


Celso Ortiz (Jun 25, 2020 11:06 PDT)

City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER DAN KALB

A RESOLUTION OF THE OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT A GOAL TO ACHIEVE CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2045

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2006, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), or the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, committing California to reducing statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 2000 levels by 2010, to 1990 levels by 2020, and to a level 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the City Council approved a preliminary GHG reduction target for the year 2050 of 83 percent below 2005 levels, functionally equivalent to carbon neutrality; and

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2015, California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., signed Executive Order B-30-15, establishing an interim Statewide GHG reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, which was set into law through SB 32 on September 8, 2016; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2015, the City of Oakland entered the Global Covenant of Mayors, pledging the City to inventory and report GHG emissions at least every three years, disclose climate hazards within one year, and disclose climate vulnerabilities within two years; and

WHEREAS, on December 6, 2015 at the U.N. Climate Change Conference of Parties in Paris, Mayor Schaaf signed the Under 2 Memorandum of Understanding (Under 2 MOU), committing Oakland to limit emissions to 80 to 95 percent below 1990 levels, or below two metric tons per capita, by 2050, which is the level of emission reduction believed necessary to limit global warming to less than 2°C by the end of this century; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2016, the United States signed onto the Paris Agreement, in which 175 nations recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by agreeing to keep global warming "well below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels", and to "pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2016, Mayor Schaaf signed the Pacific North America Climate Leadership Agreement (PNACLA) at the Clean Energy Ministerial conference in San Francisco, an agreement between cities of Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Oakland, and Los Angeles, as well as the states/provinces of California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, establishing a formal commitment to pursue joint efforts to reduce GHG emissions through advanced programs focused on eliminating fossil fuels from buildings, creating clean energy, reducing waste, supporting electric vehicles, and greening municipal and port operations; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2017, President Donald Trump announced his intent to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2018, California Governor Jerry Brown signed Executive Order B-55-18, committing California to achieving carbon neutrality no later than 2045, and achieving and maintaining net negative emissions thereafter; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change stating that the current rate of global warming (approximately + 0.2 degrees Celsius/decade) is expected to increase global mean surface temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels between the years of 2030 and 2052; and

WHEREAS, on October 30, 2018, the Oakland City Council unanimously adopted Resolution 87397 C.M.S. declaring a climate emergency and requesting regional collaboration on an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 IPCC Special Report estimates that to have a 66 percent chance of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, we cannot exceed our remaining “carbon budget,” which is equal to about 10 years of current-level greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 IPCC Special Report recommends “deep emissions reductions” and “rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society” in order to stay within 1.5°C of temperature rise and avoid the worst impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2019, the Oakland City Council unanimously adopted Resolution 87511 C.M.S. supporting a Green New Deal and directing the City Administrator to incorporate principles of the Green New Deal into the Energy and Climate Action Plan for Oakland; and

WHEREAS, current global warming has contributed to the increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires, floods, droughts, heat waves, and hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, the current pace of sea-level rise is already impacting California’s coastline, increasing the extent and frequency of flooding in Oakland, with the possibility of as much as 66 inches of total sea-level rise by 2100; and

WHEREAS, climate change and the global economy's overshoot of ecological limits are driving the sixth mass extinction of species; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has contributed greatly to these climate and ecological crises and bears an extraordinary responsibility to help solve them; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires mobilization at all levels of government and society on a scale, scope, and speed not seen since World War Two; and

WHEREAS, marginalized communities worldwide—including people of color, immigrants, indigenous communities, low-income people, those with disabilities, and the unhoused—are already disproportionately affected by climate change and must benefit first from a just transition to a sustainable and equitable economy; and

WHEREAS, efforts to control climate change will have many other beneficial effects, such as cleaner air and water, employment closer to home, cost savings for households and the City, and the priceless creation of community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland must do everything in its power to swiftly convert to an ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable economy; and

WHEREAS, by adopting ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets, the City of Oakland can demonstrate local climate action leadership as well as align with the vision of California Executive Order B-55-18 and with the goals of the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the achievement of carbon neutrality will require both significant reductions in GHG emissions and removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, including sequestration in urban forests, soils, and other natural landscapes; and

WHEREAS, by adopting a carbon neutrality target, the City of Oakland can further demonstrate local climate action leadership as well as align with the vision of California Executive Order B-55-18; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland has a history of leadership in addressing climate change, including having achieved an estimated 24 percent reduction in GHG emissions below 2005 levels by 2017; and

WHEREAS, a goal of carbon neutrality by 2045 aligns strategically with existing City commitments and initiatives aimed at GHG emissions reductions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City reaffirms its commitment to achieving the absolute greenhouse gas reduction targets adopted by the City Council on December 4, 2012; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City hereby establishes a goal to achieve community-wide carbon neutrality no later than 2045, and to achieve and maintain net-

negative emission thereafter. This goal is in addition to the existing, absolute greenhouse gas reduction target; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That policies and programs undertaken to achieve carbon neutrality shall seek to support the health and economic resiliency of the community, protect vulnerable populations, and preserve Oakland’s socioeconomic and cultural diversity in accordance with the City Council’s adopted major goal.

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: _____
ASHA REED
Acting City Clerk and Acting Clerk of the
Council of the City of Oakland, California