

SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL NOV 6TH

November 6, 2026

Mayor Ishii and Berkeley City Councilmembers
City Clerk Department
2180 Milvia Street, First Floor

Re: Support for Item 8.-Resolution of the City of Berkeley Supporting the Bay Area Air District's Zero Emission Building Appliance Rules From: Councilmember Tregub (Author), Councilmember Lunaparra (Co-Sponsor)

Dear Mayor Ishii and Berkeley City Councilmembers,

The below signed organizations are writing to express strong support for the Bay Area Air District's zero-emission appliance standards, Rules 9-4 and 9-6, and the resolution by the City Council to support them. These rules are a critical step toward protecting the health, safety, and quality of life of our communities by phasing out the most polluting furnaces and water heaters and replacing them with clean, zero-emission alternatives.

There is a strong, realtor- and Republican-led opposition campaign that is underway and preparing for a fight to roll back the rules entirely or delay them. In the South Coast Air District, similar forces got cities to adopt resolutions opposing the zero-NOx rules, which may have played a persuasive role with board members. Supportive city resolutions like this one will help demonstrate to the Air District board that the Bay Area wants to move forward, and clean up our air in a timely manner.

Air quality remains a major concern for the Bay Area. Our region still fails to meet state and federal air standards for harmful pollutants such as particulate matter and ozone. Gas-burning appliances including the furnaces and water heaters found in nearly every home are among the largest sources of local pollution, emitting more nitrogen oxides (NOx) than all passenger cars on Bay Area roads combined. This pollution is not abstract: it leads to asthma attacks, premature deaths, and nearly \$900 million annually in health-related costs.

Transitioning to zero-emission appliances like electric heat pumps offers wide-reaching benefits. Beyond cleaning our air, these modern appliances provide reliable heating, cooling, and improved indoor air quality, making homes more comfortable, resilient, and attractive to buyers. Contractors also value the potential to save customers money on their utility bills, given the projected savings of about \$30/month as calculated in a [PCE/SVCE](#) study. Homeowners and renters are increasingly demanding zero-emission equipment in their homes to protect their families and communities from harmful air pollution. Installing zero-emission equipment can be accomplished in the vast majority of homes, as increasingly cost-effective strategies and technologies make it easier than ever to install electric heat pumps.

The workforce is ready to install zero-emission heating equipment across the Bay Area. However, it is critical that the Air District rules provide a clear market signal to contractors to enable this equipment transition at scale. Rules 9-6 and 9-4 provide that certainty to our workforce, ensuring that contractors will retrain and retool to install zero-emission water heaters and HVAC systems.

We recognize the importance of ensuring a smooth transition. Targeted amendments that provide exceptions and resources for low-income households as needed, plus flexibility for cases that are technically infeasible in the near term, are essential to make these rules equitable. At the same time, it is vital that these amendments do not weaken the rules or undermine the health and environmental benefits the rules are designed to deliver.

It is crucial that we invest in housing that supports clean air, healthy families, and long-term resilience. I urge you to demonstrate Berkeley's strong support of Rules 9-4 and 9-6 by passing this resolution, knowing that the Air District is working on common-sense adjustments that help all residents participate in this transition.

Thank you for your leadership in protecting our region's health and ensuring a healthier, more sustainable future for our housing and communities.

Sincerely,

Sam Fishman
SPUR

Bruce Hodge
Carbon Free Palo Alto
Carbon Free Silicon Valley

Leslie Alden
Act Now Bay Area

Robert M. Gould, MD
President
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility

Angela Evans
Menlo Spark

Maxwell Davis
Chair, Northern Alameda County Group,
SF Bay Chapter Sierra Club

Anne Pernick

SAFE Cities at Stand.earth