

17 March 2025

Members of the San Clemente City Council
910 Calle Negocio
San Clemente, CA
via Email



SUBJECT: OPPOSE Agenda Item 10A to Protect Public Health

Dear Members of the San Clemente City Council,

On behalf of Climate Action Campaign, we urge you to oppose Agenda Item 10A, a resolution opposing South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rules 1111 and 1121. These rules are a crucial step in improving public health by reducing harmful emissions from gas appliances and promoting cleaner electric alternatives.

[According to the American Lung Association](#), Orange County has some of the worst air pollution in the United States, ranking first among all 228 metropolitan areas for high ozone levels. Our region has the same dangerously high level of ozone pollution today that we did in 1997 - nearly 30 years ago. Ozone forms when nitrogen oxides (NOx) combine with volatile organic compounds in sunlight. NOx and ozone pollution are linked to asthma, lung cancer, and cardiovascular diseases, causing an estimated 76,000 asthma attacks, 130 premature deaths, and \$2 billion in annual health costs.

Implementing these regulations will significantly improve air quality and protect San Clemente residents by reducing exposure to harmful NOx emissions and ozone pollution. **The American Lung Association strongly supports Rules 1111 and 1121 because of their substantial public health benefits.**

Additionally, financial incentives make the transition to electric appliances more affordable for residents. The High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Act (HEEHRA) provides financial assistance ranging from \$4,000 to \$8,000 for installation costs, while South Coast AQMD's Go Zero program will offer \$1,500 in rebates for water heaters and heat pumps. [A study by RMI](#) confirms that, with existing incentives, electric appliances are cost-competitive with gas alternatives while providing significant health benefits. Additionally, an [SCAQMD public consultation presentation](#) shows project costs being below current costs, or being able to be covered by rebates.

Furthermore, at an [SCAQMD working group meeting](#) on February 13, staff introduced a revised regulatory framework that shifts compliance responsibility to appliance manufacturers rather than residents. The updated rule does not ban gas appliances or mandate electrification—it is an entirely different policy than what was previously proposed.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to vote NO on Agenda Item 10A. This is an opportunity to prioritize clean air, public health, and a sustainable future for our community.

Sincerely,

David Martinez
Orange County Climate Equity Advocate and Organizer
Climate Action Campaign