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CITY OF OAKLAND  
CITY COUNCIL

### LEGISLATIVE ANALYST MEMORANDUM

**To:** Public Works Committee  
**From:** Alice Glasner, Legislative Analyst  
**Date:** February 26, 2008  
**Re:** **Minor Revisions to the Oil Independent Oakland Action Plan**

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On February 8, 2008 the Oil Independent Oakland Action Plan was provided to the Council and the public through the City Clerk. This memorandum reflects minor revisions to the document which will be presented in Committee on February 26. The first is a revision to the Executive Summary, on page 2, paragraph three, and the second revision has to do with additions to the Table of Recommendations on page 13, where blanks were inadvertently left in the document. Please consider these revisions in reviewing the documents provided.

**I. Page 3, Action Plan (see underlined sentence, below).**

### Executive Summary

The Oil Independent Oakland by 2020 Task Force (OIO) is presenting a series of recommendations to enable the City of Oakland to reduce its dependence on oil and become one of the world's leading cities in sustainable development. The focus of the OIO was on oil reduction not on greenhouse gas emissions, although the two are closely aligned and reducing oil use will decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

A key factor in this report is the concept of "Peak Oil," defined as the time when the global rate of extraction of petroleum will reach a maximum and begin to decline. The Task Force did not debate when this peak would occur and accepted the opinion of many experts that it will occur within a few years time—if it has not already occurred. As oil supplies begin to decline, there will be an estimated shortfall of approximately 2.6% or more per year worldwide. Although 2.6% may not sound like a lot, in ten years the cumulative shortfall would be 29%. In twenty years the shortfall would be 67%. This could be devastating for a world accustomed to continued expansion in available energy supplies. The shortfall could be even higher as economies expand, population grows, and affluence spreads. Countries such as the U.S. that import most of their oil supplies may also be more severely impacted.

To avoid major disruptions anticipated by Peak Oil, the OIO recommends that the City of Oakland begin making a series of changes to reduce its dependence on oil in both the near term and long term. Many of the changes the Task Force recommends will take many years to implement but will have significant long term benefits that will help the City to avert potentially catastrophic economic, infrastructure and social repercussions. **It will also help the city to expand the new, green collar job base for Oakland and the Bay area.** Given the long lead times required to change such things as transportation and infrastructure, it is imperative that many of the actions begin immediately.

The primary focus of the OIO recommendations is on the transportation sector. That is where 97% of oil is used in Oakland. The OIO did not focus on natural gas or on electricity since none of the electricity supplied to Oakland is generated from oil.

The Task Force recommends first and foremost that the City formally adopt the Oil Depletion Protocol. This is the approach set forth by author Richard Heinberg in his book by the same title which outlines a plan to avert disaster by having all nations commit to reducing oil usage by approximately 3% per year. The OIO recommends that the City of Oakland adopt this protocol locally and to take immediate steps to implement it. While San Francisco has already endorsed the Protocol, Oakland would be the first government at any level in the world to adopt and implement the Protocol.

**II. Page 13, Action Plan. What to do: A Summary of Recommendations  
( numbered excerpts below)**

	Actions			Timeframe in years		
	Individual	City	Regional	1-3	4-7	8+
<b>TWO MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS</b>						
<b>1</b> Adopt the Oil Depletion Protocol as a city	•	•	•	•		
<b>2</b> Adopt the Oil Depletion Protocol as individuals	•			•		

	Actions			Timeframe in years		
	Individual	City	Regional	1-3	4-7	8+
<b>BUY SMART/FOOD AND MATERIALS</b>						
<b>20</b> Maximize local food production	•	•	•		•	
<b>21</b> Reduce plastics use		•	•			•
<b>22</b> Explore non-oil based road materials		•	•			•