



Kate Harrison  
Councilmember District 4

## **REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 2**

**Meeting Date:** April 2, 2019

**Item Number:** 7

**Item Description:** Referral to the Energy Commission to Hold a Series of Public Outreach and Educational Meetings Regarding Electrification

**Submitted by:** Councilmember Harrison

Clarified that the meetings should be organized around building types and uses.



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Councilmember District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR  
April 2, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Councilmembers Harrison, Davila, ~~and~~ Robinson, and Hahn  
Subject: Referral to the Energy Commission to Hold a Series of Public Outreach and Educational Meetings Regarding Electrification

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to Berkeley's Energy Commission to hold ~~four~~ two separate special public outreach and educational meetings regarding electrification in new buildings by July 31, 2019:

1. A meeting ~~with regarding multi-family, mid/high-rise buildings, including those with ground floor commercial community members;~~
2. A meeting regarding commercial buildings (without housing), including manufacturing with building professionals and labor (buildings trades, contractors, architects, engineers etc.);
- ~~3. A meeting with affordable housing developers;~~
- ~~4. A meeting with market-rate developers.~~

BACKGROUND

On February 19, 2019, Councilmember Harrison and cosponsors Councilmembers Davila, Bartlett and Hahn submitted to the Agenda Committee an *Ordinance adding a new Chapter 19.84 to the Berkeley Municipal Code Prohibiting Natural Gas Infrastructure in New Buildings*. The Agenda Committee referred the item to the Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment & Sustainability Policy Committee (FITES) on February 25, 2019.

Subsequently, at the first meeting of the FITES on March 7, 2019, the Committee members voted to submit an item to the Council referring to the Energy Commission to "conduct community outreach and education events regarding the proposed ordinance" and electrification more broadly. This referral fulfills the Committee's directive.

The proposed ordinance is intended to only apply to new buildings and therefore will not affect already existing homes and businesses. This ordinance would change the way

buildings are designed and built; if passed, builders will be encouraged to pursue all-electric designs. It is in the public interest to conduct outreach and education to key stakeholders who are impacted by electrification and may be impacted by the proposed ordinance.

The Energy Commission, which specializes in climate and energy issues is well equipped to conduct the outreach and education meetings. On January 23, 2019, the Energy Commission voted to “approve recommendation to the City Council to refer to the City Manager the implementation of the recommendations to aggressively reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the revised Fossil Free Berkeley Report,” including the recommendation to phase out natural gas in new buildings.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS

The only added cost of the referral is potential staffing of ~~four~~two community meetings to obtain stakeholder and other public input.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Electrification will prevent the release of significant additional natural gas-related greenhouse gasses from new buildings.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Kate Harrison, Berkeley City Councilmember, (510) 981-7140

#### Attachments:

1. Proposed Ordinance (as updated on March 7, 2019)
2. FITES Annotated Agenda, Thursday, January 23, 2019