

DOCKETED

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2026_08_12 Induction and other wireless connected or hotspot appliances

Please view the hopefully attached pdf.

Thanks.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Wednesday, August 12th, 2026

Dear California Energy Commission BUILD and other Staffers:

I am a member of the public and not associated with the CEC's BUILD project. I do not believe I can be. I live in SMUD territory, have a mostly electric owned townhouse powered by SMUD, with a PG&E natural gas served water heater at this time. I worked for SMUD, 2005-2015.

I heard about the CEC's BUILD project listening to CEC monthly business meetings and saw a few inspiring CEC BUILD project posts on Linked IN. I noticed that the BUILD project assisted a Southern California area to install electric and induction ranges to seniors in one complex recently. I applaud that effort. Thank you.

My income changed enough in 2026, for me to replace my old electric range oven now. The old now removed electric range worked well over the past year, but the old oven had long stopped working. After listening and reading much about induction range/oven improved energy efficiencies, I truly wanted to take this appliance replacement opportunity to upgrade to induction. Since parameters concerning the install were a bit tricky due to a large floor rectangular box outlet [which connects to the wall] and tight cabinet spaces in a tiny kitchen, I prepared the area and spent hours examining various units attempting to determine if any new induction and electric range oven models would not only fit [the floor box outlet too] but also perform well. I am still doing this now.

On July 12th, 2026, I purchased a Samsung induction range/oven "Open Box" model from Best Buy and a BestBuy plan to be able to return the unit within 60 days. The induction range oven unit was installed on July 18th, 2026. Since then however, this particular unit has been off and on displaying an error message "C-F0" which, according to Best Buy support technicians indicates that the control panel is not working well. For a while I was guessing as to what the error message meant while working with Samsung chat technical support. Their support personnel kept having me do a factory reset. There are a couple other issues I guess due to a floor tile front and cement back not being perfectly level and due to the installers removing some of the metal off the back of the new unit before bringing it inside, but I am guessing at this point in time, after having talked to numerous different people that the error code is truly about the control panel. It has been strange to realize that sometimes when I start to take a photo of the unit's error message with my Samsung cell phone, the message suddenly goes off. Despite I have managed to record several error message photos.

There have been other sudden learnings too regarding this particular install, and some general new learnings regarding induction, which is why I felt inspired to communicate now more with the CEC. I wrote about these "learnings" on Linked IN, mostly in the response part of a recent post regarding removing the old e-oven, but will recount some of that information here. Please feel free to respond to this message or respond to that particular L.I. post.

After cooking behind the newly installed induction unit for perhaps 3-4 hours, I experienced a long lasting muscle pain into the late evening. This pain dissipated overnight. I felt fine the next morning. Since I had heard that people with pacemakers ought not use induction cooking, I assumed the pain was heart muscle related. However, per a recent MD, it is suggested that the pain is instead chest muscle and more related using my physical strengths in removing the old oven unit. The MD did not think I needed a stress test and/or to see a cardiac specialist. The MD said that if the muscle pain were heart-related the pain would last and not go away. I easily concur that I experienced chest muscle pain and might not need to proceed with more medical on this issue, however I do not concur that the muscle pain was due moving the old e-oven out. I exert much physical energy often and the muscle pain did not occur until several days after the old e-oven was removed. I think the muscle pain was more due to the newer unit being much more powerful and wireless [with electromagnetic fields, EMF] than one might expect and due to not realizing all the induction safety rules and/or that the unit may have been attempting to connect to a satellite and/or cell tower, while cooking. Also, I previously endured ionizing radiation [2011] to the chest area, and had a few bouts of prior unusual chest rib pain afterwards, so it is possible that my chest muscles/tissues are compromised. EMF is said to be cumulative and that may be because of prior tissue/organ damage.

Around 2005-2016, I attended a Building Biologist seminar conference in which I heard in gossip-like talk that machine frequency is thought to be more dangerous to humans than radio frequencies. I have nothing to verify this, but my old EMF meters have different settings, some more tailored to machine frequencies than radio frequencies. It is fairly easy to imagine that machine frequencies, i.e., vibrations, can be more dangerous to the human body, noticing how difficult it is to grow plants near an operating large HVAC system though. I believe that old gossip and thus might believe that induction cooking, especially with a unit that becomes its own "hotspot" might expose a cook to 2 different types of EMF, one more dangerous than the other to the human body. Fortunately or unfortunately, EMF in my kitchen appears more dangerous due to a nearby cell tower than to the induction appliance.

It may be my mind imagining and/or exaggerating concepts that do not exist and/or which are completely unrelated, but when I talked regarding this purchase and after I finally made the induction appliance purchase it seemed there were local badly impactful community reactions too. I noticed one salesperson did not sign a proposed purchase possibility and walked away initially for a while. In a way, it seemed that most discouraged choosing induction. The prices seemed to reflect that too. I noticed that though induction installers are considered certified or verified by their particular manufacturers, they do not necessarily have knowledge of the particular unit being installed. Repair places also have restrictions on which brands they will service.

I had several small daily items ripped off and/or put in an unknown location while volunteering at a food bank last week. This easily may be unrelated, but making a big purchase like that, which many others might not endorse, and with what seems to be a wide and unfortunate lack of personal privacy, including from those who are lower income and/or impoverished, is something I never expected to attempt to ameliorate. This is a problem California may need to consider ameliorating too, and especially if California wants consumers to install induction.

