October 20, 2020

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Proposed ordinance to amend Marin County Code Title 19 (Building Code) to expedite Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) permit processing as mandated by the State of California.

Dear Supervisors,

RECOMMENDATION:
Initiate an amendment to the Building Code adding provisions for streamlined electric vehicle charging station permitting by taking the following actions:

1. Read proposed Ordinance by title only.

SUMMARY:
Electric vehicles (EVs) are a critical component of Marin’s efforts to meet local greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, improve local air quality, and address climate change. The proposed ordinance outlines changes to the Building Code to streamline the process of permitting EVSE, commonly referred to as EV charging stations. These code changes are mandated by California Assembly Bill 1236, which requires local agencies to adopt an ordinance that creates an expedited and streamlined permitting process for electric vehicle charging systems.

The County’s Building Department currently issues permits for residential EV charging stations through an online self-serve electrical permit and will continue to do so. This is a cost-effective and time-sensitive way to allow residents to supply Level 2 charging at their homes. An electrical permit is required to install a “Level 2” charging station which requires a 240 volt outlet. “Level 1” charging, in comparison, is available through a standard 120 volt wall outlet. Level 2 charging adds about 25 miles of Range Per Hour (RPH), while Level 1 charging only adds about 4 miles of Range Per Hour.

This ordinance and the associated checklist reduces existing barriers to larger EVSE projects, such as those at commercial and multifamily properties, including Level 3 “fast chargers,” which can fully charge most electric vehicles in about thirty minutes. This ordinance creates a clear outline of requirements for these larger EVSE installation projects and support consistent best practices for permit applicants. Under the revised permitting process, a commercial or multifamily EVSE building permit application deemed complete and in accordance with the applicable permit submittal requirements, including payment of permit fees, shall be reviewed and either processed and approved for issuance, or, if determined to be deficient, shall be conveyed back to the submitter, along with a list of deficiencies to be corrected, no
later than the end of the third business day following a submitted application that is deemed compete.

This ordinance also creates a place in the Building Code for future efforts to streamline permitting processes, which can be an important step to reducing barriers to adoption of green alternatives. The County has promoted the adoption of electric vehicles in multiple ways throughout the years, including:

- Installing 66 publicly available charging stations at six County locations, including 34 stations at the Civic Center and 24 stations at the Emergency Operations Facility.
- Increasing the number of EVs in the County’s fleet to 17 and installing 20 fleet charging units at three County locations.
- Promoting the adoption of Electric Vehicles and available incentives in partnership with energy efficiency outreach events.

**FISCAL/STAFFING IMPACT:**
This action does not impact the General Fund.

**REVIEWED BY:**  
(These boxes must be checked)

- [ ] Department of Finance  
- [ ] N/A
- [X] County Counsel  
- [ ] N/A
- [ ] Human Resources  
- [X] N/A

**SIGNATURE:**  

Alice Zanmiller  
Planner

Approved by:

William Kelley  
Deputy Director

**Attachments:**

1. Ordinance
2. Residential and Non-Residential Checklist for Permitting Electric Vehicle Service Equipment (EVSE)