



July 29, 2022

San Rafael City Council
1400 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

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415.457.7656

RE: Response to Grand Jury on Electrification

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,
Sustainable San Rafael requests your strong response to the really excellent report from the Marin Grand Jury calling for Electrification of Marin's Buildings. Electrification is essential both to reduce risks to public health and safety and to eliminate over a quarter of the GHG emissions that our city is contributing to increasingly deadly and costly climate change.

In framing your required response to the Grand Jury, we urge you to commit to its recommendations R1 and R2 to adopt a **reach code** requiring new buildings to be all electric and incentivizing electrification when renovating existing buildings. The countywide model ordinance now being finalized by the County, San Rafael and other jurisdictions enables these recommendations to be met by the January 1, 2023 target set by the Grand Jury.

We also urge your continued participation with towns and cities countywide to implement recommendation R3 to develop a **comprehensive Countywide Building Electrification Plan** by January 1, 2024 in order to achieve electrification of existing buildings as rapidly as possible. The report includes a number of economically viable strategies for meeting that challenge, as does the letter submitted to you by Marin Conservation League, which we wholeheartedly endorse.

All three recommendations align with your Climate Change Action Plan 2022 priority actions, your findings adopting the EIR for General Plan 2040, and the General Plan itself--which calls for "electrification of building systems and appliances in new buildings and those that currently use natural gas . . . by requiring new or replacement furnaces and appliances to be electric . . ."

We're out of time on climate. The Supreme Court, the fossil fuel industry's ongoing misinformation, a fossilized political party, and entrenched denial of scientific fact

have all constrained the federal government's ability to deal with a global climate crisis spiraling out of control--with intensifying impacts increasingly evident as heat waves, drought, fire, smoke, unhealthy air, and coastal flooding here in San Rafael.

We look now to local government to lead us away from the fossil fuels causing these damages, towards effective and feasible solutions like building electrification--a powerful climate solution largely within the purview of local government to regulate and to achieve.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

William Carney
SSR President