



August 18, 2021

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

RE: San Diego Green New Deal Alliance Recommendations for Encinitas Green Building Ordinance

Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

On behalf of San Diego Green New Deal Alliance (SDGNDA), please accept the following recommendations for Encinitas' upcoming all-electric green building ordinance. SDGNDA is a coalition of 56 local organizations and small businesses committed to advancing a Zero Carbon San Diego region by 2035. Together, we can accomplish this through a fair and just transition for workers and Communities of Concern, the creation of good, family-sustaining union jobs, and the development of affordable, equitable, and inclusive communities powered by 100% clean energy.

We appreciate Encinitas working to tackle the third largest source of emissions in our region: natural (methane) gas. Building any new fossil fuel infrastructure today prevents us from stopping the climate crisis.

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 dangerous fossil fuel infrastructure. The city's green building ordinance should be approved.

However, we recommend the Encinitas City Council amend the proposal 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).”

A Plan for Just Transition

Critical to ensuring equitable pathways for workers facing potential displacement, the City of Encinitas should engage in ongoing regional conversations on how our communities can ensure a just transition for fossil fuel workers in collaboration with our friends in labor. Specifically we recommend:

- The City engages with organized labor, listening to their concerns and ideas, and answering their questions on how future all-electric efforts may impact their workers.
- The City partners 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.
- The City also partners with said jurisdictions on developing a comprehensive Just Transition Plan that mirrors state efforts at the Office of Planning and Research to protect good union jobs and highlight new clean energy and all-electric middle class careers as alternatives.

We also encourage the City to engage with community-based organizations and communities of concern to ensure an equitable transitions from fossil fuel to all-electric homes. Their insights and knowledge can help bring all community members along this necessary transition.

We hope Encinitas will join the 48 other California cities that have adopted stringent all-electric ordinances and reach codes, adopt the proposed green building ordinance with a more limited number of fossil fuel exemptions to keep our families, climate, and public health safe, and engage workers in a meaningful way to ensure a Just Transition for all to a 100% clean energy future.

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

Sincerely,

Rick Bates
Vice Chair
San Diego Green New Deal Alliance