

**From:** [Scott Atkinson](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
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Reference ZOA 2021-1

I must go on record against the proposed zoning ordinance calling for a moratorium on future gas stations within Calistoga. Until the balance of electric vehicles more closely equals that of gasoline powered vehicles this is shortsighted. California is on a mission to eliminate natural gas from homes, further impacting the electrical grid which already is subject to brownouts and limits of electrical use. Pushing for more electric powered vehicles without having sufficient infrastructure in place is akin to eliminating the police or fire departments hoping that crime and fires will disappear.

Without the threat of competition, the current gas stations will not have any incentive to aggressively price their fuel. Furthermore, there will be zero incentive to improve their properties, again because they know they are protected against anyone else coming in with a new modern facility. One of the existing stations in town has multiple pumps non-operational a significant amount of time.

People will drive out of town in search of lower fuel prices, depriving the community of tax funds and further contributing to the greenhouse emissions you are attempting to reduce.

I understand the law allows for modernization of existing facilities, but are they protected against a catastrophic structural loss due to earthquake or fire? Will they be allowed to be rebuilt?

If the City wants to help the environment, start with changing the priority of the Lincoln / Washington stoplight. By having the timing for red light impacting Lincoln Avenue 3 times longer than the Washington Street direction, thousands of hours of cars idling are impacting emissions.

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*Saving one dog will not change the world, but surely for that one dog, the world will change forever.*