



July 29, 2021

Mayor and City Council  
Encinitas City Hall  
505 S Vulcan Ave,  
Encinitas, CA 92024  
Via Email

**RE: CAC Recommendations for Encinitas All-Electric Ordinances**

Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

On behalf of Climate Action Campaign (CAC), please accept the following recommendations for Encinitas' upcoming all-electric green building ordinance. CAC is a climate and environmental nonprofit organization based in San Diego and Orange County with a simple mission: to stop the climate crisis through effective policy action.

The climate emergency demands bold action to stop the worst impacts from occurring, and all communities must reach a zero carbon future by 2035 or earlier to have any chance at stopping the climate crisis. Building any new fossil fuel infrastructure today prevents us from achieving that goal and stopping climate change.

Thankfully, Encinitas has a unique opportunity to lead our region to a fossil fuel free future by adopting robust all-electric building ordinance that stops the continued expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure. By going all-electric in new construction, Encinitas can begin to reduce emissions from the city's third largest source of climate pollution—methane gas.

Methane gas is also a dangerous indoor air pollutant, harming our families by worsening asthma and other cardiovascular disorders. Encinitas must do everything in its power to protect our families, climate, and public health from methane gas and this dangerous fossil fuel infrastructure.

We recommend the Encinitas City Council amend the proposed green building ordinance to limit the number of exemptions that fossil fuel corporations may have to manipulate and continue to build new methane gas infrastructure in our neighborhoods. Specifically, Encinitas should eliminate the following fossil fuel exemptions in the proposed "Draft Ordinance 2021-13":

- "EXCEPTION 1: All Residential buildings may contain non-electric Cooking Appliances (including outdoor BBQs), Pool and Spa water heater(s), and/or outdoor Fireplaces (including common area Fireplaces and Fire Rings)."

- “EXCEPTION 3: Attached Accessory Dwelling Units and detached Accessory Dwelling Units as defined in 30.04.010 Definitions are exempt.”
- “EXCEPTION 5: High-rise residential multi-family buildings served by a common, central Water Heater may contain non-electric Water Heater(s).”

The city’s proposed green building ordinance is commendable and should be approved, however it will need the further refinements above to keep methane gas from reaching our children’s lungs and atmosphere. We also encourage Encinitas to partake in ongoing regional conversations on how our communities can ensure a Just Transition for fossil fuel workers in collaboration with our friends in labor.

We hope Encinitas will join the 47 other California cities that have adopted stringent all-electric ordinances and reach codes, and adopt the proposed green building ordinance with a more limited number of fossil fuel exemptions to keep our families, climate, and public health safe.

We thank City staff for their time and dedication on this matter, and the Mayor and Council’s leadership for moving this important climate and public health issue forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Vasilakis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Vasilakis  
Co-Director of Policy  
Climate Action Campaign