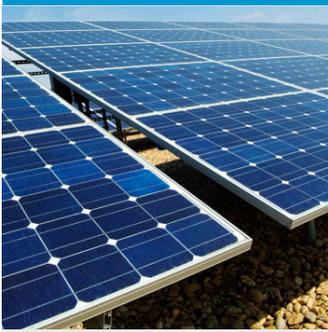


# Solar Photovoltaic & Stationary Storage Battery Installations



**SINGLE-FAMILY & DUPLEX PROPERTIES** - Save \$40 on the permit fee by getting it online at [www.sjpermits.org](http://www.sjpermits.org) (only for qualifying projects).

**TO SCHEDULE AN INSPECTION:**

- For permits secured online, use [sjpermits.org](http://sjpermits.org) to schedule the inspection.
- For all other projects, call the Development Services Center: (408) 535-3555

**IF YOUR PV OR SSB PROJECT NEEDS A . . .**

Planning Permit,  
call 408-535-3555

Public Works Permit,  
call 408-535-3555

Fire Department Plan Review,  
call 408-535-7750

Permits and inspections check for compliance with building and safety codes; help assure the quality of your remodeling investment; and are required by law.

**Development Services Permit Center**

San José City Hall  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San José, CA 95113  
408-535-3555

[www.sanjoseca.gov/building](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/building)

The required plans and permits for installing a solar photovoltaic (PV) or stationary storage battery (SSB) system vary according to the type of property and the type of energy system.

NOTE: Rooftop panels and stationary storage battery equipment must be installed to minimize visual impacts and must meet the minimum development standards prescribed in **Municipal Code Title 20**.

## QUALIFYING SINGLE-FAMILY/DUPLEX PV & SSB PROJECTS

Qualifying projects on single-family and duplex properties can secure a permit online at [www.sjpermits.org](http://www.sjpermits.org); in addition to convenience and saving \$40 off the regular permit fee, you can schedule the inspection online when you're ready.

The City Inspector will review the electrical plan at the project site on the day of inspection if the project qualifies by meeting ALL of the criteria for the respective project:

For Solar Photovoltaic Projects:	For Stationary Storage Battery Projects:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Must be a rooftop installation</li> <li>▪ Total panel weight including frame is less than 5 pounds per square foot</li> <li>▪ Maximum concentrated load at each point of support is less than 40 pounds</li> <li>▪ Maximum height above the roof surface is less than 18 inches</li> <li>▪ PV panels are not ballasted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Must have an approved Stationary Storage Battery Masterfile for bracket anchorage with the City's Building Division.</li> <li>▪ Construction documents matching the approved Masterfile for bracket anchorage must be provided to the City Inspector at time of inspection.</li> </ul>

If the project does NOT meet all of the above criteria, you must follow the requirements outlined below for All Other PV/SSB Projects.

## ALL OTHER PV/SSB PROJECTS

For multifamily, non-residential, and non-qualifying single-family/duplex projects, submit a **Building Permit Application** with plans to the Permit Center (no appointment necessary) that include:

- Site plan that shows the building footprint, location of the PV panels and/or SSB equipment, and locations of photovoltaic and utility interconnection point
- Building plans that show:
  - Framing plan that shows and specifies existing and new framing/support
  - Details of anchorage, interconnection of elements, and weather proofing of roof perforations
  - Structural calculations verifying capacity of proposed systems to resist vertical and lateral loads as expressed in [Bulletin #265-Equipment Suspended or Mounted on Roofs, Floors or Walls](#).
  - PV non-ballasted installations need to specify the method of mechanical attachment to supporting structural elements. Structural elements include, but are not limited to, roof rafters, trusses, purlins, beams, and blocking. Plywood sheathing and spaced sheathing are not considered structural members.

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- Electrical plans that show:
  - System configuration and location of modules, array, and equipment including location of Balance of System
  - Conduit sizes and routing; location of disconnecting means; and required overcurrent devices
  - Short circuit current and show and summarize open circuit voltage

### OTHER PERMITS MAY BE REQUIRED

- ***PV projects not located on a rooftop require a Planning Permit.*** Call or visit the Permit Center and ask to speak with a planner for instructions on how to proceed. See sidebar for contact info.
- ***PV/SSB projects that use the public right-of-way require a Public Works Permit.*** If the PV or SSB installation entails temporarily occupying right-of-way space or trenching or underground boring in the right-of-way, then you need a **Public Works Permit**. See sidebar on page 1 for contact info.
- ***PV/SSB projects on a commercial or multifamily (3 or more units) property require Fire Department plan review.*** The Fire Department reviews plans for compliance with guidelines issued by the California State Fire Marshall. See sidebar on page 1 for contact info.