

Ordinance No. 5679

Ordinance of the Council of the City of Palo Alto Repealing Chapter 16.16 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code and Amending Title 16 to Adopt a New Chapter 16.16, California Electrical Code, 2025 Edition, and Local Amendments and Related Findings

The Council of the City of Palo Alto does ORDAIN as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 16.16 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code is hereby amended by repealing in its entirety 16.16 and adopting a new Chapter 16.16 to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 16.16
CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL CODE,
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 3**

Sections

- 16.16.010 2025 California Electrical Code, Title 24, Part 3 adopted and amended.**
- 16.16.020 Cross - References to California Electrical Code.**
- 16.16.030 Local Amendments.**
- 16.16.040 Adoption of SECTION 89.101 GENERAL.**
- 16.16.050 Article 89.101.3.3 Exempted from This Code.**
- 16.16.060 Article 89.101.4 2025 California Electrical Code Annexes adopted.**
- 16.16.070 Administration & Enforcement of 2025 California Electrical Code.**
- 16.16.080 Article 110.13 Mounting and Cooling of Equipment.**

16.16.010 2025 California Electrical Code, Cal. Code of Regs., Title 24, Part 3 adopted and amended.

The California Electrical Code, 2025 Edition, Title 24, Part 3 of the California Code of Regulations together with those omissions, amendments, exceptions and additions thereto, is adopted and hereby incorporated in this Chapter by reference and made a part hereof the same as if fully set forth herein.

Unless superseded and expressly repealed, references in City of Palo Alto forms, documents and regulations to the chapters and sections of the former California Code of Regulations, Title 24, 2022, shall be construed to apply to the corresponding provisions contained within the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, 2025. Ordinance No. 5568 of the City of Palo Alto and all other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby suspended and expressly repealed.

Wherever the phrases "California Electrical Code" or "Electrical Code" are used in this code or any ordinance of the City, such phrases shall be deemed and construed to refer and apply to the California

Electrical Code, 2025 Edition, as adopted by this Chapter.

One copy of the California Electrical Code, 2025 edition, has been filed for use and examination of the public in the Office of the Chief Building Official of the City of Palo Alto.

16.16.020 Cross - References to California Electrical Code.

The provisions of this Chapter contain cross-references to the provisions of the California Electrical Code, 2025 Edition, in order to facilitate reference and comparison to those provisions.

16.16.030 Local Amendments.

The provisions of this Chapter shall constitute local amendments to the cross-referenced provisions of the California Electrical Code, 2025 Edition, and shall be deemed to replace the cross-referenced sections of said Code with the respective provisions set forth in this Chapter.

16.16.040 Adoption of SECTION 89.101 GENERAL.

SECTION 89.101 GENERAL of the 2025 California Electrical Code is adopted by the City of Palo Alto as amended herein.

16.16.050 Article 89.101.3.3 Exempted from This Code.

Section 89.101.3.3 is amended as follows (additions underlined; sections omitted without change noted by [. .]):

89.101.3.3 Exempted from This Code.

This code does not cover:

1. Installations in ships, watercraft other than floating dwelling units, railway rolling stock, aircraft, automotive vehicles, commercial coaches, mobile homes, and recreational vehicles.

[. .]

7. **ADDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS:** Electrical work that is exempt from permits pursuant to Palo Alto Municipal Code Section 16.04.110, Section 105.2 Work exempt from permit.

16.16.060 Article 89.101.4 2025 California Electrical Code Annexes adopted.

The following Annexes of the California Electrical Code, 2025 Edition, are adopted and hereby incorporated in this Chapter by reference and made a part hereof the same as if fully set forth herein:

- A. Annex B – Application Information for Ampacity Calculations
- B. Annex C – Conduit, Tubing, and Cable Tray Fill Tables for Conductors and Fixture Wires of the Same Size
- C. Annex I – Unit Recommended Tightening Torque Tables from UL Standard 486A - 486B

16.16.070 Administration & Enforcement of 2025 California Electrical Code

Administration and enforcement of this code shall be governed by Chapter 1, Division II of the 2025 California Building Code as amended by Palo Alto Municipal Code Chapter 16.04.

16.16.080 Article 110.13 Mounting and Cooling of Equipment.

Article 110.13 (A) (1) of Article 110 of the California Electrical Code is added to read:

110.13 (A) (1) Concrete Slab Supporting Electrical Equipment. When electrical equipment is to be placed on a concrete substrate, a 4-inch concrete housekeeping pad shall be installed to elevate and protect the equipment.

