

From: [Jeffrey Mann](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public comment for city council meeting
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November 16, 2022

Re: Reach codes for all-electric new construction, EV chargers

Dear Larkspur City Council member,

My name is Jeffrey Mann. I am resident of the east bay, but I lived in Larkspur from 1991-1996, and have fond memories of the time I lived there. I am a physician and member of San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), which represents hundreds of health professionals throughout our region, who speak for the health of our patients and communities, who are increasingly impacted by the unfolding public and environmental health impacts of global warming, and clearly connected issues of air pollution.

SF Bay PSR seeks to rapidly advance policies and regulations in support of an equitable transition to all electric buildings. Switching from fossil-fuel appliances to all electric appliances will help protect health and the planet.

Here are the reasons, from a health perspective, that I strongly recommend a reach code for all-electric new construction.

● Gas stoves produce dangerous amounts of air pollutants, including nitrous oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO), and particulate matter (PM), that often exceed outdoor ambient air standards. These pollutants can have lasting and damaging effects on the human body. Children, low income, and communities of color are among the most vulnerable.

● Homes with gas stoves can emit nitrogen dioxide concentrations that are 50-400% higher than homes with electric stoves.

● Children in homes with gas stoves have a 42% increased risk of experiencing asthma symptoms, a 24% increased risk of ever being diagnosed with asthma by a doctor, and an overall 32% increased risk of both current and lifetime asthma.

● Improperly vented gas appliances lead to carbon monoxide poisoning that results in thousands of emergency room visits and several hundred deaths every year.

● Chronic exposure to elevated PM2.5 (the most dangerous form of PM) has the potential to damage human respiratory systems, as well as the cardiovascular system, and may result in premature death.

● African-American and Hispanic children with asthma are likely the most disproportionately burdened by indoor air pollution from gas stoves.

● A new study find that leaks from gas stoves can lead to potentially hazardous indoor concentrations of benzene, a known human carcinogen.

● A 2009 study found evidence that infant through preschool-age early-life exposure (through age four) to indoor air pollution from gas appliances may be related to impaired cognitive function and may increase the risk of developing attention-deficit/ hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) symptoms.

We also strongly encourage all possible ways to increase electric vehicle (EV) use, such as increased EV charging infrastructure. Pollution from internal combustion engines from cars and trucks produce the vast majority of harmful particulate matter (PM) emissions in California.

The healthcare community is becoming increasingly aware of the harms that PM emissions cause in all areas of health, from heart and lung conditions, to dangers to infants, pregnant mothers and their unborn babies. **18% of all premature deaths worldwide**, including in our country, are attributable to pollution from particulate matter.

We call on you to use this critical opportunity to demonstrate your leadership and commitment to rapidly develop the more economical, pollution-free buildings we need now for the optimal public, environmental and climate health that we and future generations so deserve.

Jeffrey Mann, MD

Member of san Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility