



California Solar Permitting Guidebook – Addendum to the Fourth Addition (December 2020)

[AB 754 \(Grayson, 2019\)](#) required OPR to update the Solar Permitting Guidebook to reference existing law ([Government Code §4216.2](#)) requiring project proponents to contact a regional notification center to provide notice of intent to excavate. Developers installing solar energy systems that require excavation to install a grounding rod or other sub-surface infrastructure must comply with this requirement to ensure the safety of the technicians installing the equipment.

This document supports AB 754 implementation by providing an overview of how this requirement affects project proponents and local governments, as well as contact information for California's regional notification centers.

This document provides guidance only and should not be construed as legal advice. OPR provides this technical advisory as a resource for the public to use at their discretion. OPR is not enforcing or attempting to enforce any part of the recommendations or information contained herein.

Notification of Intent to Excavate

California law requires an excavator to notify a regional notification center (as defined in [Government Code §4216.2\(q\)](#)) of their intent to excavate at least two working days, but no more than 14 calendar days, before undertaking the excavation ([Id. §4216.2](#)). This requirement must be taken into consideration during the installation of solar energy systems if the project requires excavation to install a grounding rod or other sub-surface equipment.

Regional notification centers coordinate with utility providers to ensure excavations do not interfere with sub-surface infrastructure, including gas pipelines. Accidental damage to these features can disrupt service delivery or pose significant environmental or health and safety hazards. Regional notification centers identify and delineate the location of sub-surface infrastructure before excavation to avoid potentially costly or deadly incidents.

Local Government Application Requirements

[AB 754 \(Grayson, 2019\)](#) requires local governments, beginning January 1, 2021, to include in their solar energy permit applications a reference to the requirement to contact a regional notification center (Government Code [§65850.5](#)). OPR recommends including contact information for the relevant regional notification center in this reference.

Regional Notification Center Contact Information

Regional notification centers can be contacted by dialing **8-1-1**.

Northern and Central California's regional notification center, USA North 811, can also be reached at **(800) 642-2444**, or notification can also be provided [online](#). USA North 811 serves the following counties: Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba.

Southern California's regional notification center, DigAlert, serves Imperial, Inyo, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties, and can be reached at **(800) 422-4133**. Notification can also be provided [online](#) or through DigAlert's mobile app.