



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

PERMIT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

E-9X

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Electric Meters **(Utility owned)**

INTRODUCTION

This technical bulletin is to provide direction to PRMD staff in regards to the permitting of new utility owned electric meters and electric meter upgrades.

GENERAL

The California Electrical Code (CEC) defines the providing of electricity to a building as a “Service”, commonly referred to as a meter. The CEC further states only one “Service” is allowed to serve a structure.

The size of the “Service” is most often referred to in amps. Typical “Service” sizes for residential use are 100amp, 125amp and 200amp. Typical “Service” sizes for commercial use can range from 200amp up to 1200amp and more.

APPLICABILITY

This bulletin refers to all zoning districts.

Any request for a commercial electrical service requires the zoning of the site to allow such use.

Some of the requirements needed for a second meter may be met through the use permit process.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

1. While the CEC imposes no limit on the size of the “Service” for a structure, local permitting agencies along with local utility providers may confirm the need for higher amp electrical services by asking for load calculations and line drawings.
2. For a “Service” that is greater than 200amps, PRMD requires load calculations and line drawings, prepared and signed by an electrical engineer as part of the submittal package when applying for an electric meter or an electric meter upgrade.
3. Future, proposed, or other projected needs, will not be considered viable loads when justifying amperage needs for a “Service” unless the proposed use is being permitted at the time of application for a “Service”.

4. "Services" of 400amp or greater will not be issued over the counter.
5. When applying for a second meter, utility companies require a separate address from others structures being served by a meter. PRMD views separate addresses as a separate use. Any separate address must meet the Zoning use requirements for that site. Structures that are accessory to the main use will not routinely be issued a second meter as they are secondary and incidental to the main use. See PRMD Policy and Procedure 8-1-9.
6. All 3-phase electrical service requests will be considered a "commercial" service.

REFERENCES

California Electric Code Articles 100 & 230
California Residential Code Chapter 2 definition of Accessory Structure
Sonoma County Zoning Code Section 26-92-210(a)