



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL **DATE: JUNE 25, 2019**
FROM: COUNCILMEMBER SOUBIROUS & GARDNER **WARD: ALL**
SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OF MAINTAINING LOCAL CONTROL OF ENERGY SOLUTIONS

ISSUE:

A number of state agencies are increasingly proposing new regulations and laws directed at removing energy options and mandating alternatives for future full electrification of households and businesses. These mandates eliminate local control and customer choice, which suppresses innovation, reduces overall reliability, reduces competition, and unnecessarily increases energy and equipment costs for residents and businesses.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Adopt the attached Resolution for Maintaining Local Control of Energy Solutions in support of balanced energy solutions and local choice; and
2. Oppose future legislation aimed at eliminating clean natural gas as an energy source.

BACKGROUND:

The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the effect of climate change on our citizens are primary concerns of the Riverside City Council. Supporting the proposed resolution is a positive step towards communicating our City's desire to protect the interests of our residents to have a continued choice in their preferred energy solutions for their homes and businesses.

This resolution does not take a position against electrification. It does emphasize the desire of the City Council to allow for customer choice. The cost associated with electrical appliances and the long term costs to operate these items is greater than gas operated equipment. It is important to recognize that full electrification may be more costly for some residents, particularly the most financially vulnerable within our community (e.g. fixed incomes, elderly, working families, etc.).

One of the additional benefits of maintaining a balanced energy solution is to allow alternative sources to be developed and available in case of electrical grid failure. The State's focus on electrical energy only delivery discourages investment in alternative energy sources.

Similar to the electrical companies, the Southern California Gas Company has also been doing its part to reduce greenhouse gases by promoting biogas or renewable natural gas. These energy alternatives come from sources such as green waste, wastewater treatment plants, food waste and agriculture waste. They can capture this methane, which would normally go into the atmosphere, and put it into their pipelines for customer use.

Supporting energy choice does not come at a cost to the environment. Both electricity and gas energy suppliers are concerned with greenhouse gas emissions and are seeking methods to protect the environment. By supporting the recommended resolution the City Council is making a statement to protect customer choice, protect customers from higher energy costs, and make a positive decision for a better environment in the future.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by:



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MIKE GARDNER
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Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments: 1. Resolution
 2. List of Municipalities