SECTION 2. The Council adopts the findings for local amendments to the California Electrical Code, 2025 Edition, attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 3. The Council finds that the changes or modifications to the California Electrical Code adopted by this ordinance are substantially equivalent to changes or modifications that were previously filed by the governing body of the City and were in effect as of September 30, 2025, and are therefore exempt from the moratorium on new residential building standards imposed by Assembly Bill 130 (2025).

SECTION 4. The Council finds that this ordinance is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), pursuant to Section 15061 of the CEQA Guidelines, because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the amendments herein adopted will have a significant effect on the environment.

SECTION 5. If any section, subsection, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion or sections of the Ordinance. The Council hereby declares that it should have adopted the Ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared invalid.

//

//

//

//

//

SECTION 6. This Ordinance shall be effective on the thirty-first day after the date of its adoption.

INTRODUCED: OCTOBER 6, 2025

PASSED: OCTOBER 20, 2025

AYES: BURT, LAUING, LU, LYTHCOTT-HAIMS, RECKDAHL, STONE, VEENKER

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

8691CE5898F6400...
City Clerk

Signed by:

880C20B663824E6...
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Signed by:

52E3D6948EBE44D...
City Attorney or Designee

APPROVED:
DocuSigned by:

F2DCA19CCC8D4F9...
City Manager

Signed by:

293CF322E1294F6...
Director of Planning and
Development Services

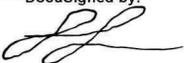
DocuSigned by:

66236E5C20284BC...
Director of Administrative Services

Exhibit A

**FINDINGS FOR LOCAL AMENDMENTS TO CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL CODE,
TITLE 24, PART 3**

Section 17958 of the California Health and Safety Code provides that the City may make changes to the provisions of the California Building Standards Code. Sections 17958.5 and 17958.7 of the Health and Safety Code require that for each proposed local change to those provisions of the California Building Standards Code which regulate buildings used for human habitation, the City Council must make findings supporting its determination that each such local change is reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions.

Local building regulations having the effect of amending the uniform codes, which were adopted by the City prior to November 23, 1970, were unaffected by the regulations of Sections 17958, 17958.5 and 17958.7 of the Health and Safety Code. Therefore, amendments to the uniform codes which were adopted by the City Council prior to November 23, 1970 and have been carried through from year to year without significant change, need no required findings. Also, amendments to provisions not regulating buildings used for human habitation do not require findings.

Code: California Electrical Code, Title, 24, Part 3					
Section(s) or Article(s)	Title	Added	Amended	Deleted	Justification (See below for keys)
89.101	GENERAL	✓			A
89.101.3.3	Exempt from This Code	✓			A
110.13 (A) (1)	Mounting and Cooling of Equipment	✓			C
Annex B	Application Information for Ampacity Calculations	✓			G
Annex C	Conduit, Tubing, and Cable Tray Fill Tables for Conductors and Fixture Wires of the Same Size	✓			A
Annex I	Unit Recommended Tightening Torque Tables from UL Standard 486A - 486B	✓			A

Key to Justification for Amendments to Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations

- A** This is an **administrative** amendment to clarify and establish civil and administrative procedures, regulations, or rules to enforce and administer the activities by the Palo Alto Building Inspection Department. These administrative amendments do not need to meet HSC 18941.5/17958/13869 per HSC 18909(c).
- C** This amendment is justified based on a local **climatic** condition. The seasonal climatic conditions during the late summer and fall create severe fire hazards to the public health and welfare in the City. The hot, dry weather frequently results in wild land fires on the brush covered slopes west of Interstate 280. The aforementioned conditions combined with the geological characteristics of the hills within the City create hazardous conditions for which departure from California Building Standards Code is required.
- G** This amendment is justified based on a local **geological** condition. The City of Palo Alto is subject to earthquake hazard caused by its proximity to San Andreas fault. This fault runs from Hollister, through the Santa Cruz Mountains, epicenter of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, then on up the San Francisco Peninsula, then offshore at Daly City near Mussel Rock. This is the approximate location of the epicenter of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. The other fault is Hayward Fault. This fault is about 74 mi long, situated mainly along the western base of the hills on the east side of San Francisco Bay. Both faults are considered major Northern California earthquake faults which may experience rupture at any time. Thus, because the City is within a seismic area which includes these earthquake faults, the modifications and changes cited herein are designed to better limit property damage as a result of seismic activity and to establish criteria for repair of damaged properties following a local emergency.
- T** The City of Palo Alto **topography** includes hillsides with narrow and winding access, which makes timely response by fire suppression and emergency response vehicles difficult. Palo Alto is contiguous with the San Francisco Bay, resulting in a natural receptor for storm and wastewater run-off. Also, the City of Palo Alto is located in an area that is potentially susceptible to liquefaction during a major earthquake. The surface condition consists mostly of stiff to dense sandy clay, which is highly plastic and expansive in nature. The aforementioned conditions within the City create hazardous conditions for which departure from California Building Standards Code is warranted

