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INNOVATIVE APP REVOLUTIONIZES SOLAR PERMITTING PROCESS

October 3, 2023 – Santa Cruz, CA – The County of Santa Cruz Department of Community Development & Infrastructure is excited to launch Solar APP+, an automated solar permitting process intended to accelerate the expansion of solar projects in unincorporated areas of the county.

To utilize SolarAPP+, contractors submit projects through the platform, where advanced software automates the plan review process. Once the project receives approval, contractors can promptly submit it to the County’s ePermit system and receive an instant permit. SolarAPP+ caters to various eligible projects, including new rooftop solar photovoltaic installations on detached one- and two-family dwellings, townhomes, and related accessory structures such as garages or ADUs. Additionally, systems with a capacity of 10 kW or smaller, which may include related energy storage systems and service panel upgrades, are also eligible for this streamlined process.

Licensed contractors with B-General, C-10 Electrical, or C-46 Solar Photovoltaic qualifications are eligible to utilize SolarAPP+. Some properties, such as those with open code cases, may be ineligible for the program. A full list of eligibility requirements can be found on solarapp.nrel.gov/eligibility/PV.pdf.

SolarAPP+ marks a significant step forward in enhancing the solar industry in the County of Santa Cruz. Simplifying and automating the permitting process supports solar contractors and promotes the adoption of renewable energy solutions in our community.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

The County of Santa Cruz Department of Community Development & Infrastructure serves all unincorporated areas of the county. The department’s mission is to improve customer service, streamline projects, and to align public infrastructure and private development to further County goals in attainable housing, reliable transportation and sustainable environment. For more information, visit

<https://dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us> or follow the department on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Nextdoor](#).