

November 8, 2021

Mayor and City Council Solana Beach City Hall 635 Highway 101 Solana Beach, CA 92075 Via Email

## RE: Climate Action Campaign Recommendations for Solana Beach All-Electric Ordinance

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,

On behalf of Climate Action Campaign (CAC), please accept the following comments regarding Solana Beach's upcoming all-electric ordinance. CAC is a climate and environmental nonprofit organization based in San Diego and Orange County with a simple mission: to stop the climate crisis through effective policy action. We are also a founding member of the San Diego Building Electrification Coalition.

The climate emergency demands bold action to stop the worst impacts from occurring, and all communities must reach a zero carbon future by 2035 or earlier. **Building any new fossil fuel infrastructure today prevents us from achieving that goal and stopping climate change.** 

By going all-electric in new construction (mostly), major remodels, energy and transportation, Solana Beach can begin to reduce emissions from the region's third largest source of climate pollution—methane gas. Methane gas is a dangerous indoor air pollutant, harming our families by worsening asthma and other cardiovascular disorders. Solana Beach must do everything in its power to protect our families, climate, and public health from methane gas and dangerous fossil fuel infrastructure.

The City's proposed ordinance regarding solar energy, building decarbonization and electric vehicle infrastructure is commendable and should be approved, however it will need further refinements in the future to eliminate fossil fuel exemptions to keep methane gas from reaching our children's lungs, and the atmosphere.

In addition to strengthening the ordinance, we recommend Solana Beach develop an all-electric municipal retrofit plan to inventory, retrofit, and green city facilities to remove dangerous methane gas from government buildings and exemplify an all-electric future. It should also plan for a robust community engagement process to share why all-electric neighborhoods are critical to our future.

We also encourage Solana Beach to partake in ongoing regional conversations on how our communities can ensure a Just Transition for fossil fuel workers in collaboration with our friends in

labor. As additional ordinances and reach codes are considered, the City should engage with organized labor, listen to their concerns and ideas, and answer their questions on how future all-electric efforts may impact their workers.

We hope Solana Beach will join the 50 other California cities that have adopted all-electric ordinances and reach codes, and approve the proposed ordinance with a minimal number of fossil fuel exemptions to keep our families, climate, and public health safe.

Thank you, and we look forward to partnering with you on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Matthew Vasilakis

Co-Director of Policy

Climate Action Campaign