

Model Resolution Supporting Balanced Energy Solutions and Maintaining Local Control of Energy Solutions

Whereas California's energy policies are critical to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the impact of climate change on our citizens; and

Whereas the state legislature and state agencies are increasingly proposing new legislation and regulations eliminating choice of energy by mandating technologies to power buildings and public and private fleets, including transit and long-haul trucking, as a strategy to achieve the state's climate goals; and

Whereas clean, affordable and reliable energy is crucial to the material health, safety and well-being of [CITY NAME] residents, particularly the most vulnerable, who live on fixed incomes, including the elderly and working families who are struggling financially; and

Whereas the need for clean, affordable and reliable energy to attract and retain local businesses, create jobs and spur economic development is vital to our city's success in a highly competitive and increasingly regional and global marketplace; and

Whereas [CITY NAME], its residents and businesses value local control and the right to choose the policies and investments that most affordably and efficiently enable them to comply with state requirements; and

Whereas building and vehicle technology mandates eliminate local control and customer choice, suppress innovation, reduce reliability and unnecessarily increase costs for [CITY NAME] residents and businesses; and

Whereas the City understands that relying on a single energy delivery system unnecessarily increases vulnerabilities to natural and man-made disasters, and that a diversity of energy delivery systems and resources contribute to greater reliability and community resilience; and

Whereas [CITY NAME] understands the need to mitigate the impacts of climate change and is committed to doing its part to help the state achieve its climate goals, but requires the flexibility to do so in a manner that best serves the needs of its residents and businesses. NOW, THEREFORE,

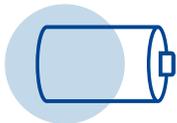
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of [CITY NAME], as follows:

That the City supports balanced energy solutions that provide it with the decision-making authority and resources needed to achieve the state's climate goals and supports proposed state legislation and regulation that retains local control by allowing all technologies and energy resources that can power buildings and fuel vehicles, and also meet or exceed emissions reductions regulations.

California's Clean Energy Future

In 2018 California set a bold goal to achieve carbon neutrality and 100 percent clean energy by 2045. No clear path exists today to get us to that goal. Currently, most of the conversation focuses on an electric generation system that uses solar, wind and batteries. However, those technologies cannot do it alone. To date, natural gas has played an important role in achieving California's clean air goals and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. To achieve California's 2045 goals, an inclusive and balanced approach is needed – one that is technology-neutral and welcomes all ideas.

To create a clean, affordable and sustainable energy future, three critical questions will need to be successfully answered:



Reliability

How will we store energy when the sun isn't shining, or the wind isn't blowing?

Wind and solar don't provide a reliable, continuous power supply; often the power is not available when needed the most. California already produces excess solar and wind energy that can't be used. As we increase the use of these resources, we will need to figure out long-term storage options to deliver energy when and where people need it.



Affordability

How do we keep energy affordable for all Californians?

The total cost of reaching the 2045 target, as well as the full implications to California's consumers, is unknown. Success depends on using all technologies and resources that can help create a realistic and affordable pathway. We don't want to create an energy system that deepens the state's affordability crisis, continues to widen income disparity, or has businesses leaving the state.



Consumer Behavior & Choice

How do we inspire consumer adoption?

The slow adoption of clean transportation options shows consumer adoption is a critical challenge to meeting our goals. To inspire consumers to reduce their emissions, we must preserve consumer choice and maintain energy options that are affordable and minimize disruption to Californians.

Natural gas will continue to play an important role in our sustainable clean energy future by:

Reducing Waste

Using waste streams from our food, sewers and dairy farms to create renewable natural gas (RNG) reduces GHG emissions that would otherwise go into the atmosphere.

Utilizing Current Infrastructure

Using technology to convert excess solar and wind energy into renewable gas that can be stored in our existing pipeline system and solve long-term storage challenges.

Capturing and Using Carbon

Capturing carbon dioxide (CO₂) from industrial and manufacturing processes before it releases into the air and using it to create solid carbon or RNG.

Working together to advance California's energy goals.

Making California's vision a reality will take business leaders, non-governmental organizations, and policymakers working together to re-imagine how California's energy infrastructure can operate as an interconnected system that maximizes emissions reductions and minimizes waste.





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NEWS RELEASE

Riverside County Joins 113 California Local Governments in Voting to Keep Their Natural Gas Choice

On Tuesday Riverside County became the 114th local government this year to pass a resolution supporting balanced energy policies that preserve consumer choice and keep energy affordable

LOS ANGELES – December 11, 2019 – [Southern California Gas Co.](#) (SoCalGas) today announced that more than 110 local governments across Southern California, representing approximately 8 million people, have passed resolutions in support of affordable and balanced strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The resolutions urge policymakers to safeguard consumers' ability to choose natural gas, propane, or electric appliances for their homes and businesses. They were passed in response to concerns that state agencies are being called upon to take steps to prohibit the use of affordable natural gas in buildings.

"Advances in renewable natural gas and hydrogen technologies mean that we can meet our climate goals without sacrificing the reliability and resilience of our energy systems and without forcing people to give up their gas stoves, board up their fireplaces and take on costly renovations," said **Sharon Tomkins, SoCalGas vice president of strategy and engagement and chief environmental officer.** "To meet its ambitious environmental goals, California needs clean gas working together with clean electricity, and most importantly we cannot lose sight of affordability."

