

Marissa Poon

From: Emily Yen
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 4:18 PM
To: Marissa Poon
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: comment on gas heaters and water heaters

From: John Anderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 4:10 PM
To: Peter Campbell <pcampbell@aqmd.gov>; Emily Yen <eyen@aqmd.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] comment on gas heaters and water heaters

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was informed that the South Coast Air Quality Management District is seeking comments on the proposed rules 1111 and 1121 that would eventually ban the use of natural gas for heating our homes or heating water. This email is to provide my comments.

I am a 78-year-old homeowner who has lived in the San Gabriel Valley since 1965. My house has a gas furnace and a gas on-demand water heater. About 15 years ago I replaced the then existing gas water heater with an electric water heater. The electric water heater was more expensive to purchase than a comparable gas water heater, but the costs went up from there because the electric water heater had problems with the heating elements within a year or two. Each time this happened it was a significant expense to replace them. In addition, my electric bill went up substantially. Eventually when the heating elements broke down a 3rd time, I decided it wasn't worth all the extra expense and I very happily switched back to a gas water heater.

Why I believe it isn't sound policy to implement Rule 1111 and Rule 1121.

1. Natural gas is a lot less expensive than electricity to heat our homes and to heat water.
2. It costs me a lot more for additional electricity to cool my home in the summer than it does for additional gas to heat my home in the winter.
3. There isn't enough electric generation capacity now to cover the need for air conditioning during hot periods in the summer. The added demand for electricity to replace all the furnaces and water heaters would only exacerbate an already troubled electrical grid. I've experienced more electric power outages in the past few years that I ever did in the past.
4. The added cost of electric heat pumps and electric water heaters will add to housing costs and rents.

5. The recent fires in the Palisades and Eaton fire zones destroyed thousands of homes and businesses. If new electric heat pumps and water heaters will be required for all the new construction (starting on January 1, 2026) it will cause a large increase in electric usage in these areas.
6. Since electricity generation requires burning natural gas or coal, these rules will not reduce CO2 production. Solar panels and wind farms don't have the capacity to generate all the electricity now. Uping the electricity consumption will only worsen the situation. The cost of generating electricity by solar and wind driven power is a lot more than electricity using natural gas.
7. My wife and I are older folks and we can ill afford added expense that these rules will bring if implemented. We don't want to be driven from our home in our final years.

Sincerely,

John Anderson
Resident in Duarte, CA