

RESOLUTION NO. 72,336-N.S.

ALL-ELECTRIC STANDARDS FOR MUNICIPAL PROJECTS

WHEREAS, installing new or replacement natural gas infrastructure in bond-funded municipal buildings would lock in fossil fuel dependency in City-owned facilities for 20–40 years, well beyond Berkeley's 2045 carbon neutrality target; and

WHEREAS, installing new or replacement gas infrastructure in bond-funded municipal buildings would undermine Berkeley's credibility as a climate leader and signal to the public that the City's electrification commitments do not apply to its own operations; and

WHEREAS, installing new or replacement gas infrastructure in bond-funded municipal buildings would expose building occupants, including community members (especially the more vulnerable young and elderly), fire fighters, and City employees, to the known indoor air quality risks associated with gas combustion appliances, which approach \$1 billion annually across the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, requiring all-electric construction across bond-funded projects and all City capital spending would meaningfully reduce municipal emissions, improve indoor air quality in public facilities, demonstrate institutional leadership, and create durable, future-proof infrastructure aligned with California's clean energy grid trajectory; and

WHEREAS, while in most cases electrification in municipal facilities is already a standard practice and will increasingly be required throughout the Bay Area for water and space heating, there may be limited instances in which exceptions may be requested of City Council.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City of Berkeley will adopt a formal policy prohibiting the installation of new natural gas infrastructure (hereafter referred to as “gas”) or the replacement of existing gas equipment with new gas equipment in any project funded by the proposed 2026 General Obligation Bond Measure, unless infeasibility is compellingly demonstrated and an exception is approved by City Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that the City of Berkeley will include explicit all electric construction and retrofit language in the bond measure itself; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley will direct the City Manager to apply this no-new-gas standard as a condition of all City capital spending, beyond bond funded projects, thus affirming that public funds shall not be used to install new gas infrastructure in any municipal facility, except in limited circumstances in which City Council grants an exception.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council's authority to grant exceptions to the all-electric construction and electrification requirements is a legislative discretionary act, and neither the granting nor the denial of any such exception shall give rise to any claim or cause of action in any court.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Berkeley City Council on June 16, 2026 by the following vote:

Ayes: Bartlett, Blackaby, Humbert, Kesarwani, Lunaparra, O'Keefe, Taplin, Tregub, and Ishii.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.



Adena Ishii, Mayor

Attest: 

Rose/Thomsen, Deputy City Clerk