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**RMI, Earthjustice, Sierra Club, NRDC Comments on 15-day Express Terms**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



July 26, 2021

*Via online submission*

California Energy Commission  
Docket Office, MS-4  
1516 9th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

**Re: Comments on Proposed 15-Day Express Terms 2022 Energy Code - (Docket No. 21-BSTD-01)**

Dear Commissioner and Staff:

RMI, Sierra Club California, Earthjustice, and NRDC submit the following comments on the proposed 15-day Express Terms for the 2022 Energy Code (“2022 Express Terms”). As the world bears witness to the devastating impacts of the climate crisis now occurring across the globe, it is critical that California demonstrate leadership in rapidly moving away from the state’s dependency on fossil fuels. The 2022 Express Terms mark a major step forward in moving new construction away from gas and toward safer, clean, and more efficient buildings. As the Energy Commission finalizes the 2022 Energy Code, it is critical that the significant progress that has been achieved in the proposed code be retained with no weakening of proposed provisions. We highlight specific proposed improvements in this code cycle that are necessary to further California’s climate, health, and air quality goals.

- 1) Use of HPWHs as baseline for single family homes in most climate zones. We appreciate that the Commission has responded to concerns expressed in our comments on the Draft Terms and now includes Climate Zone 10 among the climate zones with heat pump water heaters (“HPWHs”) in its baseline. This is a meaningful improvement to the 2022 Express Terms that will advance clean and efficient all-electric construction in western Riverside and eastern San Diego counties.
- 2) The strengthened and expanded electric-ready requirements for water heating, space heating, cooking, and drying will ensure that new homes fueled by gas will be able to affordably upgrade to electric appliances in the future. Importantly, the 2022 Express Terms also require new homes that are not built with a HPWH to have the necessary space and plumbing to ensure future ease of installation.

- 3) Inclusion of heat pump space heating in baseline for single-zone HVAC systems typically used in multifamily and small non-residential buildings in almost all climate zones.
- 4) Differentiated ventilation requirements in residential and multifamily kitchens depending on fuel type of cooking range.

We urge the Commission to maintain these impactful features so that California can begin to reap the benefits of transitioning to all-electric buildings when the code goes into effect in 2023. We look forward to working with the Energy Commission on the implementation phase of this code and related incentive programs to ensure as much new construction is all-electric as possible leading into the next code cycle. As our organizations have made clear, the urgency of the climate crisis demands an immediate end to gas system expansion. We urge the Commission to commit to achieving this critical objective by ensuring that in the 2025 update of the building code, both heat pump space and water heating is in the performance baseline for new construction in all building types, as well as for additions and alterations.

Sincerely,

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