

*Comment Received From: CITY OF WATSONVILLE
Submitted On: 1/26/2022
Docket Number: 21-IEPR-03*

**Public Comment on the CEC Draft Scoping Order for the 2021
Integrated Energy Policy - Gas Demand Forecast**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



City of Watsonville

"A Community of Opportunities"

January 26, 2022,

Andrew McAllister
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re: Public Comment on the California Energy Commission's Draft Scoping Order for the 2021 Integrated Energy Policy Report, Volume III [Docket No. 21-IEPR-03]

Dear Commissioner McAllister and Commission Staff:

The City of Watsonville has the following comments:

1. The City strongly supports the consideration to modify or eliminate the gas utility obligation to serve. This is one of the biggest obstacles to neighborhood scale residential electrification.
2. The potential quantity of renewable gas and the viability of renewable gas as a replacement for natural gas is overemphasized in the report. The City owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant and a landfill and has extensively evaluated renewable gas options. We believe that renewable gas has a very small role to play in our future energy landscape.
3. The City recognizes the electrification of buildings (and transportation) as the most practical path to carbon neutrality. This work needs to be accomplished in a cost-effective and equitable manner. The job creation potential from electrification is very high, and most importantly, these jobs will likely be filled by local residents. We oppose a focus on hydrogen because electrification is a solution that currently exists and can be implemented immediately.
4. The City has adopted the ambitious goal of net negative emissions by 2030 and recognizes that the State goal of net negative emissions by 2045 is insufficient to adequately address climate change. The City encourages the CEC to adopt a more aggressive carbon neutrality goal that reflects the reality of the climate crisis.

Thank you for your consideration of these suggestions.

Sincerely,

Steve Palmisano
Assistant Director of Public Works and Utilities
City of Watsonville