



December 13, 2024

South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Re: Opposition to Amendments to Rules 1111 and 1121 Banning Natural Gas as an Energy Option

Dear Coalition Members,

On behalf of the Lake Elsinore City Council, I am writing to express our *opposition* to the proposed amendments to Rules 1111 and 1121, which would effectively ban natural gas as an energy option. While we recognize and appreciate California's ambitious efforts to combat climate change, including initiatives similar to Senate Bill 100 (2018), removing natural gas from the energy mix is neither practical nor sustainable at this time. Such a policy would have far-reaching consequences, including significantly higher electricity costs for residents and businesses across the state.

The proposed requirement to replace old furnaces and water heaters exclusively with zero-emission alternatives by 2030 presents significant challenges. Natural gas remains a critical component of California's energy landscape, with consumption far exceeding that of other energy resources and renewables. Mandating such a shift would impose undue financial burdens on homeowners and businesses, particularly during emergency repairs to restore essential services like hot water or heating.

Even with proposed incentives, the funding caps would leave a substantial gap between the actual costs and available assistance, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations, including seniors, low-income families, and small businesses.

In Lake Elsinore, where approximately 11% of our population lives below the poverty line, these policies could result in many residents going without hot water or adequate heating and cooling, particularly during extreme weather conditions. This would seriously harm their quality of life, health, and safety. Moreover, the limited funding for end-user incentives, supply chain issues, and delays in electric equipment availability present further challenges. We also note that the Southern California Gas Company, a leading provider of natural gas in the state, actively supports California's efforts to meet federal air quality standards, decarbonization goals, and net-zero targets.

951.674.3124

130 S. MAIN STREET

LAKE ELSINORE, CA 92530

WWW.LAKE-ELSINORE.ORG

They are working on innovative solutions to deliver clean, reliable, and affordable energy to residents and businesses. In light of these concerns, we urge you to reconsider the amendments to Rules 1111 and 1121. Policies that force an abrupt transition away from natural gas without addressing the associated costs, infrastructure challenges, and equity impacts will create significant hardships for our community and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian Tisdale, Mayor
City of Lake Elsinore

cc: Bob McGee, Mayor Pro Tem
Natasha Johnson, Council Member
Timothy J. Sheridan, Council Member
Jason Simpson, City Manager
Barbara Leibold, City Attorney