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*Comment Received From: James R. Tuleya
Submitted On: 2/19/2020
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Strong Support for Reach Codes across All Nine Local Jurisdictions

Dear California Energy Commissioners,

On behalf of Carbon Free Silicon Valley (â€œCFSVâ€), this comment expresses our strong support for the proposed Local Ordinance Applications that will be considered tomorrow, February 20th. We urge you to approve each clean energy â€œReach Codeâ€ local ordinance for Santa Rosa, Berkeley, Windsor, Mountain View, Windsor, Milpitas, Healdsburg, Palo Alto, Los Gatos, and Brisbane.

CFSV is a regional collaboration of local climate leaders in Silicon Valley. Together we work with our local clean energy agencies, municipal utilities, and elected officials across Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties to ensure Silicon Valley leadership in achieving aggressive greenhouse gas reductions. We seek a thriving, carbon-free Silicon Valley, especially since what we do in our well-known area can help lead others in our State and across the U.S. to follow our regional example.

Many members of our group have had direct involvement in educating local public officials about the benefits of all-electric, or at least mostly-electric, new construction, and have advocated for these important Reach Codes in five of these nine local jurisdictions. We much appreciate your support of the thoughtful local deliberations that went into developing these Reach Codes that are important steps needed to address the climate crisis.

A swift transition away from fossil fuel use is necessary to avoid the very worst and irreversible impacts of climate change. Preventing the use of fossil fuels, including natural gas, in new construction will create more affordable, cleaner, healthier, and more resilient housing and buildings for communities throughout California.

Greatly reducing or eliminating fossil gas use in new buildings not only is needed to stop making the problem worse, but also is critical to help develop the market capacity for all-electric building and renovations—arguably the much harder nut for all of us to crack to meet our State climate action goals. We can then be in a better position for a carefully planned, equitable path to retrofits of existing buildings that will take advantage of lower costs and a more-knowledgeable contractor workforce.

We hope you will move forward to approve all nine local ordinances before you (19-BSTD-06).

Sincerely,
James Tuleya, Chairperson, Carbon Free Silicon Valley