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We need an all-electric building code

I am urging the adoption of an all-electric code to get the gas out of new buildings. An all-electric standard will reduce climate emissions and air pollution, benefit public health, and reduce the costs to build and operate new buildings, including new homes.

The current CEC proposed update falls wildly short of what California needs to make an impact.

The CEC's current proposal only requires electrification of a single electric appliance – either an electric heat pump water heater or an electric heat pump space heater. Further, the appliance for electrification would be the one that uses the least energy in a given climate zone. For example, a typical home in San Diego burns between 4 to 5 times more gas for water heating than space heating. But by replacing only the space heater, the San Diego home could still be built with polluting gas dominating the fueling for appliances.

The CEC must rise to this moment, protect California's ecosystem, demonstrate climate leadership, and commit to an all-electric standard in the 2022 code.