



City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR LOW-INCOME RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES TOTALING \$99,974.48 FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES (ICLEI) AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY EAST BAY SILICON VALLEY TO FURTHER THE CITY'S CLIMATE, ELECTRIFICATION, AND RESILIENCE GOALS; AND MAKING APPROPRIATE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FINDINGS

WHEREAS, natural gas combustion in buildings is known to lead to elevated levels of harmful indoor air pollutants that disproportionately affect frontline communities, including people of color, immigrants, indigenous communities, low-income people, those with disabilities, and children; and

WHEREAS, the indoor air pollutants that arise from onsite natural gas combustion have been shown to contribute to respiratory ailments such as asthma, such that, nation-wide, children living in homes with gas cooking are forty-two percent (42%) more likely to develop asthma; and

WHEREAS, twenty percent (20%) of childhood asthma cases in California are directly attributed to living in a home with a gas stove; and

WHEREAS, natural gas infrastructure and pipelines contribute to the risk of fires and explosions such as the 2010 San Bruno pipeline explosion, with the risk magnified in cases of major earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, in July 2020, the City of Oakland ("City") adopted the 2030 Equitable Climate Action Plan ("ECAP"), a comprehensive strategy to equitably reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout Oakland sixty percent (60%) by 2030 relative to 2005 levels; and

WHEREAS, the ECAP includes a commitment to eliminate natural gas combustion and connections in all existing buildings by 2040 to improve the health and safety of building occupants, as well as to increase jobs and eliminate a major contributor to the climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City's 2017 CURB analysis indicated that the City would not achieve its greenhouse gas reduction targets without eliminating natural gas combustion in buildings; and

WHEREAS, in July 2020, alongside adoption of the 2030 ECAP, Oakland City Council also adopted a carbon neutrality target of 2045, the attainment of which will require all buildings in the City to be fully electric; and

WHEREAS, the ECAP’s Racial Equity Impact Assessment and Implementation Guide (“REIA”) requires maximizing benefits of climate action among frontline communities, including ensuring that policies, programs, and projects that implement the ECAP benefit low-income and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (“BIPOC”) Oaklanders first and foremost; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has similarly set building electrification and energy efficiency as key priorities; and

WHEREAS, Oakland can lead the climate justice movement by ensuring that climate solutions, including decarbonization, benefit populations that have borne the brunt of environmental injustice, air pollution, and other environmental harms; and

WHEREAS, the City primarily receives electricity from Ava Community Energy (formerly East Bay Community Energy), whose electricity generation was a minimum of seventy-one percent (71%) renewable and/or carbon free in 2022, and slated to be one hundred percent (100%) renewable and carbon free by 2030 at the latest, while prioritizing local renewable generation and local green jobs development; and

WHEREAS, climate disruption is being fueled by the burning of fossil fuels, including “natural gas,” oil, and coal, and the disruption is already having devastating impacts on those who can least afford it and are least responsible for the problem; and

WHEREAS, many low-income homes have deferred maintenance and need health-and-safety and energy efficiency upgrades before broader electrification measures can be effectively pursued; and

WHEREAS, holistic building electrification is part of ensuring healthy homes by improving energy efficiency and indoor air quality; and

WHEREAS, the International Council for Local Government Initiatives (“ICLEI”), in partnership with Google.org, administers a three million dollar (\$3,000,000) fund to support collaborations between local government and nonprofit organizations for data-driven, highly replicable, and action-oriented climate action projects; and

WHEREAS, with \$99,974.48 as part of a \$1 million, four-city grant from ICLEI, with local nonprofit Habitat for Humanity East Bay Silicon Valley (“Habitat”) as the lead grant recipient, City staff will pilot incorporation of building electrification retrofits into the City’s Residential Lending Services (“RLS”) program, which provides health, safety, and access improvements for low-income, homeowner-occupied, single-family homes, as a means to streamline holistic housing services and develop a methodology for ensuring that local government-delivered housing rehabilitation services explicitly incorporate electrification and residential energy bill reduction measures; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City Administrator is authorized to accept and appropriate funding of at least \$99,974.48, as well as any additional future funds, from Habitat, ICLEI,

and/or their partners, for the purpose of piloting, implementing, and/or expanding low-income residential holistic electrification activities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Administrator is authorized, in the name of the City of Oakland, to execute by electronic signature or other method required by Habitat and/or ICLEI all project-related documents including, without limitation, an agreement with ICLEI and/or Habitat to participate fully in the low-income residential electrification projects described herein and all applications, agreements, amendments, and requests for payment necessary to secure related project funds, grants, and rebates; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Administrator is authorized to take any other action necessary consistent with this Resolution and its basic purposes; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: The City Council finds that this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) because the acceptance and appropriation of the funding at issue will be for the purpose of performing actions for the protection of natural resources (CEQA Guidelines section 15307) and for the protection of the environment (CEQA Guidelines section 15308); and

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the agreement and amendments authorized hereunder shall be reviewed and approved by the City Attorney for form and legality and shall be placed on file in the office of the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, JENKINS, KALB, KAPLAN, RAMACHANDRAN, REID, AND
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

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