A growing number of experts, including researchers at [Stanford University](#), [University of California, Irvine](#), and [Lawrence Livermore Labs](#), have raised concerns that the electrification of buildings, alone, could undercut the state's environmental goals, while making basic utility services less reliable and more expensive.

"Renewable gases can increase people's use of renewable energy and combat climate change—and we can't become carbon neutral without them." said **Dr. Jack Brouwer, Director of the National Fuel Cell Research Center at University of California, Irvine.** "These renewable gases are easily stored in the pipelines and also provide a complementary way to deliver renewable energy that will be more reliable and resilient than using the electric grid alone."

The Energy Futures Initiative (EFI), a research center founded by former US Secretary of Energy Ernest J. Moniz, reached similar conclusions. In a [2019 report](#) on the pathways for achieving deep decarbonization in California, EFI found that meeting California's environmental goals will require a

range of clean energy pathways, including clean fuels like renewable natural gas (RNG), hydrogen and biofuels.

“Once we realized what was at stake—the lack of affordable energy options, the loss of local control, and the negative impacts to businesses and residents who rely on natural gas—we knew we had to act. When it comes to energy, our residents deserve choice” said **La Habra City Councilman Tim Shaw**.

“The cost of living in Southern California is already too expensive for most of the families I represent,” said **South Gate Mayor Belen Bernal**. “Switching to electricity-only would mean higher utility bills that people just can’t afford. Maintaining a balanced approach is important for my community.”

“The simple process of converting our organic wastes, yard trimmings, and food waste into a recycled natural gas can significantly reduce our overall carbon emissions, and yet, the energy discussion is often dominated by the idea of total electrification,” said **Temecula Councilmember Matt Rahn**. “As we plan for California’s energy future, we must realize that electrification is not the only solution, and certainly not something that everyone can afford.”

“Mandating a move to a singular utility model loses sight of the financial burden it will create in many Californians’ homes,” said **Upland City Councilmember Ricky Felix**. “It would also be irresponsible to not have different types of utilities available, especially in emergency situations which would put residents at risk.”

“People should have the choice of what energy source they use—and many prefer natural gas because it’s more affordable,” said **Port Hueneme Mayor Will Berg**. “In addition, to keep energy reliable and affordable it makes sense to not put all your eggs in one basket.”

“Most residents use natural gas to heat and cook in their homes, so it makes sense to reduce emissions by replacing natural gas with renewable natural gas,” said **Tulare County Supervisor Pete VanderPoele**. “And using RNG offers the opportunity to further develop this new green energy business right here among the dairies in the Central Valley. We should all want to bring new investment to our state and this region.”

Today, more than 90 percent of homes in Southern California rely on natural gas for space and water heating or cooking. In surveys, Southern Californians regularly report they prefer natural gas for cooking, and home and water heating by a margin of 4 to 1, citing its affordability.

Last year, a [study](#) by Navigant Consulting found that replacing 20 percent of the natural gas California uses today with renewable natural gas could reduce emissions equal to making every building in the state electric-only, but at half the cost.

A [separate study](#) published last year by the California Building Industry Association (CBIA) found that replacing natural gas appliances in California homes with electric models could lead to more than \$7,200 in upfront costs and an annual increase in household energy costs of more than \$850.

A [survey of registered](#) voters published by CBIA at the time found that more than two-thirds of Californians oppose regulations that would eliminate natural gas use in homes and businesses. More than 80 percent opposed if eliminating natural gas resulted in higher utility bills.

SoCalGas has committed to replacing 20 percent of the natural gas the company purchases with renewable natural gas by 2030 – as part of a [broad, inclusive and integrated plan](#) to help achieve California's ambitious climate goals.

To view a list of the local governments that have passed balanced energy resolutions, click [here](#).

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About SoCalGas

Headquartered in Los Angeles, [SoCalGas®](#) is the [largest natural gas distribution utility](#) in the United States. SoCalGas delivers affordable, reliable, clean and increasingly renewable natural gas service to 21.8 million customers across [24,000 square miles](#) of Central and Southern California, where more than 90 percent of residents use natural gas for heating, hot water, cooking, drying clothes or other uses. Natural gas delivered through the company's pipelines also plays a key role in providing electricity to Californians— about [45 percent of electric power generated](#) in the state comes from gas-fired power plants.

SoCalGas' vision is to be the [cleanest natural gas utility in North America](#), delivering affordable and increasingly renewable energy to its customers. In support of that vision, SoCalGas is committed to replacing 20 percent of its traditional natural gas supply with renewable natural gas (RNG) by 2030. Renewable natural gas is made from waste created by dairy farms, landfills and wastewater treatment plants. SoCalGas is also committed to investing in its natural gas system infrastructure while keeping bills affordable for our customers. From 2014 through 2018, the company invested nearly \$6.5 billion to upgrade and modernize its natural gas system to enhance safety and reliability. SoCalGas is a subsidiary of [Sempra Energy](#) (NYSE: SRE), an energy services holding company based in San Diego. For more information visit socalgas.com/newsroom or connect with SoCalGas on [Twitter](#) (@SoCalGas), [Instagram](#) (@SoCalGas) and [Facebook](#).