

DOCKETED

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Comments Responding to August 27, 2019 IEPR Workshop on Energy Efficiency and Building Decarbonization

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

September 24, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

California Energy Commission

Re: Docket No. 19-IEPR-06

1516 Ninth Street

Sacramento, California 95814-5512

Re: Comments Responding to August 27, 2019 IEPR Workshop on Energy Efficiency and Building Decarbonization

Johns Manville and Alcal Specialty Contracting, Inc. appreciate the opportunity to submit these limited comments on the matters discussed in the August 27, 2019 IEPR Workshop on Energy Efficiency and Building Decarbonization. We applaud the Commission and their staff for facilitating these vital conversations.

While we certainly understand how important decarbonization is to achieve the State's energy and environmental goals, energy efficiency will continue to be critically important. Improving an existing building's energy efficiency yields substantial emissions reductions, reduced heating and cooling costs, improved occupant air quality (IAQ) and other important non-energy benefits. The State needs to appropriately allocate its limited resources to achieve maximum emissions reductions through energy efficiency improvements and those desired non-energy benefits.

By providing cost effective energy efficiency retrofits to existing poor-performing homes, the State additionally benefits disadvantaged communities, increases comfort and health by improving indoor and outdoor air quality, enables integration of additional solar on the grid, and achieves climate resilience and energy equity. There are millions of poor-performing homes in California, some of which were retrofitted thanks to the Coachella Valley project. That project, which was funded by the South Coast AQMD, retrofitted 2,100 homes in eastern Riverside County. It proved so successful the AQMD has adopted it as a formal Air Pollution Control Measure that it will use in demonstrating reasonable further progress in meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and fine particulates.

We are currently in the process of expanding the Coachella Valley project to add additional energy efficiency features, including work to air seal attic floors, deep bury HVAC ducting and install smart/learning thermostats. This will be done in the Coachella Valley and the San

Fernando Valley. Both areas encompass historically disadvantaged communities. As you consider various strategies for decarbonizing California's economy and the need to increase energy efficiency in existing buildings and ways to double energy efficiency savings by 2030, we must ensure the State's policies reach these disadvantaged communities, and others across the State.

As important as these retrofits are, they are also the foundation for more advanced programs to follow. One such program would network the newly energy efficient homes as part of a thermal energy storage system, which we want to pilot in 2020. The program is representative of our overall approach to energy efficiency and energy equity. We believe EV charging infrastructure and community solar gardens are not what many of these communities need most in the face of a changing climate. Instead, couple proven building science principles with Silicon Valley innovations to make homes more resilient to climate change and harvest their previously wasted energy in a way to integrate more renewables on the grid.

As members of the private sector, we favor exploring new business models and market-based solutions where California businesses and residents benefit directly from the energy savings and all the NEBs we achieve in simple but effective residential retrofits.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter, and for the Commission's hard work on improving California's energy efficiency and decarbonization.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory Sutliff
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