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 25D3A92E-A822-47C9-B298-B1441F5C5DA2	Status: Completed
Subject: ORD 5679 - Adopting a New Chapter 16.16, California Electrical Code	
Source Envelope:	
Document Pages: 6	Signatures: 6
Certificate Pages: 2	Initials: 0
AutoNav: Enabled	Envelope Originator:
Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled	Christine Prior
Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)	250 Hamilton Ave
	Palo Alto , CA 94301
	Christine.Prior@PaloAlto.gov
	IP Address: 165.225.242.110

Record Tracking

Status: Original 11/3/2025 3:13:23 PM	Holder: Christine Prior Christine.Prior@PaloAlto.gov	Location: DocuSign
Security Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: StateLocal	
Storage Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: City of Palo Alto	Location: Docusign

Signer Events

Madeleine Salah
 Madeleine.Salah@paloalto.gov
 Deputy City Attorney
 City of Palo Alto
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
 (None)

Signature

Signed by:

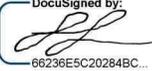
 52E3D6948EBE44D...
 Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style
 Using IP Address:
 2601:645:c681:9a00:30e7:69a0:ac1:7b53

Timestamp

Sent: 11/3/2025 3:17:02 PM
 Viewed: 11/3/2025 4:26:01 PM
 Signed: 11/3/2025 4:26:51 PM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure: Not Offered via Docusign

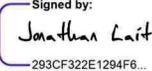
Lauren Lai
 Lauren.Lai@paloalto.gov
 Director Administrative Services/CFO
 COPA
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
 (None)

DocuSigned by:

 66236E5C20284BC...
 Signature Adoption: Drawn on Device
 Using IP Address: 199.33.32.254

Sent: 11/3/2025 4:26:53 PM
 Viewed: 11/7/2025 2:45:37 PM
 Signed: 11/7/2025 2:45:43 PM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure: Not Offered via Docusign

Jonathan Lait
 Jonathan.Lait@paloalto.gov
 Director, Planning and Development Services
 City of Palo Alto
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
 (None)

Signed by:

 293CF322E1294F6...
 Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style
 Using IP Address: 99.88.42.180

Sent: 11/7/2025 2:45:45 PM
 Viewed: 11/7/2025 3:40:30 PM
 Signed: 11/7/2025 3:40:37 PM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure: Not Offered via Docusign

Ed Shikada
 Ed.Shikada@paloalto.gov
 Ed Shikada
 City of Palo Alto
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
 (None)

DocuSigned by:

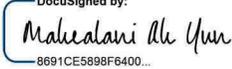
 F2DCA19CCC8D4F9...
 Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style
 Using IP Address: 174.202.6.18
 Signed using mobile

Sent: 11/7/2025 3:40:39 PM
 Viewed: 11/10/2025 10:03:24 AM
 Signed: 11/10/2025 10:03:36 AM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure: Not Offered via Docusign

Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
Ed Lauing Ed.Lauing@palooalto.gov Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	 <p>Signed by: Ed Lauing 880C20B663824E8...</p> <p>Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style Using IP Address: 2601:647:6880:a6f0:68b9:7744:e5a4:d835</p>	Sent: 11/10/2025 10:03:38 AM Viewed: 11/17/2025 8:43:01 AM Signed: 11/17/2025 8:43:25 AM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Not Offered via DocuSign

Mahealani Ah Yun Mahealani.AhYun@palooalto.gov City Clerk Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)	 <p>DocuSigned by: Mahealani Ah Yun 8691CE5898F6400...</p> <p>Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style Using IP Address: 199.33.32.254</p>	Sent: 11/17/2025 8:43:27 AM Viewed: 11/17/2025 6:11:10 PM Signed: 11/17/2025 6:11:20 PM
---	--	---

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Not Offered via DocuSign

In Person Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	11/3/2025 3:17:02 PM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	11/17/2025 6:11:10 PM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	11/17/2025 6:11:20 PM
Completed	Security Checked	11/17/2025 6:11:20 PM
Payment Events	Status	Timestamps