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RTC# 21-1568

Melissa Meslo

From: Sue Bartalo <sbartalo@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 7:59 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment: Reach Codes

Dear Santa Clara City Council,

As a Bay Area resident, I support your efforts to create a comprehensive plan to tackle climate change. As a part of that plan, I urge you to pass both an All-Electric & EV Infrastructure Reach Code at your next meeting.

The council should move towards adopting a single, all-electric baseline for all building types because all-electric buildings are cheaper to build and operate. This includes affordable housing units.

To bolster this point, The CEC's BUILD program, created by SB 1477, will launch in 2021 and provide \$60M in direct incentives and robust technical assistance for new all-electric affordable housing. So the affordable housing community is already starting to build all-electric – motivated by lower costs, government incentives, & reduced pollution.

Additionally, as the price of renewable energy continues to drop and fossil fuels become more expensive, folks living in units with gas hook-ups will end up spending MORE on energy, not less. Electric homes are also cheaper to build so with smart planning we can actually increase the development of affordable housing.

We also know that climate change will more deeply affect low-income individuals, so creating a blanket exemption for affordable housing units could have unintended negative impacts on equity and health. Forcing folks to live in gas-power units exposes them to higher levels of indoor air pollution, during emergencies it takes longer to get power back on to gas homes as opposed to electric homes, and, most importantly, as the price of renewable energy continues to drop fossil fuels will become more expensive. So it is important to make sure all homes are covered under this plan.

Lastly, providing equal access to EV charging is key to ensuring EV adoption. Currently, the vast majority of EV drivers live in single-family housing, and enjoy access to convenient, reliable, and cheap charging at home. So with 40% percent of residents in the city being renters, the lack of access to charging becomes a major barrier to accessing the EV market, even as the up-front cost of EVs are now getting on par with gasoline cars.

These are a few of the reasons why I urge the council to follow the lead of over 20 Bay Area municipalities and pass All-Electric & EV Infrastructure Reach Codes.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sue Bartalo

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