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415.302.0110

March 15, 2023

Board of Directors
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
375 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Support for Zero NOx Emissions Standards for Space & Water Heaters (rules 9-4 and 9-6)

Honorable Board Members,

For nearly twenty years, Sustainable San Rafael has been dedicated to restoring the health of our community and our planet. In those two decades, we have seldom seen an action come before your Board of greater significance to assuring the air quality of our built environment and curbing the rapid increase of greenhouse gas pollutants, with ever more deadly results. We urge your passage of the Zero NOx Emissions Standards before you today.

Nitrogen oxide (NOx) pollution from burning gas in buildings is known to endanger human health by causing respiratory conditions such as asthma, increased likelihood of hospital visits, heart disease, and premature death. Replacing all residential gas appliances in California with zero emission electric alternatives is projected to prevent 354 early deaths, and 596 acute cases of bronchitis annually.

There is no reason to keep burning fossil fuels to heat our buildings and water when clean, efficient electric heat-pump alternatives are now readily available, with ample economic incentives from federal, state, and local sources supporting their installation. These pollution reductions will deliver much-needed health and air quality benefits to Bay Area residents, notably to those low-income communities of color that have been most burdened by air pollution.

Please do not miss this historic opportunity to ensure we have clean air in the Bay Area. Please support Rules 9-4 and 9-6.

Sincerely,

William Carney
President

Copies:

San Rafael City Council, Marin Board of Supervisors