

Brianda Negrete

# Public Comment

#2



**From:** Michael Chiacos <mchiacos@cecmail.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 29, 2022 1:46 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Sigrid Wright; Alexis Rizo  
**Subject:** Re: Agenda item #2 CEC Supports a Natural Gas Prohibition  
**Attachments:** County of Santa Barbara Natural Gas Prohibition - CEC Supports 9-29-22.pdf  
**Categories:** Public Comment

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 2022 SEP 29 P 2:48  
 CLERK OF THE BOARD  
 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Dear Honorable Supervisors,

CEC supports Option 4, a Natural Gas Prohibition, for the reasons explained in our attached letter.

Clerk of the Board, please confirm receipt.

Sincerely,

**Michael Chiacos**  
 Director of Climate Policy  
Community Environmental Council  
 1219 State Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara CA 93101  
 (805) 963-0583 x204 | (805) 284-4179 (Cell)

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*CEC advances rapid and equitable solutions to the climate crisis. See our [impact report](#) to learn why we are a 2020 California Nonprofit of the Year, a 2020 City of Santa Barbara Climate Hero, and a recipient of the highest possible ratings from Charity Navigator and Guidestar.*

*CEC (por sus siglas en inglés) avanza soluciones rápidas y equitativas a la crisis climática. Vea nuestro [informe de impacto](#) para saber por qué somos la Organización Sin Fines de Lucro del Año 2020 de California, el 2020 Ciudad de Santa Bárbara Héroe del Clima y tenemos las calificaciones más altas posibles en Charity Navigator y Guidestar.*



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September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara  
105 E. Anapamu St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Agenda Item #2, Building Electrification Ordinance, CEC SUPPORTS Option 4

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

Community Environmental Council (CEC) is a local environmental nonprofit whose mission is to advance rapid and equitable solutions to the climate crisis. CEC supports the staff recommendation for Option 4, developing a local ordinance to prohibit natural gas in new construction, additions and major alterations.

CEC highly encourages the County to pursue a public health and safety ordinance that prohibits natural gas in new construction such as the one adopted by the City of Santa Barbara. "It is an alternative approach to reach codes by adopting prohibitions on gas infrastructure in new construction. This option differs from a reach code in that it does not amend any of the CBSC; rather, it establishes a prohibition of new gas installations. The approach also potentially avoids the necessity for CEC approval. Because the restriction applies only to the construction of gas infrastructure after the point of delivery to property (i.e., after the meter installation), it does not conflict with the California Public Utility Commission's regulatory authority."<sup>1</sup> This approach, recommended by staff, is simpler, longer-lasting, more effective, and provides regional consistency.

All-electric new building construction is the future, with 60 California jurisdictions including the City of Ojai and the City of Santa Barbara having adopted such an ordinance. The County of Ventura, City of Goleta, and City of Carpinteria are also considering similar ordinances. There are numerous co-benefits to transitioning new construction to be all-electric, including improving indoor air quality, health, cost-effectiveness and affordability of new construction, and the potential to generate local new jobs in clean-green tech.

<sup>1</sup> City of Santa Barbara Council Agenda Report, 1/12/21, "[Energy Code Amendments for New Buildings](#)".

The state's electric system is becoming cleaner every year with higher renewable portfolio standards. The County's CCA, Central Coast Community Energy, is moving quickly to a 100% clean and renewable electricity by 2030 by signing contracts for new build solar, wind, geothermal, and energy storage. This will ensure new buildings are powered by zero emission electricity. Local energy generation and storage systems are improving energy reliability and resilience and new highly-efficient heat pump and electric appliance technology is increasingly being adopted with an emphasis on green workforce development. Now is an opportune time to transition away from fossil fuels in new buildings and CEC strongly supports the County to adopt a prohibition on natural gas for new construction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Chiacos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Michael Chiacos  
Director of Climate Policy  
Community Environmental Council