



**Board of Supervisors  
COUNTY OF TULARE  
AGENDA ITEM**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

KUYLER CROCKER  
District One

PETE VANDER POEL  
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN  
District Three

EDDIE VALERO  
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND  
District Five

**AGENDA DATE:** May 7, 2019 - REVISED

Public Hearing Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CONTACT PERSON: Julieta Martinez    PHONE: 559.636.5000				

**SUBJECT:** Approve resolution in support of balanced energy solutions

**REQUEST(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve a resolution supporting balanced energy solutions and maintaining local control of energy solutions.

**SUMMARY:**

SoCalGas has requested that the Tulare County Board of Supervisors adopt a resolution supporting balanced energy solutions. State regulators at the California Public Utilities Commission have launched a proceeding to determine how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings to meet state climate goals. Some state regulators are advancing a singular pathway. SoCalGas support a more balanced approach to building decarbonization and is asking the Board to support that effort. A one page summary of the issue is included for further background information.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

There is no Net County Cost to the General Fund.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:**

Approve resolution in support of balanced energy solutions is linked to the Quality of Life initiative – Promote public health and welfare, educational opportunities, natural resource management and continued improvement of environmental quality.

**SUBJECT:** Resolution in support of balanced energy solutions  
**DATE:** May 7, 2019

**ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Julieta Martinez  
Chief of Staff

cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment(s) SoCalGas One Page Summary

# BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVE )  
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ) Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_  
BALANCED ENERGY SOLUTIONS ) Agreement No. \_\_\_\_\_  
)

WHEREAS, California's energy policies are critical to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the impact of climate change on our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the state legislature and state agencies are increasingly proposing new legislation and regulations eliminating choice of energy by mandating technologies to power buildings and public and private fleets, including transit and long-haul trucking, as a strategy to achieve the state's climate goals; and

WHEREAS, clean, affordable and reliable energy is crucial to the material health, safety and well-being of Tulare County residents, particularly the most vulnerable, who live on fixed incomes, including the elderly and working families who are struggling financially; and

WHEREAS, the need for clean, affordable and reliable energy to attract and retain local businesses, create jobs and spur economic development is vital to our city's success in a highly competitive and increasingly regional and global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, Tulare County, its residents and businesses value local control and the right to choose the policies and investments that most affordably and efficiently enable them to comply with state requirements; and

WHEREAS, building and vehicle technology mandates eliminate local control and customer choice, suppress innovation, reduce reliability and unnecessarily increase costs for County residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the County understands that relying on a single energy delivery system unnecessarily increases vulnerabilities to natural and man-made disasters, and that a diversity of energy delivery systems and resources contribute to greater reliability and community resilience; and

WHEREAS, Tulare County understands the need to mitigate the impacts of climate change and is committed to doing its part to help the state achieve its climate goals, but requires the flexibility to do so in a manner that best serves the needs of its residents and businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tulare County Board of Supervisors support balanced energy solutions that provide it with the decision-making authority and resources needed to achieve the state's climate goals and supports proposed state legislation and regulation that retains local control by allowing all technologies and energy resources that can power buildings and fuel vehicles, and also meet or exceed emissions reductions regulations.

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD \_\_\_\_\_, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JASON T. BRITT  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/  
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

\* \* \* \* \*

Approved a resolution supporting balanced energy solutions and maintaining local control of energy solutions.

## Addressing Building Emissions

State regulators at the California Public Utilities Commission have launched a proceeding to determine how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings to meet state climate goals. The proceeding has far-reaching implications for our choice of the energy and appliances we use, for energy affordability and reliability.

While there are a number of different ways to reduce building emissions, some state legislators and regulators are advancing a singular pathway called electrification. Electrification means converting all existing natural gas end uses in buildings to electricity, including space and water heating, cooking, and commercial and industrial equipment.

Those supporting electrification contend that, since electricity is increasingly generated with renewable resources, it is the only power source that should be available to consumers. This approach is too simplistic and not likely to be successful in achieving California's goal of carbon neutrality by 2045.

SoCalGas, consumer and business advocacy groups support a more balanced approach to building decarbonization that considers the environment, customer choice, affordability and reliability. We feel that the State should use all the resources and tools it has available to address climate change.

## Renewable Natural Gas: Cost-Effective Decarbonization

SoCalGas, along with academics and researchers, believe that by introducing renewable natural gas into the existing pipeline system (and in the future, carbon-neutral hydrogen), we can decarbonize buildings while preserving customer choice and making sure that every family can afford California's clean energy future.

Renewable natural gas is produced from renewable resources, such as landfills and waste water treatment plants, as well as biomass sources, including animal waste, crop residue and food waste. Collecting gas from these sources to create renewable fuel puts organic waste to beneficial use and reduces traditional fossil fuel use. Renewable natural gas is also complementary to other renewable energy sources, like solar and wind, since it is available day and night to make the entire energy system cleaner and more reliable.

If SoCalGas replaces just 16 to 20 percent of traditional fossil natural gas with renewable gas resources, it would be up to 2 to 3 times more cost effective in reducing greenhouse gas emissions than electrification. This would help keep energy affordable. And it would be less disruptive for customers. They could continue to use the kind of energy they prefer. Customers also would not have to make electrical upgrades or replace appliances or equipment.

## Advancing Balanced, Inclusive Policies

We believe state regulators should strike a balance and pursue more inclusive solutions that address climate change through use of renewable electricity, renewable natural gas, natural gas, hydrogen and fuel cells.