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Comment Received From: Abby Young

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BAAQMD Comment Letter

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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Jack P. Broadbent EXECUTIVE OFFICER/APCO

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October 19, 2020

California Energy Commission Docket Office, MS-4 Re: Docket No. 19-BSTD-03 1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 95814 docket@energy.ca.gov

RE: All-Electric Buildings for the 2022 Building Energy Efficiency Standards Update

Dear Commissioners:

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) is writing to express support for an all-electric baseline in the California Energy Commission's (CEC) 2022 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Energy Code).

The Air District appreciates the CEC's efforts to encourage the use of heat pumps, however, the current proposal is insufficient to shift the market to all-electric new construction at the speed and scale needed to address the climate crisis. The Air District urges the CEC to set strong decarbonization requirements by requiring all-electric new construction.

The next Energy Code the CEC adopts will apply to buildings constructed between 2024 and 2026. These buildings will continue to extend the natural gas infrastructure and support use of natural gas well beyond the State's target years for carbon neutrality (2045) and for achieving an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (2050).

In the absence of State leadership on this issue, it has been left to local governments to develop and adopt their own electrification reach codes – as 35 jurisdictions throughout the State already have. The Bay Area is home to over 100 cities, most of them small and many of them under-resourced. Local governments do not have the staff resources or expertise to research and develop their own local reach codes, so they look to the State for leadership. A 2022 State Energy Code that includes an all-electric baseline would relieve local governments of this burden, allowing them to focus their resources on other critical issues.

An all-electric 2022 Energy Code would also improve air quality and health outcomes for the residents of California. In addition to carbon dioxide and methane, leakage and combustion of natural gas in buildings releases toxic air contaminants, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and particulate matter, creating indoor and outdoor pollution that significantly harms air quality and public health.

The Air District enthusiastically encourages the CEC's development of an allelectric 2022 Energy Code and looks forward to collaborations in our shared pursuit of a healthy, equitable and carbon-free California. For further information on the Air District's Building Decarbonization Program, please contact Advanced Projects Advisor Jakub Zielkiewicz, at izielkiewicz@baaqmd.gov.

Sincerely,

Jack P. Broadbent

Executive Director/APCO

Cc: Board of Directors, BAAQMD

Jah P Brodley