



August 23, 2021

Mayor and City Council
Solana Beach City Hall
635 Highway 101
Solana Beach, CA 92075
Via Email

RE: CAC Recommendations for Solana Beach All-Electric Reach Codes

Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

On behalf of Climate Action Campaign (CAC), please accept the following recommendations for Solana Beach's upcoming all-electric reach codes. 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.

Solana Beach has led the region on multiple climate policies, including Community Choice Energy. The City has another unique opportunity to lead in creating a fossil fuel free future by adopting robust all-electric reach codes that stops the continued expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure. By going all-electric in new construction, Solana Beach can begin to reduce emissions from the region'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. Solana Beach must do everything in its power to protect our families, climate, and public health from methane gas and dangerous fossil fuel infrastructure.

The city's proposed all-electric reach codes are commendable and should be approved, however they will need further refinements to keep methane gas from reaching our children's lungs and atmosphere.

We recommend the Solana Beach City Council amend the proposed building electrification reach codes 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, Solana Beach should avoid the following fossil fuel exemptions:

- Cooking Appliances (including outdoor BBQs), and/or outdoor Fireplaces (including common area Fireplaces and Fire Rings)
- Attached and detached Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

After the reach codes, we recommend the City develop an all-electric municipal retrofit plan to inventory, retrofit, and green city facilities to remove dangerous methane gas from government buildings and exemplify an all-electric future. It should also plan for a robust community engagement process to share why an all-electric future is critical to our climate and health.

We also encourage Solana Beach 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. As additional ordinances and reach codes are considered, the City should engage with organized labor, listen to their concerns and ideas, and answer their questions on how future all-electric efforts may impact their workers.

Solana Beach should also partner with the City of San Diego, County of San Diego and other jurisdictions on a workforce impact analysis to understand the scale of potential fossil fuel job impacts, and co-develop a comprehensive Just Transition Plan that mirrors state efforts at the Office of Planning and Research to protect good jobs and highlight new clean energy and all-electric middle class careers.

We hope Solana Beach will join the 49 other California cities that have adopted all-electric ordinances and reach codes, and approve the proposed all-electric reach codes with a minimal 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 City'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