

Third-Party Backup Power

Plan Review & Inspection Requirements — Senate Bill 1202

Effective September 1, 2025, Senate Bill 1202 allows certain qualified third-party professionals to perform plan review and inspections for qualifying home backup power installations serving one- and two-family dwellings.

IMPORTANT: A City of Keene permit is still required.

What Systems Are Covered?

Residential energy backup systems defined as a backup energy system installed at a residence capable of providing no more than 50 kilowatts of electricity or has a storage capacity of no more than 100 kilowatt-hours.

What Is Not Covered?

- Electric service equipment or panelboard replacements, repairs, upgrades, or similar work.
- Rooftop solar that is not a part of a power production system. (such as photovoltaic solar system)
- Installation, replacement, or extension of feeder or branch-circuit conductors, except those directly associated with and necessary for the qualifying backup power system, as determined by the Building Official.
- Fuel gas piping for generators.

Who Can Perform Third-Party Review or Inspection?

- A licensed Master Electrician meeting Section 1305.153, Occupations Code.
- A licensed electrical inspector as defined by Section 1305.002, Occupations Code.
- A Professional Engineer licensed under Title 6, Subtitle A, Chapter 1001, Occupations Code.

Third-Party Requirements

- Third-party reviewers and inspectors must follow all codes adopted by the City of Keene.
- Plan review and inspection documents must be submitted to the City of Keene within 15 days of completion.
- When a third party is used, that qualified third party is responsible for the plan review and inspection performed and must be completed 15 days from the completion of review or completion of inspection Local Gov. Code 274.004(a)(2)

Administrative fees apply for the intake, maintenance and retention of permits reviewed and inspected by a third party.

SB 1202 — Quick Reference

Do I Have to Use a Third Party?

CITY REVIEW	THIRD-PARTY	PERMIT
Submit plans to the City of Keene for plan review and inspection.	Use a qualified third party authorized under SB 1202.	Regardless of who performs the review or inspection, the required City permit must be obtained.

Utility Releases & Gas Work

Using a third party does not eliminate applicable electrical or plumbing permits or utility release requirements. Electrical work must be performed under the required electrical permit. Gas work, including fuel gas piping for a generator, requires the applicable plumbing permit and inspection by the City as required by state law.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does SB 1202 eliminate the need for a City permit?

No. A City of Keene permit is still required for a home backup power installation.

What is a home backup power installation?

Examples include a standby generator or an energy storage system.

Will the City inspect the backup power system if I use a qualified third party?

No. When a qualified third party is used as allowed by SB 1202, the City does not perform a duplicate plan review or inspection of that qualifying backup power installation.

Can I choose to have the City review and inspect the project?

Yes. The applicant may submit plans to the City of Keene for review and inspection instead of using a third party.

What happens with the electrical utility release?

If a third party is used, the required electrical release inspection must be performed by the qualified third party when applicable. The City will not perform an additional inspection.

Who is responsible for code compliance when a third party is used?

The qualified third party is responsible for the plan review and inspection performed under SB 1202.

Is a separate permit required for a generator gas line?

Yes. Fuel gas work requires the applicable plumbing permit and must be inspected by the City as required by state law. A qualified SB 1202 third party does not replace the state-required plumbing inspection.