



# ECOS

ENVIRONMENTAL  
♦ COUNCIL ♦  
OF SACRAMENTO

Post Office Box 1526 | Sacramento, CA 95812-1526

May 31, 2021

Sacramento City Council  
915 I Street, Fifth Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent via email

June 1, 2021

Re: Comments on Sacramento City Council New Construction Electrification Ordinance

Dear Sacramento City Council Members:

The Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) urges the Sacramento City Council to support the New Construction Electrification Ordinance. This ordinance is an important first step in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and its passage would show we are serious in adopting the unanimous recommendations of the Mayors' Commission on Climate Change.

- **The ordinance is the most effective action Sacramento can take to address climate change.**  
Combustion of natural gas is the sole source of carbon emissions in buildings and their elimination is critical in addressing climate change. By instituting electrification in City codes, Sacramento will be using its most effective lever for community influence. More than 40 California cities have passed similar ordinances, with most already in effect.
- **The ordinance aligns with Regional and State goals.**  
The California Air Resources Board identified municipal action on building electrification as important to meet GHG reduction goals. The California Energy Commission will require electric-ready new construction and favors design requirements for heat pumps. The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District requires all large construction projects be built without gas infrastructure.
- **The ordinance has strong support from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.**  
Besides technical support to City staff, SMUD offers the most generous rebates in the country for building electrification. Moreover, the SMUD Board has adopted a 2030 Carbon Zero Plan, which ensures that electric use will increasingly become carbon-free.
- **The ordinance assists the low-income community and affordable housing.**  
The new construction electrification ordinance will stop the extension of gas lines which will become stranded assets. Affordable housing providers overwhelmingly support sustainability goals such as new construction electrification ordinances. The State provides funding for affordable

housing components such as building electrification. Mutual Housing and other builders have constructed all-electric affordable housing in Sacramento.

- **The ordinance will promote clean indoor air and reduce respiratory illness.**

Gas combustion produces greenhouse gas, but indoor gas cooking also emits NO<sub>x</sub> and CO that harm our health. Children living in a home with a gas stove have an increased risk of developing asthma. Lower-income households are at higher risk of exposure to gas stove pollution, according to CARB.

- **The ordinance sets the stage for future efforts to decarbonize.**

The Mayors' Commission on Climate Change recommends other actions to reduce our GHG emissions. This ordinance will need to be extended to replace gas combustion appliances in existing buildings with electric alternatives, such as heat pumps and induction cooking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph Propper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ralph Propper  
President, ECOS