



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 18, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Netra Khatri, City Engineer

PREPARER: Netra Khatri, City Engineer

DATE: January 11, 2023

TITLE: **Introduce Ordinance No. 1563 Amending the Arcata Municipal Code Title VIII—Building Regulations, to Adopt Chapter 5—Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Permit Streamlining; Adopt Residential and Non-Residential Checklist for Permitting Electric Vehicles and Electric Vehicle Service Equipment (EVSE); Find CEQA Exemption.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1) Introduce Ordinance No. 1563 Amending the Arcata Municipal Code Title VIII—Building Regulations, to Adopt Chapter 5—Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Permit Streamlining; waive reading of the text, and consent to read by title only;
- 2) Find that adoption of Ordinance No. 1563 is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines for the reasons stated in Ordinance No. 1563; and
- 3) Adopt the Residential and Non-Residential Checklist for Permitting Electric Vehicles and Electric Vehicle Service Equipment (EVSE).

INTRODUCTION:

An electric vehicle charging station is any level of electric vehicle supply equipment station which delivers electricity from a source outside an electric vehicle into a plug-in electric vehicle. AB 1236 may refer to the recommendations in the most current version of the “Plug-In Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Permitting Checklist” of the “Zero-Emission Vehicles in California: Community Readiness Guidebook” published by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to promote and encourage the use of electric vehicles by creating an expedited, streamlined permitting process for electric vehicle charging stations while promoting public health and safety and preventing specific adverse impacts in the installation and use of such charging stations. The intent of this ordinance is to encourage the installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations by removing obstacles to permitting for charging stations so long as the action does not supersede the Building Official’s authority to address higher priority life-safety situations.

BACKGROUND:

Assembly Bill 1236 and AB 970, Government Code Sections 65850.7 and 65850.71, require jurisdictions to establish procedures for expedited, streamlined processes for permitting of electric vehicle charging stations. Section 65850.71 includes the requirement for a jurisdiction with a population less than 200,000 residents to adopt an ordinance for the expedited, streamlined process on or before January 1, 2023. Even though not adopted timely, the building department is reviewing Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) permits in timely fashion, to date there were no delays on issuance of EVCS permits. As required by AB 1236, proposed Ordinance 1563 has been reviewed by the Arcata Fire Protection District.

This process includes the establishment of a checklist containing objective requirements for the installation of an electric vehicle charging station and a process for electronic submittal of permit applications. A copy of the City checklist prepared in partnership with the Arcata Fire Protection staff is included as Attachment A.

DISCUSSION:

Adoption of Ordinance No. 1563 will streamline permitting process for electric vehicle charging stations and help reduce the City's reliance on environmentally damaging fossil fuels. If introduced, the Ordinance will be brought back for Council adoption on February 1, 2023.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):

This ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, the common sense exemption. The Ordinance implements state-mandated legislation aimed at reducing the reliance on fossil fuels, reducing green house gas emissions, and encouraging the use of fuel-efficient electric vehicles by requiring the ministerial issuance of building permits for installation of electric vehicle charging stations. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the adoption of this Ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

Not applicable as there is no immediate financial impact as a result of this ordinance.

ATTACHMENTS:

Ordinance 1563 EVCS (PDF)
Attachment A EVCS Checklist (PDF)