



**BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE,  
TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**Monday, November 23, 2020  
2:00 PM**

Committee Members:

Councilmembers Cheryl Davila, Kate Harrison, and Rigel Robinson  
Alternate: Councilmember Sophie Hahn

**PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH  
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE**

Pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order N-29-20, issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, this meeting of the City Council Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment & Sustainability Policy Committee will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. Please be advised that pursuant to the Executive Order, and to ensure the health and safety of the public by limiting human contact that could spread the COVID-19 virus, there will not be a physical meeting location available.

To access the meeting remotely using the internet: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Use URL <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87275078634>. If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise hand" icon on the screen.

To join by phone: Dial **1-669-900-9128 or 1-877-853-5257 (Toll Free)** and Enter Meeting ID: **872 7507 8634**. If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, press \*9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair.

Written communications submitted by mail or e-mail to the Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment & Sustainability Committee by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the Committee meeting will be distributed to the members of the Committee in advance of the meeting and retained as part of the official record. City offices are currently closed and cannot accept written communications in person.

# AGENDA

## Roll Call

## Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

## Minutes for Approval

*Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.*

### 1. Minutes - November 18, 2020

## Committee Action Items

*The public may comment on each item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up. The Chair will determine the number of persons interested in speaking on each item. Up to ten (10) speakers may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Chair may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker. Speakers are permitted to yield their time to one other speaker, however no one speaker shall have more than four minutes.*

*Following review and discussion of the items listed below, the Committee may continue an item to a future committee meeting, or refer the item to the City Council.*

## Committee Action Items

### 2. **Initiate a Citywide, Regional and International Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy to Address the Climate Emergency**

**From: Councilmember Davila (Author)**

**Referred: July 13, 2020**

**Due: December 27, 2020**

**Recommendation:** Adopt a resolution to initiate a citywide, regional and international Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy to address the Climate Emergency, and taking the following actions: 1. The City of Berkeley recognizes sustainability is not enough to protect residents from cumulative impacts of centuries of environmental and social degradation and instead will reorient its city planning, policy, and resource allocation to be socially and environmentally positive and will invest in a regenerative whole city infrastructure, policy, development and design process. 2. The City of Berkeley following the lead of Amsterdam and other cities will join in an attempt to embrace Doughnut Economics, which, by definition, recognizes the necessity of meeting the needs of residents within the carrying capacity of our planet Earth and the greater Bay Area bioregion. 3. The City of Berkeley will accelerate the transition to a zero-waste cradle to cradle, circular economy by a developing a series of ordinances ensuring only earth friendly products are sold within city limits by 2025. 4. All City of Berkeley commissions shall propose city policies, procedures and programs to enact a just transition that is socially, economically and ecologically regenerative by securing racial justice, bioregional restoration and sustainability, maximally reduces greenhouse gas emissions, increases public health, increases disaster preparedness and community resilience and reverses inequality and wealth extraction from Berkeley and Bay Area residents. 5. The City of Berkeley will create a city commission responsible for planning and implementing a Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy that is anti-racist, provides reparations and transformative support for those who are black, Indigenous, people of color, low income, and those struggling with mental health challenges, is community-driven and democratically-funded, environmentally-regenerative, and prioritizes local and independent businesses. 6. The City of Berkeley commits to suspend any and all projects and policies that are incompatible with protecting the Earth and people from further environmental degradation, social inequality, public health risks, and global warming and urges all neighboring agencies, statewide, national, and international, to do the same. 7. The City of Berkeley will create a regional and statewide collaborative to ensure the maximal climate mitigation and adaptation scenarios to begin as soon as possible and formally requests all regional agencies, cities, and counties to a shared table to devise and execute a Just Transition plan to the Regenerative Economy here in the greater Bay Area through a regional Green New Deal. 8. The City of Berkeley calls on governments who have declared a climate emergency and who broadly recognize the immense challenge facing humanity to form a transnational task force to be sustained until 2050 to co-execute a shared transitional peace effort in moving their immediate societies and economies toward ethical and regenerative trajectories. 9. The City of Berkeley within the first 90 days will invite all the cities, counties, and institutions such as the UC system to form a regional and statewide task force to oversee a justice- oriented evidence- based transition to a regenerative economy to be sustained until 2050;

