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City Attorney's Office

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OAKLAND

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OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE DAN KALB, COUNCIL PRESIDENT REBECCA KAPLAN, AND COUNCILMEMBERS LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY AND SHENG THAO

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A GREEN NEW DEAL AND ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SOLVE HUMAN-CAUSED CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH TRANSITIONING TO A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY, PHASING OUT THE BURNING OF FOSSIL FUELS, INCREASING DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OVER OUR ENERGY SYSTEMS, AND DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO INCORPORATE, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, PRINCIPLES OF THE GREEN NEW DEAL INTO THE ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR OAKLAND

WHEREAS, average global sea level is expected to rise 11 – 38 inches or more before the end of this century, threatening virtually all coastal areas, including Oakland and other communities in the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, climate change threatens the state of California and its people, flora and fauna with worsening air pollution, exacerbated extreme weather patterns swinging from devastating droughts to flooding, and much more dangerous and frequent forest fires; and

WHEREAS, the United States emits more heat-trapping greenhouse gases per capita than any other country and emits more total greenhouse gases than most other countries; and

WHEREAS, the fossil fuel industry has long exerted a significant influence over government decisions, in part due to many millions of dollars in annual spending on lobbying and campaign finance; and

WHEREAS, the earth's oceans are expected to contain more plastic than fish by 2050, and the United States is a non-negligible contributor to marine debris patches and can serve as a world leader in modeling sound plastics policies for other polluting countries to emulate; and

WHEREAS, many parts of the United States have been left woefully behind by the recent economic boom, with double-digit unemployment rates common across the Rust Belt, rural South, California's Central Valley, and in many African American communities; and

WHEREAS, national economic inequality has substantially grown since the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, several research entities including the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Data for Progress, and others have advanced numerous, detailed green infrastructure proposals; and

WHEREAS, stimulus packages have helped economic recovery in years past, with over 80% of economic experts agreeing that the 2009 The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 helped reduce the American unemployment rate by the end of 2010; and

WHEREAS, burgeoning technologies and the promise of American industriousness, ingenuity, and innovation provide numerous opportunities for investment in sustainable technologies and behaviors, including but not limited to:

- wind, solar, and geothermal power,
- zero-emission passenger vehicles and alternative fuel sources,
- pipe replacement and infrastructure upgrades,
- waterway infrastructure improvements,
- organic agriculture, permaculture, and sustainable forestry,
- plant-based and cell-based meat substitutes,
- energy efficiency retrofitting,
- reforestation and wetland restoration, and
- modernization of mass transit, including high-speed rail; and

WHEREAS, the landmark report released in October by the U.N. Intergovernmental Report on Climate Change found that humanity has only 12 years left in which it is possible to limit emissions so that global warming is kept to moderate levels; and

WHEREAS, over 19,000 scientists have signed a Second Warning to Humanity, first issued in 2017, proclaiming that "a great change in our stewardship of the Earth and the life on it is required, if vast human misery is to be avoided;"

WHEREAS, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), in 2017, "the U.S. was impacted by 16 separate billion-dollar disaster events tying 2011 for the record number of billion-dollar disasters for an entire calendar year," with a cumulative cost of \$309.5 billion, surpassing the previous U.S. annual record cost of \$219.2 billion in 2005 due to Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Rita and Wilma; and

WHEREAS, the original New Deal was a series of programs, public works projects, and financial reforms and regulations enacted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt between 1933 and 1936 in response to the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, much of our infrastructure, including streets, roads, sidewalks, storm drains, and parks, were constructed more than 70 years ago, an enduring legacy of the New Deal's Works Projects Administration; and

WHEREAS, sporadic calls for a Green New Deal and various proposals for it have been made since at least 2007 and the Sunrise Movement has recently renewed the call for a Green New Deal to solve human-caused climate change through a just transition to a clean energy economy that addresses economic inequality; and

WHEREAS, Representative-elect Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and other Democratic Congressional leaders, with the support of numerous organizations, have called for a Green New Deal and the public popularity of the concept has soared in 2018; and

WHEREAS, former United States Vice President Al Gore supports a Green New Deal; and

WHEREAS, a recent poll found that over 80 percent of voters surveyed, including 64 percent of Republican voters, were in favor of a Green New Deal as a policy package; and

WHEREAS, while the exact elements of a Green New Deal for America remain to be worked out, the broad thrust is a massive program of investments in clean-energy jobs and infrastructure, meant to transform not just the energy sector but the entire economy, including decarbonizing the economy and making it fairer and more just, the development of an economic stimulus plan, considering financing elements including a network of public banks, and creating good-paying green jobs in our communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council hereby supports a Green New Deal and encourages the United States Congress to act to help solve human-caused climate change through transitioning to a clean energy economy, phasing out the burning of fossil fuels, and increasing democratic control over our energy systems; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Administrator is directed to send a copy of this Resolution on behalf of the City Council to United States Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, U.S. Representative Barbara Lee, Governor Gavin Newsom, Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, and U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: and City Council directs the City Administrator to incorporate, to the extent practicable, the principles of the Green New Deal into the forthcoming new Energy and Climate Action Plan for Oakland.

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

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