

**DOCKETED**

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## **Immediately implement Phase II of the HEEHRA rebate program**

The following comment was emailed on 12/18/24 to IRaresidentialenergyrebates@energy.ca.gov. The last time I used that email the response time was two weeks, and my questions weren't answered. The Inflation Reduction Act Residential Energy Rebate Programs in California are not working, and the people of California are paying the price. I am including this email (with some edits) in this docket so that other CEC staff may be able to read it. "Once again, PLEASE ANSWER, WITH SPECIFIC DETAILS, THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS THAT REMAIN UNANSWERED FROM MY PREVIOUS EMAILS DATING BACK TO NEARLY A MONTH AGO:" I still would like an answer to the following question: "I noticed that rebates for the following items listed below, which include an electric range/oven and electric clothes dryer, are already available for multi-family homes in Phase I of HEEHRA. Why aren't they available now for single family homes? Why are these appliances not available for rebates now when these appliances would be exactly the same in single family and multi-family homes? Why are the rebates not available for thousands of people with single family homes until 2025/2026? Phrased another way: The electricity-fueled clothes dryers and stove ranges/ovens that would replace the gas-fueled clothes dryers stove ranges/ovens would essentially be the same in single-family and multi-family homes. For a single family home owner, it makes sense to have the heat pump (which is available now) and the clothes dryer and cooking range/oven installed at the same time. However, the appliances which need to be switched out are only available for multi-family dwellings. Please explain why the rebates aren't available for single family dwellings. Please answer these specific questions because I have to make a decision about whether to wait for rebates very soon."

In addition, if I install the heat pump now, I may need the following items with the rebates: Electrical Wiring --\$2,500, Electric Load Service Center (Electric Panel)\*\* ---- \$4,000. However, these rebates aren't available until 2025/2026! Therefore, I can't afford to install a heat pump now without the wiring rebates. Restricting the availability of appliance and wiring rebates ONLY to multifamily dwellings at this time doesn't make sense.

Also, no contractor in my area wants to be certified because it is too complicated and time-consuming. However, the contractors do have the training and capability to install an electric stove range/oven to replace a gas-fueled range/oven. I need to have this work done now, not two years from now. THE CONTRACTOR ALSO SAID THAT IF HE COULD INSTALL APPLIANCES AND ELECTRIC PANELS IN A MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING, THEN HE CERTAINLY COULD INSTALL ELECTRIC APPLIANCES AND ELECTRIC PANELS IN A SINGLE FAMILY HOME. In his opinion, there was NO NEED FOR A PHASE II to do the same type of work as Phase I for multi-family dwellings.

The workshop for phase II is unnecessary--just make the rebate process for Phase II the same as Phase I. Why would there still be more planning needed two and a half years after the passage of the bill? Last year, we were told that the full program would be initiated by 2024, as I recall, and then it was pushed back to 2026 with no explanation. This is not acceptable to the people who would benefit from this program, and can't wait more years for rebates.

Simplify the process for contractors. Please do this before the end of the year, and definitely before the new administration is in power. Trump and the Republican majority want to rescind the IRA so that most people will receive no rebates at all after waiting for over two years. I spoke to two contractors who know how to install heat pumps, and who know how to switch out gas appliances to electric. They have handled rebates from other programs. Simplify the process so that these contractors in rural California will be eligible to install heat pumps and appliances WITH REBATES. After two and a half years, I am eligible for no rebates whatsoever with this seriously flawed program which is not helping low and moderate income people of California, especially in rural areas. One way to solve this problem is to make the heat pump and other installations retroactive. The CEC website doesn't explain, or provide a citation to IRA, which states WHY the rebates are not retroactive. On a Department of Energy website, it blanketly states that Sec. 50122 of the Inflation Reduction act prohibits retroactive rebates. However, I read that section, and found nothing in the Act which states that rebates can't be retroactive. Please cite the particular passage in the Inflation Reduction Act which prohibits retroactive rebates.

In the meantime, please request that DOE approve before the end of December, 2024, the Phase II HEEHRA program so that rebates can be available during the current Biden Administration. Expert CEC and DOE staff should work together for this emergency implementation of the program.

We are low and moderate income families that would like to do our part to combat human-induced global warming by switching out gas to electric. Why make this difficult to impossible? PLEASE GO INTO EMERGENCY MODE TO GET THIS DONE."