## Committee Action Items

10. The City of Berkeley identifies our current economy with its focus on near-term perpetual growth requiring resource extraction and wealth enclosure as defunct and incompatible with the needs of sustainability, human thriving, and dignity, and calls for a new economic system which in its design meets human needs within planetary and local environmental and social boundaries, focuses on human and ecological flourishing, furthers a regenerative human presence on earth, achieves equitable distribution of resources throughout the planet, and fosters an immediate transition to avert climate catastrophe in the near and long term. 11. The City of Berkeley endorses the intention and vision behind a global Green New Deal that reverses centuries of colonization, and post-colonial imbalances of power, health, wealth, sovereignty, addresses the climate emergency at the speed and scale necessary, and protects the world from impending climate impacts. 12. The City of Berkeley recognizes the importance of indigenous leadership in designing and implementing a Regenerative Economy in Berkeley, the greater Bay Area, and the world, and shall invite delegates from indigenous communities to all stages of the planning and implementation process.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Cheryl Davila, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

## Unscheduled Items

*These items are not scheduled for discussion or action at this meeting. The Committee may schedule these items to the Action Calendar of a future Committee meeting.*

3. **Adopt an Ordinance Adding a Chapter 11.62 to the Berkeley Municipal Code to Regulate Plastic Bags at Retail and Food Service Establishments**  
**From: Councilmembers Harrison and Hahn**  
**Referred: November 25, 2019**  
**Due: December 17, 2020**  
**Recommendation:** Adopt an ordinance adding a Chapter 11.62 to the Berkeley Municipal Code to regulate plastic bags at retail and food service establishments.  
**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Kate Harrison, Councilmember, District 4, (510) 981-7140
  
4. **Prohibition on the Sale of Gasoline, Diesel, and Other Carbon-Based Transportation Fuels by 2045**  
**From: Community Environmental Advisory Commission**  
**Referred: March 30, 2020**  
**Due: December 19, 2020**  
**Recommendation:** Review and refer to the City Attorney for finalization the attached ordinance prohibiting the sale of gasoline, diesel, and other carbon-based transportation fuels effective January 1st, 2045.  
**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Viviana Garcia, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-7460

## Unscheduled Items

- 5. Prohibition on the Use of City Streets for Operating, Parking, or Idling Combustion Vehicles by 2045**  
**From: Community Environmental Advisory Commission**  
**Referred: March 30, 2020**  
**Due: December 19, 2020**  
**Recommendation:** Review and refer to the City Attorney for finalization the attached ordinance prohibiting the use of City-owned streets for the operation, parking, or idling of combustion vehicles beginning in 2045, and establishing an offset-driven fee-based enforcement mechanism.  
**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Viviana Garcia, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-7460
- 6. Referral Response: Ordinance Amending Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 7.52, Reducing Tax Imposed for Qualifying Electrification, Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation Retrofits**  
**From: City Manager**  
**Referred: July 21, 2020**  
**Due: January 4, 2021**  
**Recommendation:** 1. Delay adoption of the first reading of an ordinance amending the Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) Chapter 7.52 to expand the Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program to include qualifying sustainability and resilience measures, and any associated budget requests, until FYE 2022 when more information on budget due to COVID-19 response and recovery is available; and  
2. Refer to the City Manager the design of a companion Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program that would provide funding for home retrofit improvements to low-income residents.  
**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Jordan Klein, Planning and Development, (510) 981-7400
- 7. Enforce Bi-Weekly (Once Every Two Weeks) Residential Cleaning Measures to Address Encampments and Promote Clean Streets in Berkeley**  
**From: Councilmember Bartlett (Author), Councilmember Hahn (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Harrison (Co-Sponsor) and Councilmember Davila (Co-Sponsor)**  
**Referred: October 13, 2020**  
**Due: February 10, 2021**  
**Recommendation:** Refer to the City Manager to promote equitable street cleaning practices and require biweekly (once every two weeks), cleanings of populated encampment sites in Berkeley and adjacent residential neighborhoods. In order to determine where City Staff should prioritize residential cleaning services, the City Manager should establish a radius around the campsites. When encampments are on non-City owned property, such as Caltrans, the City should bill the appropriate agency for the cost of staff and materials.  
**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Ben Bartlett, Councilmember, District 3, (510) 981-7130

## Unscheduled Items

### 8. Recognize the Rights of Nature

**From: Councilmember Davila (Author)**

**Referred: October 13, 2020**

**Due: February 10, 2021**

**Recommendation:** Adopt a resolution to recognize that the natural living world has a right to exist, thrive, regenerate and evolve its life cycles; to protect the ecosystems upon which our own vitality depends; and to transform our human relationship with nature from a property-based to a legal rights-bearing entity.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Cheryl Davila, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

## Items for Future Agendas

- Discussion of items to be added to future agendas

## Adjournment

~~~~~  
*Written communications addressed to the Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment & Sustainability Committee and submitted to the City Clerk Department will be distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting.*

*This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Members of the City Council who are not members of the standing committee may attend a standing committee meeting even if it results in a quorum being present, provided that the non-members only act as observers and do not participate in the meeting. If only one member of the Council who is not a member of the committee is present for the meeting, the member may participate in the meeting because less than a quorum of the full Council is present. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Mark Numainville, City Clerk, (510) 981-6900.*



### COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:

To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at (510) 981-6418 (V) or (510) 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date.

