

Trupiano, Nicole

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] WPGA Letter RE: Development of Reach Codes
Attachments: WPGA Letter RE Santa Rosa Reach Codes - 10.14.19.pdf

From: Ben Granholm <ben@westernpga.org>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2019 12:24 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic <citycouncil@srcity.org>; Schwedhelm, Tom <tschwedhelm@srcity.org>
Cc: Rogers, Chris <CRogers@srcity.org>; Combs, Julie <jcombs@srcity.org>; Fleming, Victoria <VFleming@srcity.org>; Olivares, Ernesto <EOlivares@srcity.org>; Sawyer, John <jsawyer@srcity.org>; Tibbetts, Jack <hjtibbetts@srcity.org>; Guhin, David <dguhin@srcity.org>; CMOOffice <CMOOffice@srcity.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WPGA Letter RE: Development of Reach Codes

Good afternoon Mayor Schwedhelm,

The Western Propane Gas Association (WPGA) would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City of Santa Rosa's proposed Reach Codes aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the building sector. While we applaud efforts for building decarbonization, WPGA believes that Reach Codes disincentivizing propane as a complementary fuel source to electric are fundamentally misguided.

We hope the attached letter will prove helpful throughout this process and look forward to working with you as the City of Santa Rosa and the State strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through comprehensive clean energy solutions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Ben Granholm
Regulatory Affairs Specialist
Western Propane Gas Association
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Sacramento, CA 95811
Cell: (530) 205-5641
www.westernpga.org



October 14, 2019

Tom Schwedhelm, Mayor
City of Santa Rosa
Attn: Santa Rosa City Council
100 Santa Rosa Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
citycouncil@srcity.org

SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL

RE: City of Santa Rosa Development of All-Electric Reach Codes

Dear Mayor Schwedhelm:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City of Santa Rosa's proposed Reach Codes aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the building sector. The Western Propane Gas Association (WPGA) seeks to be a valuable contributor in both the development of these codes and the policies and procedures that may emerge as a result of these discussions.

While we applaud efforts for building decarbonization, WPGA believes that Reach Codes disincentivizing propane as a complementary fuel source to electric are fundamentally misguided. WPGA hopes that regulators will look to the example that the City of San Luis Obispo is setting with the development of their Reach Codes and recognize the value that propane provides on a number of levels.

Propane provides affordable, clean energy for low income communities as well as a vital back-up power for solar powered homes when battery power is low. Disincentivizing propane as a complementary power to solar has an unintended consequence to make solar homes more expensive and less reliable when power generation is not at peak levels.

Furthermore, there has been numerous discussions throughout California regarding planned power outages and safety black-outs. In a recent article published by Politico ([PG&E begins massive power shut-off in California to avoid wildfires](#)) it is noted that the Public Safety Power Shutoff could affect 2.4 million electricity users. Propane delivers energy resiliency for communities facing safety black-outs which can be critical for those powering life-sustaining equipment. Vulnerable citizens such as people on dialysis or simply the many individuals using electric powered wheelchairs can use propane energy for reliable power.

When looking towards the future, our industry is investing in renewable propane, derived from sustainable sources like beef tallow or vegetable oil. We hope that regulators take a more holistic view of the complementary role propane plays alongside decarbonization efforts including solar, wind and other renewable fuels.

The Western Propane Gas Association appreciates your work in this area and looks forward to working with you as the City of Santa Rosa and the State strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through comprehensive clean energy solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Granholm", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ben Granholm
Regulatory Affairs Specialist

cc: Sean McGlynn, City Manager
David Guhin, Assistant City Manager/Community Development and Engagement

Trupiano, Nicole

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Electric Reach Code

From: Eleanor Butchart <ebutchart@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 1:56 PM
To: _CityCouncilListPublic <citycouncil@srcity.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Electric Reach Code

City Council Members

Please do your due diligence before adopting an all electric ordinance for new construction. The planned power outage we experienced last week will hopefully have given you pause as you consider the pros and cons of such an over reach.

When the State of California considers a change to the building code, a minimum of three years is spent studying the benefits and the unintended consequences of taking such action. The State also has the benefit of vast expertise from industry professionals and the gift of time to fully study the ramifications of a proposed change.

Although the Santa Rosa City Council is trying to sort this out, I do not believe you have the resources or expertise to study this fully before adopting it as an ordinance change. The technology does not currently exist to store electricity. While a solar battery is an option for those with panels, it is roughly \$10,000 with a limited life span of 7-9 years.

During the 65 hours I was without power last week, I was able to prepare meals on my gas range, enjoy hot showers, and heat my primary living space on those chilly mornings with my heater-rated highly efficient gas fireplace.

Addressing tail pipe emissions and the flaring off of natural gas in west Texas oil fields would be a more worthy endeavor to benefit all of us.

One final suggestion comes to mind: would you consider limiting the gas load for new construction? Allocate a certain number of BTU's per household, allowing residents to select a gas range, an electric dryer and a gas fireplace and stay within the cap of allotted BTU's. There is a compromise in there somewhere.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my views.

Eleanor Butchart
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Santa Rosa
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