

DOCKETED

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As a California resident, I urge you to adopt an all-electric code for new construction beginning in the 2022 code cycle. An incremental approach is completely inadequate to address the public health and climate crises. We need you to act swiftly to protect our health, safety, and climate and promote equity by ensuring that new buildings do not perpetuate the use of fossil gas infrastructure.

- Health: The use of gas appliances, particularly gas stoves, degrades indoor air quality and harms health. Children living in homes with gas stoves are 42% more likely to experience symptoms of asthma.
- Safety: Gas is a leading cause of structure fires, burns, and carbon monoxide poisoning, causing half of all fires post earthquakes.
- Climate: Fracked gas releases methane at every step of the production cycle, making "natural" gas more destabilizing to the climate than coal.
- Equity: Communities of color and low-income communities are disproportionately harmed by the extraction and storage of gas as well as the combustion of gas in the home, leading to inequitable health outcomes and increased mortality from COVID-19.

There is no justification for continuing to build with dangerous and destabilizing gas when affordable and highly efficient electric appliances are readily available, including induction cooktops and heat pumps. The market is ready, it just needs a clear signal from the CEC.

Bill McKibben wisely notes that, when it comes to the climate crisis, "Winning slowly is the same as losing." Don't fail our children by punting this necessary change to future code cycles. Take action now to initiate a just transition to all-electric new buildings so our children can have a healthy environment today and a livable climate tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,
Karen Kirschling

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Please reply to Karen Kirschling at kumasong@excite.com.

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