~~~~~  
I hereby certify that the agenda for this meeting of the Standing Committee of the Berkeley City Council was posted at the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, as well as on the City's website, on November 19, 2020.



Mark Numainville, City Clerk

## Communications

*Communications submitted to City Council Policy Committees are on file in the City Clerk Department at 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA.*

**BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE,  
TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 18, 2020  
2:30 PM**

Committee Members:

Councilmembers Cheryl Davila, Rigel Robinson, and Kate Harrison  
Alternate: Councilmember Sophie Hahn

**PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH  
VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE**

Pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order N-29-20, issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, this meeting of the City Council Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment & Sustainability Policy Committee will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. Please be advised that pursuant to the Executive Order, and to ensure the health and safety of the public by limiting human contact that could spread the COVID-19 virus, there will not be a physical meeting location available.

To access the meeting remotely using the internet: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Use URL <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85952780607>. If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise hand" icon on the screen.

To join by phone: Dial **1-669-900-9128 or 1-877-853-5257 (Toll Free)** and Enter Meeting ID: **859 5278 0607**. If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, press \*9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair.

Written communications submitted by mail or e-mail to the Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment & Sustainability Committee by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the Committee meeting will be distributed to the members of the Committee in advance of the meeting and retained as part of the official record. City offices are currently closed and cannot accept written communications in person.

## MINUTES

**Roll Call:** 2:37 pm. All present.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters:** 1 Speaker.

### Minutes for Approval

*Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.*

#### 1. Minutes - November 2, 2020

**Action:** M/S/C (Davila/Robinson) to approve the November 2, 2020 as presented.

**Vote:** All Ayes

### Committee Action Items

*The public may comment on each item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up. The Chair will determine the number of persons interested in speaking on each item. Up to ten (10) speakers may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Chair may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker. Speakers are permitted to yield their time to one other speaker, however no one speaker shall have more than four minutes.*

*Following review and discussion of the items listed below, the Committee may continue an item to a future committee meeting, or refer the item to the City Council.*

#### 2. Potential Bonding and Funding Opportunities for Improving the PCI of Residential Streets, and Creating a Paving Master Plan

**Referred:** January 21, 2020

**Due:** November 23, 2020

**Recommendation:** On January 21, 2020, the City Council referred the following language from the revised agenda material from Councilmember Harrison in the Supplemental Communications Packet 2, and as further revised by the Council, to the Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment & Sustainability Committee for consideration:

Refer to the Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment, & Sustainability Committee to work with the Public Works Department and the Commission to explore potential bonding and funding opportunities for improving the PCI of residential streets, and creating a paving master plan.

**Action:** 3 speakers. Discussion held. M/S/C (Harrison/Robinson) to send the item with a positive recommendation to the City Council requesting that the item be referred back to the Facilities committee to allow for more time to discuss and the committee requests Council to send the paving master plan from the Public Works Commission to the committee when the item comes before Council in January.

**Vote:** All Ayes



## Committee Action Items

### 3. Introduce an Ordinance terminating the sale of gasoline, diesel and natural gas passenger vehicles throughout the City of Berkeley by 2025

**From: Councilmember Davila**

**Referred: November 18, 2019**

**Due: December 10, 2020**

**Recommendation:** Adopt a resolution with the following actions:

1. Direct the City Attorney to prepare any draft ordinances to terminate the sale of gasoline, diesel and natural gas passenger vehicles throughout the City of Berkeley by 2025; this shall include the termination of purchasing these vehicles to support City fleets and, for the general public, a staged phase out such as cars over \$28K by 2023, cars over \$22K by 2024, and all cars by 2025, so as to actively create a used electric vehicle market for lower income customers that allows them to acquire electric vehicles at a cost equal to or below that of comparable gasoline, diesel, or natural gas vehicles.

