

Permitting Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Scorecard:

All cities and counties, including charter cities, in California are required to comply with AB 1236 (2015) and AB 970 (2021).

	Scoring Criteria:	Complete if:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>1. Streamlining Ordinance Ordinance creating an expedited, streamlined permitting process for electric vehicle charging stations (EVCS) including level 2 and direct current fast chargers (DCFC) has been adopted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Streamlining ordinance has been adopted
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>2. Permitting checklists covering L2 and DCFC Checklist of all requirements needed for expedited review posted on city or county website.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Permitting checklist is available and easily found on city or county website
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>3. Administrative approval of EVCS EVCS projects that meet expedited checklist are administratively approved through building or similar non-discretionary permit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The streamlining ordinance states that permit applications that meet checklist requirements will be approved through non-discretionary permit (or similar)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>4. Approval limited to health and safety review EVCS project review limited to health and safety requirements found under local, state, and federal law.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The streamlining ordinance states that no discretionary use permit is required and permit approval will be limited to health and safety review
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>5. Electronic signatures accepted AHJ accepts electronic signatures on permit applications.*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Electronic signatures accepted on City or County website (usually specified in the ordinance)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>6. EVCS not subject to association approval EVCS permit approval not subject to approval of an association (as defined in Section 4080 of the Civil Code).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The streamlining ordinance states that EVCS permits do not require association approval
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>7. One complete deficiency notice AHJ commits to issuing one complete written correction notice detailing all deficiencies in an incomplete application and any additional information needed to be eligible for expedited permit issuance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The streamlining ordinance dictates that a written correction notices must detail all deficiencies

*If a city or county determines it is unable to accept electronic signatures on all forms, the permit streamlining ordinance shall state the reasons.

AB 970 timelines:

AHJs are required to meet the EVCS permit review and approval timelines established by AB 970:

- **Projects with 1-25 stations**—5 business days to deem an application complete or incomplete. 20 business days to approve/deny the project after administrative review limited to health and safety. The project will be deemed approved if no action is taken within these timelines.
- **Projects with 26 or more stations**—10 business days to deem an application complete or incomplete. 40 business days to approve/deny the project after administrative review that is limited to health and safety. The project will be deemed approved if no action is taken within these timelines.

AB 970 implementation dates:

- January 1, 2022 for cities/counties above 200,000 residents.
- January 1, 2023 for cities/counties below 200,000 residents.

How scoring works:

Cities and counties that meet at least 6 of the first 7 checklist criteria will be highlighted as streamlined “EVCS Permit Ready” if the missing criteria does not have a negative impact in practice. Jurisdictions must have a checklist posted online (criteria 2) covering both residential and commercial projects in order to be considered streamlined “EVCS Permit Ready.” The checklist (criteria 2) cannot be considered the one missing criteria. All criteria must be verifiable in ordinances, checklists or EVCS permitting webpages.

Prior to AB 970 (2021), local jurisdictions received a bonus point for committing to expedited timelines. All cities and counties are now required to meet the mandatory timelines established by AB 970 and will no longer receive a bonus point. However, GO-Biz will look to develop a way to highlight jurisdictions that move faster than the required timelines described above.

Grading is based on relevant ordinances, checklists, and stakeholder feedback. It is important to note that the intent of this tool is to assess permit streamlining from a holistic perspective. While AB 1236 and AB 970 guide the assessment, this effort is not intended to determine compliance with both laws.

EVCS Permit Ready Score:
Green – City or County is EVCS Permit Ready, charging infrastructure permitting is streamlined
Yellow – City or County EVCS permit streamlining is in progress, or partially complete
Red – City or County is not streamlined for EVCS permitting

Tips on how to streamline (“How to become green”):

Communities do not need to create ordinances and checklists from scratch. California Building Officials (CALBO) offer [AB 1236 compliance toolkits for both small and large jurisdictions](#). These toolkits include model ordinance templates, adoption timelines, and supporting staff reports, as well as a sample permitting checklist.

Furthermore, the [GO-Biz Permit Streamlining Map](#) acts as a repository of streamlining ordinances and checklists of jurisdictions all throughout California. The included information and links can assist cities and counties in crafting ordinance and checklists to become EVCS Permit Ready (and compliant with AB 1236 and AB 970).

Role of GO-Biz:

The GO-Biz ZEV team's goal is to help California jurisdictions streamline electric vehicle charging station permitting to support rapid growth of the ZEV market. We hope this map, and the discussions around it, will help connect resources and amplify best practices.

As the first step, GO-Biz will determine the streamlining status of each jurisdiction using the above checklist based on what we can find online and through stakeholder engagement. If you have information about a city or county that is not reflected in our map please email us ordinances, checklists or other information.

On an ongoing basis, the GO-Biz ZEV team will verify evaluations based on stakeholder and industry feedback (in consultation with the subject city or county). Ultimately, the goal of this tool is to create a collective learning space to support cities, counties, and applicants as we all work towards permitting processes that work well for all parties.

We anticipate that the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Permit Streamlining Map will evolve and improve through time with stakeholder participation and feedback. Please reach out to zev@gobiz.ca.gov for any questions, suggestions, or guidance.

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