

11/30/2020

Oakland City Council
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Councilmembers,

On behalf of SPUR, I am writing to express support for Proposed Reach Code For All- Electric Construction In Newly Constructed Buildings ([File 20-0824](#)).

SPUR commends the City of Oakland for proposing an expansive policy for the electrification of new construction. The Proposed Code For All- Electric Construction In Newly Constructed Buildings is a critical step towards broader building decarbonization efforts in the region. The urgency to act on measures towards climate resilience have never been more present, as the region experiences the impacts of wildfires and resulting poor air quality, rising temperatures, prolonged drought, and sea level rise.

The proposed building code amendments have potential for great impact. We know that:

- Within Oakland, buildings account for 26% of greenhouse gas emissions, second only to transportation.
- California needs to electrify buildings to reach its climate goals. According to a report commissioned by the California Air Resources Board, for the state to be carbon-neutral by 2045, it needs to expediently move toward all-electric building appliances.
- Electrifying buildings has important health benefits. Indoor air quality is often far worse than allowable outdoor air standards, largely due to emissions from gas cooking. Children in homes with gas cooking have a 46 percent higher chance of having asthma. Improving air quality is particularly important in Oakland, where most of the city is identified by the Air Quality Management District as heavily impacted by air pollution, and asthma rates are among the highest in the county.

We urge the City Council to continue its leadership to establish a more equitable and climate-resilient city by passing the proposed code for all-electric new construction.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this ordinance.

Sincerely,

Laura Feinstein, Ph.D.
Sustainability and Resilience Policy Director

Ronak Davé Okoye
Oakland Director