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*Comment Received From: Diane Bailey
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Support for Reach Codes in Santa Rosa, Berkeley, Windsor, Mnt View, Windsor, Milpitas, Healdsburg, Palo Alto, Los Gatos & Brisbane

Dear California Energy Commissioners,

On behalf of the Campaign for Fossil Free Buildings in Silicon Valley (â€œFFBSVâ€), this letter expresses our strong support for the proposed Local Ordinance Applications that will be considered tomorrow, February 20th. We appreciate the significant outreach and thoughtful debate that occurred in each of the cities with local ordinances seeking your approval. 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.

FFBSV is comprised of 30 organizations working together to support an accelerated phase out of fossil fuels in buildings (please find more information at www.FossilFreeBuildings.org). 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.

As many California cities and counties (27 in total as of today) adopt policies that avoid Fossil Gas in new construction, they are benefiting from a parallel trend of grid decarbonization. The cities seeking your approval for local ordinances favoring all-electric construction are already served with nearly carbon free electricity. The rest of the state will catch up with carbon free power by 2045, making these policies a smart step for all cities in California.

Cities and counties are recognizing how important going fossil-free is to community health, safety, and a stable climate future. Reach Codes offer many advantages with all-electric construction, including:

â€¢ All-electric homes are less expensive to build (saving at least \$10,000 or more for a single-family home).

â€¢ All-electric buildings are healthier and safer for occupants. Gas is a leading cause of structure fires, burns, and carbon monoxide poisoning. And gas cooktops contribute to indoor air pollution. Cooking with gas releases fine particulate matter, smog-like compounds, and formaldehyde; it is also known to exacerbate asthma.

â€¢ All-electric buildings are a highly visible and practical step forward to address the climate crisis, by breaking the cycle of fossil fuel dependency in buildings. Each new electric home saves up to 4 tons of carbon per year.

â€¢ All-electric buildings are generally faster to design, permit, and build. They save design time, the code is easier for building and planning staff to apply, and it is also

easier for everyone to understand.

â€¢ All-electric code today prevents a complex, costly switch to electricity in the future, since gas prices are expected to rise sharply, and California is planning to eventually end gas distribution. PG&E has asked for a 24% gas rate increase and SoCal Gas, a 42% increase, over the next couple years, and this is just the beginning. Building all-electric now helps future-proof cities.

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

Sincerely,
Diane Bailey, Executive Director, Menlo Spark