

2018 SEP 26 PM 1:29

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM DAN KALB AND COUNCILMEMBER  
SHENG THAO

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**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES'  
RESOLUTION TO THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
(CPUC) REQUESTING THAT THE CPUC AMEND RULE 20A TO ALLOW  
FOR THE ADDITION OF PROJECTS IN VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD  
SEVERITY ZONES TO THE LIST OF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR  
UTILITY WIRE UNDERGROUNDING PROJECTS TO HELP PREVENT  
WILDFIRES AND TO INCREASE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR RULE  
20A PROJECTS**

**WHEREAS**, California is experiencing fire seasons of worsening severity and in the past few years, wildfires in California have burned over 1.5 million acres of public and private forest land and destroyed over 24,000 homes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oakland firestorm of 1991 was a large suburban wildland–urban interface conflagration that ultimately killed 25 people and injured 150 others and was the most destructive wildfire in California at that time, and Oakland continues to be considered at very high severity risk for wildfire; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Public Utilities Commission regulates the undergrounding conversion of overhead utilities under Electric Tariff Rule 20 and conversion projects deemed to have a public benefit are eligible to be funded by ratepayers under Rule 20A; and

**WHEREAS**, the criteria under Rule 20A largely restricts eligible projects to those along streets with high volumes of public traffic; and

**WHEREAS**, undergrounding overhead utilities that can spark brush fires is an important tool in preventing wildfires and offers a public benefit; and brush fires are not restricted to starting near streets with high volumes of public traffic; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of undergrounding projects that do not meet Rule 20A criteria is left mostly or entirely to property owners under other parts of Rule 20; and

**WHEREAS**, expanding Rule 20A criteria to include Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones would facilitate undergrounding projects that would help prevent fires; and

**WHEREAS**, expanding Rule 20A criteria as described above and increasing funding allocations for Rule 20A projects would lead to more undergrounding in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones; and

**WHEREAS**, The League of California Cities will vote on a drafted Resolution to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on October 18, 2019, requesting Electric Rule 20A be amended to include wildfire risk as a criteria for eligible undergrounding projects and funding; and now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Oakland City Council hereby endorses the League of California Cities' Resolution requesting the CPUC amend Rule 20A to include projects in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones to the list of eligibility criteria and to increase funding allocations for Rule 20A projects.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND PRESIDENT KAPLAN

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
LATONDA SIMMONS  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California