I fear over-reacting, and that is part of the reason I am communicating with the CEC. I got out my old EMF meters, which may not record 5G, and noticed that most of the meter readings were not too bad if one keeps a little distance from the induction range oven. But this is tricky to perform as an old home cook and requires knowledge of that distance. I might doubt that I will re-experience long lasting chest muscle pain cooking behind induction again, but I feel I have experienced the chest muscle pain feeling slightly again after cooking for shorter time periods. Again though, I fear over-reacting and my mind's 'gremlins', but at this point I might go back to installing a more basic electric range oven, before my Best Buy installment time period finishes around September 12th-ish. This more recent personal plan may or may not appear logical to CEC ideals. I do not want to affect the stock market badly either, but who knows, maybe going backward will bring positive effects to the stock market. If this backwardness bothers the CEC, please write back as soon as possible.

NOTE: The Samsung induction range works well, does not vibrate badly, seems highly efficient, has a beautiful fingerprint/scratch-proof surface and the entire unit is as aesthetically pleasing as one can possibly imagine an oven can be at this time. I love all that. It is fun and gorgeous for an appliance. However, it seems similar to a hugely powerful computer, including many error messages and possible idiosyncrasies, which

seems to be much more than I need as a home cook. I also fear that the unit and other appliances of this high tech. existence will not last as long as other standard old-fashioned ovens. Being more senior [62] and having gone through one long time period [2015-2025] of being of extremely low income, I am not certain I ought to experiment more with fancier than old fashioned purchases with my current still limited low to middle income.

This recent install and possible soon removal experience reminds that giving the consumer and installers [who might not be aware of anything different than the consumer] all the safety details adequately and often makes a lot of sense. Though I am novice and not an expert at installing induction and/or new electric ranges that are considered "SMART," I have some ideas due to past encounters with powerful machines [including a very powerful cell phone which may have caused retinal detachment symptoms when first creating its settings] and wireless technology which might hamper biology.

Here are my suggestions, please feel free to counter these with more expert and proven concepts:

1). I noticed old CEC induction research, TN-234914 from 9/25/2020, for example, that seems relevant. This research covers electromagnetic field human exposure and induction pots needing to cover the entire burner specified area. The research suggests not to use metal utensils too. I encourage re-sharing this publicly and frequently perhaps on social media, but re-interpretted with updated public awareness campaign-like and appealing, simplified graphics. Many people are not as sensitive as I might [?] be, but if they get older and/or experience more 'life-damping' body/mind conditions they might want to heed and prevent later problems, not only to themselves but others.

2). I encourage notifying consumers that most new electric ovens and induction ranges come with WIFI settings and that turning that WIFI off - which seems advisable while cooking nearby - probably requires personal time, patience, possible reading/listening skills and energy. If one is concerned about computer systems soaking up more of one's time, "Buyers Beware" for example, because it appears some units are potentially capable of taking up one's week or two or three. It seems possible that interference to other household devices can happen too. [My Macbook's internet capabilities seem impacted badly and my Comcast television box failed in the past few weeks after the Samsung induction unit arrived.] Turning the unit's WIFI off so that one's oven does not

get hacked by strangers nearby, and/or that oven's newer EMF field does not attract more urban fires might also be something to consider publicly sharing finally.

3). I advise putting EMF FCC safety distance information directly on a label on WIFI connected ranges and ovens, perhaps on a consumer-visible-while-operating-the-range label that is permanent and similar to other permanent oven labeling. I believe the 240 Volt Samsung induction model, which becomes a "hotspot," I am currently working with, perhaps temporarily, shares an 8" distance. Cooking with one's body at this distance is something that requires much more thought/dexterity than past ranges/ovens which were not wirelessly capable. I suggest having cooks consider less cooking and walking away from their units if possible, while things are cooking, to prevent over-exposures.

4). Provide more obvious WIFI install and safety connection information, considering that a unit may be connecting to a cell tower or satellite.

5). Suggest to appliance designers to make new range/oven designs with a manual, mechanical on and off switch on the appliance, which can completely powers down the appliance and its WIFI system. Perhaps 2 separate manual switches would be advised to be on the newer units: one for turning on and off the unit's WIFI and one which turns everything else off on the unit.

6). If any appliances require turning on and off outside meter panel breakers, beware please that some old residential, which have aluminum rather than copper buss bars, may be existing under more fragile conditions than obvious. If we cannot switch off an appliance indoors by unplugging [which is difficult due to weight, size and possible other restrictions] and must resort to turning on and off potentially fragile breakers, consumer may incur other unexpected costs, e.g., a new meter panel. When my old oven/range unit stopped working well and because another small kitchen appliance electrical burned out the next week making a surprisingly large popping sound, my residential electrical meter panel became more suspicious. I paid for my townhouse electricity [installed 1984] to be inspected and then eventually paid for an electrical meter panel replacement. The old residential panel already had a history of being unsafe per electricians. I was fortunate that e-panel replacement did not become more expensive too due to existing direct buried service wires.

7). I do not know if there are CEC BUILD staffers or related stakeholders who love induction so much that they are willing to reach out and make induction and WIFI connected electric oven support groups and/or a website for consumers to react with,

but though I truly believe in support groups already I feel even those concepts may not work after chest muscle experiences at this moment in time. Plus I am having a tough time believing powerful corporate interests, including those of my healthcare system.

Thanks for taking the time to think about the consumer and their experiences with newer induction and WIFI connected range/oven devices/appliances, especially units which become "hot spots."

Sincerely,

Claire Zuma

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