

November 1, 2014

**Honorable Karen Mitchoff
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors,**

The non-profit Electric & Gas Industries Association (EGIA), which represents over 3,500 member independent contractor firms and more than 15,000 affiliated home improvement contractors nationwide, including hundreds installing residential resource efficiency solutions throughout Contra Costa County, strongly encourages you to re-affirm the Board's 2010 vote to "opt-in" to the CaliforniaFIRST program.

By mid-November, a statewide court proceeding will conclude that will allow the homeowners (and commercial building owners) in the County's unincorporated areas to utilize the CaliforniaFIRST program. In order to move forward, EGIA encourages your affirmative support through a formal re-affirmation of the 2010 opt-in action.

Energy and water saving projects carry high upfront costs. The CaliforniaFIRST program eliminates this burden by providing an easily accessed, long term financing mechanism repaid through property taxes. EGIA member contractors frequently tell us how important CaliforniaFirst financing is in helping them sell and install more high efficiency upgrades. With this innovative financing option, many homeowners that otherwise would have been turned down by traditional credit based financing are now able to qualify for financing and invest in energy and water efficiency home improvements.

Retrofitting homes to be more energy and water efficient can be one of our region's most significant job creators. Retrofit projects help homeowners save money on their electricity, natural gas, and water utility bills, and help homeowners contribute to community-wide efforts to reach our climate action plan, sustainability, and water conservation goals.

Thank you for your consideration of EGIA's request.

Sincerely,



Bruce Matulich
CEO and Executive Director