics for measuring building energy performance, an expansion of the use of heat pumps and the encouragement of electric-readiness in newly constructed residential buildings, and green building initiatives that incorporate rules for rainwater collection systems and smart technology that can automate energy management and safety.
- Updates to structural load calculations to fine-tune safety margins for structural loads including snow loads, wind loads, and the anchorage of non-structural components.

The proposed Ordinance which would adopt the most recent versions of the California Building and Fire codes, associated administrative regulations and a local amendment, would become effective on January 1, 2026.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct fiscal impact to the staff recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS:

[1. Ordinance](#)