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## Contra Costa County suspends All-Electric requirements for new buildings

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors suspended enforcement of its requirement that most new buildings be constructed as all-electric buildings at the Feb. 27 meeting. The County's all-electric building requirement, as part of the County's building code, had prohibited the installation of natural gas infrastructure in most new buildings and required developers to use electricity as the sole source of energy in the building. With the suspension, the County's all-electric building requirement will not be enforced. Last month, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit invalidated a City of Berkeley ordinance that prohibited natural gas infrastructure in new buildings. The court held that the federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act precludes cities and counties from adopting building codes that prohibit the installation of gas plumbing in buildings. Contra Costa County's all-electric building requirement, like the invalidated City of Berkeley ordinance, prohibits the installation of gas plumbing in new buildings. The County is therefore suspending this requirement in response to the Ninth Circuit's decision. At the same time, the Board of Supervisors remains committed to the goals that prompted it to adopt the all-electric requirement: improving public health and fighting climate change. The Board referred the topic of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from buildings to its Sustainability Committee and directed staff to report on alternatives for advancing this objective at the Committee's next meeting. "Contra Costa County remains committed to reducing the use of fossil fuels in buildings and continues to support the construction of new buildings using all-electric technologies. We are eager to identify new and innovative ways to continue to pursue our goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from buildings." said Board Chair Federal D. Glover, District 5 Supervisor. Provided by Contra Costa County Office of Communications & Media

Reach the reporter at: [info@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com)

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