

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kimberly Orbe

**Date Submitted:** 05/05/2022 10:05 AM

**Council File No:** 22-0151

**Comments for Public Posting:** May 5, 2022 200 N Spring St, Los Angeles, CA 90012 RE: SUPPORT - Item # 3 and #6 - Building Decarbonization Dear ECCEJR Committee Members and Councilmembers, The City of Los Angeles has a real opportunity to achieve its zero-carbon emissions and climate goals as named in the Green New Deal by advancing this Building Decarbonization policy. Electrification of new buildings is a cost-effective and socially equitable way cities around California and the United States are reducing GHG emissions, decreasing the cost of housing construction, and protecting public health. As of December 2021, 54 California communities, including the cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, and Ojai, have adopted all-electric building codes for new construction, recognizing the benefits for the climate, air quality, public health, public safety, and housing affordability. In 2022 Pasadena has the opportunity to join these municipalities in taking a significant step to protect public health and the environment for decades to come. Benefits of Building Electrification Health Benefits: Burning gas in homes releases dangerous toxins—including nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitric oxide, and ultrafine particles, as well as formaldehyde and acetaldehyde—leading to air pollution levels in many gas homes that would be illegal if measured outside. Resiliency: Gas in buildings does not contribute to resiliency — and in the face of natural disasters, can be a huge safety liability. Not only are gas lines and leaks a dangerous liability during fires, they typically take longer to get operational again after a safety shutoff or disaster-related inspection and repair, compared to electricity. All-electric appliances can easily be set up to use a backup power source including generators or solar-powered batteries during disasters when the grid is down. Heat pump water heaters can use electricity from rooftop solar to heat water and store it for over 24 hours, so families will have hot water even if the grid is down in case of disaster or when the sun isn't shining. Climate Benefits: The energy used in buildings is the largest source of climate pollution in the world, and here in California, buildings are second only to transportation as the leading source of climate pollution. The bulk of these emissions come from burning fossil fuels such as natural gas and propane to heat our homes and buildings. By replacing polluting gas appliances with clean, electric alternatives,

we can improve air quality and safety in our communities, lower energy bills, use local clean energy resources, and help mitigate the worst impacts of climate change. The Sierra Club supports the Building Decarbonization efforts the City of LA is leading as it has a real opportunity to improve the health and resiliency of its residents and be a model for other regions, states, and countries. Sincerely, Kimberly Orbe Conservation Program Manager Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club



May 5, 2022

200 N Spring St,  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: SUPPORT - Item # 3 and #6 - Building Decarbonization**

Dear ECCEJR Committee Members and Councilmembers,

The City of Los Angeles has a real opportunity to achieve its zero-carbon emissions and climate goals as named in the Green New Deal by advancing this Building Decarbonization policy. Electrification of new buildings is a cost-effective and socially equitable way cities around California and the United States are reducing GHG emissions, decreasing the cost of housing construction, and protecting public health. As of December 2021, **54 California communities, including the cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, and Ojai, have adopted all-electric building codes for new construction, recognizing the benefits for the climate, air quality, public health, public safety, and housing affordability.** In 2022 Pasadena has the opportunity to join these municipalities in taking a significant step to protect public health and the environment for decades to come.

**Benefits of Building Electrification**

**Health Benefits:** Burning gas in homes releases dangerous toxins—including nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitric oxide, and ultrafine particles, as well as formaldehyde and acetaldehyde—leading to air pollution levels in many gas homes that would be illegal if measured outside.

**Resiliency:** Gas in buildings does not contribute to resiliency — and in the face of natural disasters, can be a huge safety liability. Not only are gas lines and leaks a dangerous liability during fires, they typically take longer to get operational again after a safety shutoff or disaster-related inspection and repair, compared to electricity. All-electric appliances can easily be set up to use a backup power source including generators or solar-powered batteries during disasters when the grid is down. Heat pump water heaters can use electricity from rooftop solar to heat water and store it for over 24 hours, so families will have hot water even if the grid is down in case of disaster or when the sun isn't shining.

**Climate Benefits:** The energy used in buildings is the largest source of climate pollution in the world, and here in California, buildings are second only to transportation as the leading source of climate pollution. The bulk of these emissions come from burning fossil fuels such as natural gas and propane to heat our homes and buildings.

By replacing polluting gas appliances with clean, electric alternatives, we can improve air quality and safety in our communities, lower energy bills, use local clean energy resources, and help mitigate the worst impacts of climate change.

The Sierra Club supports the Building Decarbonization efforts the City of LA is leading as it has a real opportunity to improve the health and resiliency of its residents and be a model for other regions, states, and countries.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Orbe  
Conservation Program Manager  
Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Charley Casler

**Date Submitted:** 05/05/2022 08:06 AM

**Council File No:** 22-0151

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a local resident who cares about climate justice, I strongly support item 3, Motion from Council members Raman and O'Farrell that will require all new residential and commercial buildings in Los Angeles to be built so that they will achieve zero-carbon emissions. The evidence is clear. In California, 25% of our greenhouse gas emissions come from the buildings we live and work in. It's time to act. All-electric buildings have better indoor air quality and are healthier for the people who live in them, especially children. They produce less outdoor air pollution by eliminating the risk of gas leaks. They also are more affordable to construct, savings that can be passed on to renters and future owners. For these reasons and more 54 communities across California have already adopted a local building electrification code, including the cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Rosa, and Ojai. I urge the Council to support a strong local policy that limits exemptions and prioritizes implementation by January 1, 2023. Thank you for your service to the community, Charley