


CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AB 1087 (CHIU), A BILL THAT WOULD CREATE AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE HUBS PROGRAM, WHICH WOULD ALLOCATE FUNDS FROM ELECTRICAL CORPORATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO OWNERS OF CRITICAL COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS FOR HOLISTIC COMMUNITY-DRIVEN BUILDING UPGRADE PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states we have until 2030 to transform our economy and elements of the way we live to avoid the most catastrophic and irreversible effects of the climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, in California, historic disinvestment in environmental justice has resulted in disproportionately harmful impacts for low-income communities of color across a range of climate disasters (e.g., wildfires, power shutoffs, extreme heat, flooding); and

WHEREAS, low-income communities tend to have buildings with conditions such as leaky windows, poor insulation and substandard ventilation systems that worsen health burdens during heat waves and wildfire smoke; and

WHEREAS, the health consequences of living in polluted neighborhoods include higher incidences of asthma and cancer, which have made the COVID-19 crisis particularly harmful in low-income communities as air pollution makes the illness worse; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has exposed deep inequalities produced by our political and economic systems and foreshadows devastating impacts and disruptions from the intensifying effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, Black, Latinx and Asian Pacific Islander neighborhoods are experiencing a higher disease burden relative to their share of the state's population; and

WHEREAS, there is a need, given the growing negative impacts of climate change, to ensure communities have sufficient support and mechanisms to respond, as well as eliminate barriers for communities to access services; and

WHEREAS, several existing clean energy programs offer funding to reduce dangerous climate pollution, make buildings cleaner and safer for vulnerable communities, and improve community resiliency against the worst effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, these programs have overlapping goals and scopes of work, but are operating in isolation from each other and need to be set up in a way to increase opportunities for collaboration and economies of scale, as well as streamlined application processes, and

WHEREAS, under existing law, the California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”) has regulatory authority over electrical corporations, and the CPUC is authorized to allocate fifteen percent (15%) of the revenues received by the electrical corporations from that allocation of allowances for clean energy and energy efficiency projects; and

WHEREAS, existing law requires the PUC to direct the balance of the revenues to be credited directly to the residential, small business, and emissions-intensive trade-exposed retail customers of the electrical corporations, as specified by statute; and

WHEREAS, AB 1087 (Chiu) addresses these problems by requiring the CPUC annually allocate five percent (5%) of the revenues received by electrical corporations from that allocation of greenhouse gas allowances towards creating a new Environmental Justice Community Resilience Hubs Program, which will rely on a CPUC-appointed single third-party administrator to award competitive grants, offer technical assistance to applicants, and coordinate with existing programs that already deliver building-specific clean energy and community health benefits; and

WHEREAS, eligible applicants for the grant program would be property owners of critical community institutions located in disadvantaged and vulnerable communities; and

WHEREAS, the bill would require the PUC select a third-party administrator by no later than March 1, 2023, and require that the program be operational and begin processing applications by no later than July 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the bill would require that the program be jointly operated among all the participating electrical corporations and be consistent across the utility territories; and

WHEREAS, the bill would require the third-party administrator ensure that program moneys from each utility are used only for projects located in the service territory of that utility from which the moneys are received; and

WHEREAS, this pilot program would boost the climate change resilience of institutions that communities trust (such as libraries, schools, health clinics, and places of worship) with building upgrades, such as improved building insulation for extreme heat protection, clean energy microgrids installation for backup power during grid outages, and air filtration systems to combat wildfire smoke; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland supports AB 1087 (Chiu), a bill that would create an Environmental Justice Community Resilience Hubs Program; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council directs the City Administrator or his designee to distribute this Resolution upon its adoption to Governor Gavin Newsom, Assembly member David Chiu, and state legislators representing the City of Oakland.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES – FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

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