

CSI-Thermal Program Contractor Resources



Center for Sustainable Energy™



Guidance for Updated CSI-Thermal Online Application

Background

Assembly Bill (AB) 797 (Irwin, 2017)¹ extends the California Solar Initiative (CSI) Thermal Program for two years and requires changes to program budget allocations for low-income residential housing, disadvantaged communities (DACs) and industrial solar thermal applications. As CSI-Thermal Program Administrator in the San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) service territory, the Center for Sustainable Energy is supplying this guidance to program applicants about modifications to the online application tool required by AB 797.

Disadvantaged Communities

AB 797 requires that 50 percent of total program funds be reserved for solar thermal installations in low-income residential housing or buildings in disadvantaged communities (DACs). It is important that projects located within DACs indicate this on the application, even if they do not qualify for the higher low-income rebate level, to assure incentives are debited from the appropriate program budget.

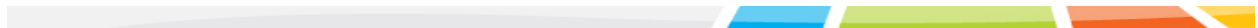
The “Project Site” section of the online application has been updated to allow the applicant to manually select if the project site is in a DAC. **Please select “Yes” or “No” for each project application.**

Project Site	
Site type	<input type="radio"/> New Construction <input type="radio"/> Retrofit
Site address	<input type="text"/>
Site city	<input type="text"/>
Site state	California ▾
Site zipcode	<input type="text"/>
Site county	----- ▾
Project is located in a Disadvantaged Community ?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Size By	<input type="radio"/> Bedrooms <input type="radio"/> Occupants

[Copy from Project Site](#)

The user can click on the blue and white question mark icon next to the prompt for more information on the definition of a disadvantaged community. The information box also contains a link to the Office of

¹ Assembly Bill (AB) 797 (Stats. 2017, Ch. 473)



Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's [CalEnviroScreen 3.0 online tool](#) for identifying DACs. The online tool includes a layered map that allows the user to enter the Project Site address into a search box in the upper right corner and easily see if it is in a DAC.

Wood Burning Backup Water Heater Type

Although under AB 797 "Wood Burning" is now an option as the Backup Water Heater Type in the Program Administrator section of the online application, it only applies in communities in the San Joaquin Valley identified by the California Public Utilities Commission.

Communities in the SDG&E service territory are not eligible for this option, so program eligibility remains only for customers currently using natural gas for water heating.

If you have any questions about this expanded eligibility, please contact the CSI-Thermal Program Administrator for the appropriate service territory.

Industrial Applications

AB 797 also requires that 10 percent of the total program funds be reserved for industrial applications. No changes to the online application tool were necessary to accommodate for this, as the definition of "industrial applications" is limited to Process Heating end uses. Therefore, any project that selects "Process Heating" as an end use, which is currently an option in the online application, will be debited from the Industrial Applications budget.

If you have questions about the CSI-Thermal Program, contact

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