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Public Comment - Item 6 Local Ordinance Applications

Dear Members of the CEC,

I am speaking to you as the Co-Chair of the Bay Area Chapter of the Climate Reality Project. I am also speaking to you as a LEED AP BD+C credentialed architect practicing in California.

We, the Climate Reality Project Bay Area Chapter, support the adoption of these reach codes. It's time for the CDC to build off local leadership and take electrification further by setting an all-electric baseline for new construction in the 2022 Building Code.

WE'RE ASKING THE ENERGY COMMISSION TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE HEALTHY HOMES & BUILDINGS STANDARD IN CALIFORNIA

Californians breathe the dirtiest air in the nation. The housing built this decade should solve that problem - not exacerbate it. But the fact is, gas appliances make it harder to breathe.

Gas stoves fill homes with much of the same pollutants contained in car exhaust - and children living in homes with gas stoves have a 42% increased risk of asthma. Levels of Nitrogen Dioxide in homes with gas stoves are up to 400% higher than in homes with electric stoves.

Replacing all residential gas appliances with clean electric alternatives would cut air pollution enough to save 350 lives and \$3.5 billion in health costs every year.

Not having access to air conditioning is already a major health risk in Southern California - a risk that will only grow. Building new homes with heat pumps to provide both space heating and cooling ensures everyone - regardless of income or housing type - has access to air conditioning.

Pollution from buildings is responsible for more premature deaths annually in the U.S. than any other pollution source - including transportation and power generation. The burning of fossil fuels, including gas, inside homes is largely to blame. The Energy Commission has a responsibility to rein in this pollution.

WE CAN BUILD MORE HOUSING, MORE QUICKLY AND MORE AFFORDABLY BY AVOIDING POLLUTING GAS

The state's housing affordability crisis demands that we make every effort to reduce building costs while speeding up housing production. Foregoing gas hook ups allows for a faster building process and developers can save tens of thousands of dollars in up front costs to install gas lines and on energy savings by choosing to build without gas.

Analysis in San Francisco found building a 2,500sq foot all-electric home would reduce building costs by \$12,500 compared to a home that uses gas - and that the resident would save over \$9,000 over the lifetime of the home on lower energy bills.

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT TO POWER OUR BUILDINGS WITH RENEWABLE

ELECTRICITY.

Gas appliances are responsible for over 50 million tons of greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution annually - and there's no way we can hit our climate targets while continuing to burn gas. Gas has now overtaken coal as the number one source of climate-warming pollution nationwide.

Recent analysis from illustrates that postponing electrification for three more years would result in an additional three million tons of avoidable carbon emissions by 2030 - the equivalent of putting 650,000 more cars on the road for a year - as well as \$1 billion in unnecessary spending on new gas connection infrastructure.

Moving to electric appliances is popular among Californians. A statewide poll found that 70%

of Californians prefer all-electric appliances powered by clean electricity to appliances powered by fossil gas.

Fossil fuel-free homes and buildings are already becoming standard in California. In just 12 months, cities representing nearly 10% of the state's population have committed to gas-free new construction - with more cities joining all the time. These cities have proven that there is a demand to move off of gas in favor of renewables.

The Energy Commission must now step in and take this policy statewide to create consistency.

We also need to align our building code with our climate policies. California has already found gas to be incompatible with our climate targets, and the Public Utility Commission has kickstarted a process to guide that transition.

Locking in more fossil fuel infrastructure to deliver gas to homes through the 2020s runs counter to the state's climate targets and drives up costs that will fall on low-income Californians.

WE NEED A BUILDING CODE THAT CONTRIBUTES TO A SAFER CALIFORNIA

To make good on Gov. Newsom's promise to close the dangerous Aliso Canyon gas storage facility - and to protect residents living near other facilities like Playa del Rey - we must lower gas demand.

A code that continues the expansion of the gas system and drives up demand continues to allow these communities to be in harm's way.

The infrastructure required to deliver gas to homes is a constant safety threat - especially in earthquake prone California. In the 1994 Northridge 6.7-magnitude earthquake, 50% of the fires were caused by gas.

A SoCalGas whistleblower let the gas company know seven years ago, and recently informed other state regulators, that there's a likelihood of catastrophic loss of life if a major earthquake was to hit the Aliso Canyon region. It's not a matter of if, but when. We need that facility closed - and gas infrastructure set on a managed decline - as soon as possible.

We should be focused on reducing these risks - not making them worse by adding MORE gas infrastructure.

Thank you for taking these important actions on behalf of the people of California,

Antonina Markoff

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