

ORDINANCE NO. 2026

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF AN EXPEDITED PERMITTING PROCESS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS.

(ADDS Chapter 16.42, Title 16, to the MERCED COUNTY CODE)

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MERCED, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Chapter 16.42, Title 16, is hereby added to the Merced County Code to read as follows:

Chapter 16.42

EXPEDITED PERMITTING FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

Sections:

- 16.42.010 Purpose.
- 16.42.020 Definitions.
- 16.42.030 Permitting Process.
- 16.42.040 Installation Requirements.
- 16.42.050 Inspections.

16.42.010 Purpose.

- A. Consistent with Government Code Section 65850.7, the Deputy Director - Buildings shall implement an expedited administrative permit review process for electric vehicle charging stations and adopt a checklist of all requirements with which electric vehicle charging stations shall comply with in order to be eligible for expedited review. The expedited administrative permit review process and checklist may refer to the recommendations in the checklist prescribed by 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 County's adopted checklist shall be published on the County's website.
- B. The County of Merced Building and Safety Division shall adopt an administrative, nondiscretionary expedited review process consisting of checklists for electric vehicle charging stations. The checklists shall set forth all requirements with which the electric vehicle charging stations must comply in order to be eligible for expedited review. The Deputy Director - Buildings is hereby authorized and directed to develop such checklists and procedures.
- C. The electric vehicle charging station permit process and checklists shall substantially conform to the recommendations for expedited permitting, including the checklists contained in the most current version of the "Zero-Emissions

Vehicles in California: Community Readiness Guidebook” adopted by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

- D. The Deputy Director - Buildings may modify the checklists found in the “Zero-Emissions Vehicles in California: Community Readiness Guidebook” due to unique climatic, geological, seismological, or topographical conditions.
- E. The checklists for electric vehicle charging stations adopted by the Building and Safety Division, as well as all other required permitting documentation shall be published on the County's website. If the Deputy Director - Buildings modifies the checklists and standard plans found in the “Zero-Emissions Vehicles in California: Community Readiness Guidebook,” the deputy director shall document the unique climatic, geological, seismological or topographical conditions requiring such modifications and shall also include such documentation on the County's website.

16.42.020 Definitions.

- A. "Electric vehicle charging station" or "charging station" means any level of electric vehicle supply equipment or electric vehicle charging station that is designed and built in compliance with Article 625 of the California Electrical Code, now existing or hereinafter amended, and delivers electricity from a source outside an electric vehicle into a plug-in electric vehicle.
- B. "Specific, adverse impact" means a significant, quantifiable, direct and unavoidable impact, based on objective, identified and written public health or safety standards, policies or conditions as they existed on the date the application was deemed complete.
- C. "Electronic submittal" means the utilization of one (1) or more of the following:
 - 1. Electronic mail or email; or
 - 2. The Internet; or
 - 3. Facsimile.

16.42.030 Permitting Process.

- A. The expedited, streamlined permitting process for electrical vehicle charging equipment shall comply with the applicable requirements contained in Section 16.42.040 of this Code and all of the following:
 - 1. The Deputy Director - Buildings shall implement an expedited, streamlined permitting process for electric vehicle charging stations, and adopt a checklist of all requirements with which electric vehicle charging stations shall comply with in order to be eligible for expedited review.
 - 2. The checklist and required permitting documentation shall be published on a publicly accessible internet website.
 - 3. As allowed by available resources, the Building and Safety Division shall allow electronic submittal of a permit application and associated documentation and shall allow electronic signature in lieu of a wet signature.

4. Building and Safety Division shall determine whether the application and supporting documentation are complete and meet all requirements of the California Building Standards Codes and then shall promptly approve or deny the application in writing.
5. Prior to submitting an application for processing, the applicant shall verify that the installation of an electric vehicle charging station will not have specific, adverse impact to public health and safety and building occupants. Verification by the applicant includes, but is not limited to, electrical system capacity and loads, electrical system wiring, bonding and overcurrent protection, building infrastructure affected by charging station equipment and associated conduits, locations of charging station equipment, and vehicle parking.
6. If the application is approved, the Building and Safety Division shall issue all required permits.

16.42.040 Installation Requirements.

- A. Electric vehicle charging station equipment shall meet the requirements of the California Electrical Code, the Society of Automotive Engineers, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association and accredited testing laboratories such as Underwriters Laboratories, and rules of the Public Utilities Commission or a Municipal Electric Utility Company regarding safety and reliability.
- B. Installation of electric vehicle charging stations and associated wiring, bonding, disconnecting means and overcurrent protective devices shall meet the requirements of Article 625 and all applicable provisions of the California Electrical Code.
- C. Installation of electric vehicle charging stations shall be incorporated into the load calculations of all new or existing electrical services and shall meet the requirements of the California Electrical Code. Electric vehicle charging equipment shall be considered a continuous load.
- D. Anchorage of either floor-mounted or wall-mounted electric vehicle charging stations shall meet the requirements of the California Building or Residential Code as applicable per occupancy, and the provisions of the manufacturer's installation instructions. Mounting of charging stations shall not adversely affect building elements.

16.42.050 Inspections.

- A. The inspection shall be completed in a timely manner.
- B. If an electric vehicle charging station fails inspection, a subsequent inspection is authorized but need not conform to the requirements of this section.

SECTION 2: NUMBERING

The sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered as necessary to accomplish inclusion of this ordinance in the Merced County Code. The word “ordinance” may be changed to “section,” “article,” or other appropriate word.

SECTION 3: EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective and be in full force on and after thirty (30) days of its passage and adoption, and prior to the expiration of fifteen (15) days from the passage and adoption thereof, shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation printed and published in the County of Merced, State of California, together with the names of the members of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Merced, voting for or against the same.

SECTION 4: VALIDITY

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, word, or phrase of this ordinance is held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declare that they would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, word or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, words, or phrases be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

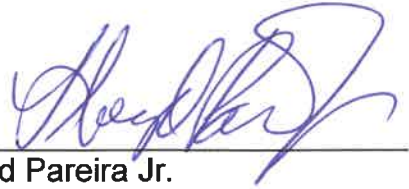
The foregoing ordinance was passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Merced, State of California at a regular meeting thereof held on the 13th day of December, 2022 by the following vote:

SUPERVISORS

AYES: Lloyd Pareira, Jr., Rodrigo Espinosa, Josh Pedrozo, Daron McDaniel, Scott Silveira

NOES: None

ABSENT: None



Lloyd Pareira Jr.
Chairman, Board of Supervisors


ATTEST:

RAUL LOMELI MENDEZ
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By  _____
Deputy



APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:
FORREST HANSEN,
MERCED COUNTY COUNSEL

By:  _____
Deputy