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The CEC should require all-electric buildings for new construction in the 2022 code cycle

To be a leader in the fight against the climate crisis, California must take more aggressive action in the building sector, as the building sector has the largest potential for significantly reducing GHG emissions. One of the most straightforward pathways to achieving emissions reductions in the building sector is through the decarbonization of new buildings, a finding corroborated by the CEC's Building Decarbonization Assessment. However, this is not the path your agency has decided to pursue in this code cycle despite the state's 2045 climate goals. Waiting 3 more years before requiring new buildings to be all electric under title 24 will lock us into 3 million additional tons of CO₂ by 2030. This is time that we cannot afford in battling this crisis, and emissions that could easily be avoided. The cost savings to builders and tenants of building decarbonization is also significant; E3's 2019 study, Residential Building Electrification in California, finds that across six different climate zones in California, the capital costs for all-electric single-family and low-rise multifamily buildings are cheaper than their natural gas alternatives. In addition to the climate impact, gas in homes and buildings can have numerous negative impacts on the health and safety of CA residents. A meta-analysis looking at the association between gas stoves and childhood asthma found children in homes with gas stoves have a 42% increased risk of experiencing asthma symptoms (Lin et al., 2013). The reasons for the decarbonization of new buildings now are innumerable and significant. I urge you to do the right thing for California and require new buildings be all-electric in the 2022 code cycle.