

10/15/2021

Dear Board of Directors and Staff,

On behalf of my constituents, I write to express strong support for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to adopt zero-Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) emission standards for indoor appliances at point of sale. Regional adoption of zero-emission standards for indoor appliances will promote a large-scale market for cleaner appliances.

Over the past year, Californians faced the most destructive wildfire season yet and the worst air quality days on record, while enduring a global pandemic that disproportionately kills those exposed to poor air quality.¹ Yet the Bay Area continues to fail to meet state and federal standards for harmful pollutants that stem in part from burning fossil fuels in our homes and businesses.² Recognizing the urgent need to improve indoor and outdoor air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, our city was one of the 41 local jurisdictions in the Bay Area to adopt policies to accelerate electrification of buildings.³

We urge the Air District to adopt a plan for an equitable, affordable transition to zero-NOx emissions standards for new building appliances for the following reasons:

- Failing to limit gas appliance pollution imposes substantial health costs on our constituents;
- Emissions-free technology is already available on the market;
- Clear regulatory signals are needed now to avoid locking in decades of emissions;
- The Air District has legal authority and a responsibility to regulate pollution from stationary sources;
- Regional rules will be more enforceable and consistent than dozens of local ordinances;
- Strong signals from a regional actor will buoy the market both for manufacturing low-emission appliances and for contractors able to install them.

We respectfully ask the Air District to work with stakeholders to create an equitable and affordable transition that puts low-income communities and communities of color first. We encourage BAAQMD to coordinate with other entities offering financial incentives, and to consider developing its own. Community outreach and financial incentive programs should

prioritize the needs of low-income communities of color so that these communities can electrify without the risk of displacement, increased costs of living, or energy burden.

The 41 local governments in the Bay Area that have adopted reach codes have proven that our constituents are eager for low-emission buildings. But we need regional actors like the Air District to step up to clean up the air quality of our region.

Sincerely,

Libby Schaaf
Mayor, City of Oakland

Dan Kalb
Councilmember, City of Oakland

Nikki Fortunato Bas
Council President and District 2 Representative, City of Oakland

Jesse Arreguin
Mayor, City of Berkeley

Kate Harrison
City Councilmember, Berkeley

Betsy Nash
Vice Mayor, City of Menlo Park

Jen Wolosin
City Councilmember, Menlo Park District 3

James Coleman
Councilmember, City of South San Francisco

Otto Lee
Santa Clara County Supervisor, District Three

Stephanie Hellman
Vice Mayor, Town of Fairfax; Fairfax Climate Action Committee

Gordon Mar
Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Rick Bonilla
Deputy Mayor, City of San Mateo

Harvey Rarback
City Councilmember, Half Moon Bay

Tim Rood
Vice Mayor, City of Piedmont

Alex Walker-Griffin
Hercules City Councilman

Eduardo Martínez
City Councilmember, Richmond

Myrna Melgar
Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Sam Liccardo
Mayor, City of San Jose

Ally Medina
Councilmember, City of Emeryville

Rafael Mandelman
Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Those signed above represent themselves, not the official opinion of the elected body on which they serve.

Endnotes

1. Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, 2020.

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/c-change/subtopics/coronavirus-and-pollution/>

2. The Bay Area is out of attainment for ozone and PM2.5, both of which are formed in large part from NOx emissions from building appliances. Source for attainment status: Air Quality Standards and Attainment Status,

<https://www.baaqmd.gov/about-air-quality/research-and-data/air-quality-standards-and-attainment-status>. Source for pollutant precursors: Bay Area 2017 Clean Air Plan Table 2.1

[https://www.baaqmd.gov/~media/files/planning-and-research/plans/2017-clean-air-plan/attachment-a_-proposed-final-cap-vol-1-pdf.pdf?la=en](https://www.baaqmd.gov/~/media/files/planning-and-research/plans/2017-clean-air-plan/attachment-a_-proposed-final-cap-vol-1-pdf.pdf?la=en)

3. Sierra Club, 2021.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/articles/2021/01/californias-cities-lead-way-gas-free-future>