

COUNTY OF TEHAMA

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING & SAFETY

John Stover, Building Official
444 Oak Street, Ste H
Red Bluff, CA. 96080
(530)527-7002 (530)527-2655 fax



444 Oak St. 2nd Floor Room H
Red Bluff, CA. 96080
Tehama County Courthouse Annex
e-mail: building@co.tehama.ca.us

Electrical Policy #1

Subject: Building Department Electrical Meter Policy

Section 90.4 of the California Electrical Code grants the Building Official the authority to enforce and interpret the Electrical Code, along with the ability to approve equipment and materials, and for granting special exemptions or exceptions to the Code. The California Electrical Code only regulates the minimum size of an electrical service; therefore, in order to provide clarity in the regulations and control the maximum service sizes and usage allowable, this written policy has been created. Only the following electrical service (meter main) panels and maximum amperages typically will be permitted and approved.

Requirements:

- 1) Single family and multi-family residences, apartments, motels, hotels etc.
- 2) Commercial buildings and Industrial buildings.
- 3) Accessory buildings (i.e. garage, carport, storage building, pump house, barn, studio, greenhouse) if the electrical service is also serving a single family, multi-family, commercial or industrial building.
- 4) An accessory building over 200 square feet in size and located more than 500 feet from the main building service if the main structure is a single family residence, multi-family, commercial or industrial building, etc.
- 5) An accessory building over 200 square feet and in conjunction with a County Use Permit with an allowed commercial service approved by PG&E.
- 6) Cell towers.
- 7) An agricultural well on a parcel of land zoned and used for agricultural, rangeland, forestland, or timber production purposes and servicing the agricultural use.
- 8) Frost protection machines used in conjunction with an agricultural use.
- 9) A septic pump serving a permitted building when the electrical service is located more than 500 feet from the main permitted structure.
- 10) Domestic water wells serving a legal permitted dwelling unit.
- 11) Single circuit or two circuit services that are used in conjunction with an accessory building, cell tower, agricultural well, frost protection, septic pump or domestic well. (i.e. # 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 listed above)
- 12) Other buildings and structures when approved by the Building Official on a case by case basis.

Only the following electrical service maximum amperages will be typically permitted or approved.

- 1) Single or multi-family residence, apartments, motels, hotels, etc.----- 200 amperes per unit
- 2) Commercial----- 200 amperes or amount shown by load calculations from a licensed electrical engineer or contractor.
- 3) Industrial-----200 amperes or amount shown by load calculations from a licensed electrical engineer or contractor.
- 4) Accessory buildings also serving a primary use-- ----- 200 amperes
- 5) Accessory buildings with a primary use on the property----- 100 amperes
- 6) Agricultural or domestic wells and septic pumps----- 70 amperes
- 7) Frost protection machines----- 70 amperes
- 8) Cell Towers----- 200 amperes
- 9) Single circuit service to an electric gate or car charger----- 20 amperes
(These services shall only be capable of providing one circuit breaker.)
- 10) Two circuit service serving two of the uses above----- 70 amperes
(These services shall only be capable of providing two circuit breakers.)
- 11) Replacement services may be energized at the same ampere as the original service.
- 12) Other ampere ratings when approved by the Building Official on a case by case basis.

Notes:

- * Multiple meter mains and amperages as listed above for future use may be permitted and installed, however, the only meters that will be approved to be energized will be the meters serving the items above that have been constructed and approved by permits from the Building Official.
- * Connection of an unpermitted or unapproved use to an electrical service is justification for the Building Official to order a disconnection of electrical energy to the service.
- * Types of services and tariffs are subject to PG&E regulations.

This policy is derived from Section 104.1 of the California Building Code which authorizes the Building Official to render interpretations of the code and adopt policies and procedures to clarify the application of its provisions.

Dated: March 26, 2013

John Stover

**John Stover
Director, Building Official
Tehama County Building & Safety**