2. Short term referral to the City Manager and/or designee(s) to report to the City Council in 90 days, in consultation with other City Departments with the following information: (A) Feasibility of terminating the sale of gasoline, diesel and natural gas passenger vehicles; (B) ways to promote and facilitate the sale of all-electric vehicles in the City, particularly among low income communities, including the provision of local tax incentives and rebates, as large as is necessary to cover any cost difference between an electric car and a comparable gas car; the simplification of building code requirements for chargers; and the establishment of charging stations and related infrastructure to support all-electric vehicles; (C) any "just transition" elements related to the above action, including the impact upon and opportunities for auto mechanics.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Cheryl Davila, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

**Action:** 2 speakers. Discussion held. M/S/C (Harrison/Davila) to the send the item with a positive recommendation as amended by the committee with the following recommendation:

Adopt a resolution with the following actions: 1. Refer to the City Manager to prepare any draft ordinances, to the extent legally possible, to achieve an 80% phase out of the sale of gasoline, diesel and natural gas passenger vehicles throughout the City of Berkeley by 2027, this shall include the termination of purchasing these vehicles to support City fleets and, for the general public, a staged phase out of such cars over \$28K by 2025, cars over \$23K by 2026, and all other cars by 2027, so as to actively create a used electric vehicle market for lower income customers that allows them to acquire electric vehicles at a cost equal to or below that of comparable gasoline, diesel, or natural gas vehicles.

2. Refer to the City Manager and/or designee(s) to report to the City Council, in consultation with other City Departments with the following information: (A) Feasibility of terminating the sale of gasoline, diesel and natural gas passenger vehicles; (B) ways to promote and facilitate the use and sale of all-electric vehicles in the City, particularly among low income communities, including the provision of local tax incentives and rebates, as large as is necessary to cover any cost difference between an electric car and a comparable gas car; ways to promote and facilitate the purchase and use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) in the City, particularly among low income

## Unscheduled Items

communities and families, including loaner programs, subsidized long term rentals, purchase subsidies, and expanded secure parking for e-bikes, including larger cargo bikes; and the establishment of public charging station and related infrastructure to support all-electric vehicles; (C) any “just transition” elements related to the above action, including the impact upon and opportunities for auto mechanics.

**Vote:** All Ayes

### 4. **Prohibition on the Resale of Used Combustion Vehicles in 2040**

**From:** Community Environmental Advisory Commission

**Referred:** March 30, 2020

**Due:** December 19, 2020

**Recommendation:** Review and refer to the City Attorney for finalization the attached ordinance prohibiting the resale of used, existing combustion-powered vehicles beginning in 2040.

**Financial Implications:** See report.

Contact: Viviana Garcia, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-7460

**Action:** 1 speaker. Discussion held. M/S/C (Robinson/Davila) to send the item with a positive recommendation to refer to the City Manager for review of the attached ordinance prohibiting the resale of used, existing combustion-powered vehicles beginning in 2040, to the extent legally possible.

**Vote:** Ayes - Davila, Robinson; Noes – None; Abstain – None; Absent - Harrison

## Unscheduled Items

*These items are not scheduled for discussion or action at this meeting. The Committee may schedule these items to the Action Calendar of a future Committee meeting.*

### 5. **Adopt an Ordinance Adding a Chapter 11.62 to the Berkeley Municipal Code to Regulate Plastic Bags at Retail and Food Service Establishments**

**From:** Councilmembers Harrison and Hahn

**Referred:** November 25, 2019

**Due:** December 17, 2020

**Recommendation:** Adopt an ordinance adding a Chapter 11.62 to the Berkeley Municipal Code to regulate plastic bags at retail and food service establishments.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Kate Harrison, Councilmember, District 4, (510) 981-7140

**Action:** The item was continued to the next meeting.

## Unscheduled Items

- 6. Prohibition on the Sale of Gasoline, Diesel, and Other Carbon-Based Transportation Fuels by 2045**  
**From: Community Environmental Advisory Commission**  
**Referred: March 30, 2020**  
**Due: December 19, 2020**  
**Recommendation:** Review and refer to the City Attorney for finalization the attached ordinance prohibiting the sale of gasoline, diesel, and other carbon-based transportation fuels effective January 1st, 2045.  
**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Viviana Garcia, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-7460  
**Action:** The item was continued to the next meeting.
- 7. Prohibition on the Use of City Streets for Operating, Parking, or Idling Combustion Vehicles by 2045**  
**From: Community Environmental Advisory Commission**  
**Referred: March 30, 2020**  
**Due: December 19, 2020**  
**Recommendation:** Review and refer to the City Attorney for finalization the attached ordinance prohibiting the use of City-owned streets for the operation, parking, or idling of combustion vehicles beginning in 2045, and establishing an offset-driven fee-based enforcement mechanism.  
**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Viviana Garcia, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-7460  
**Action:** The item was continued to the next meeting.
- 8. Referral Response: Ordinance Amending Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 7.52, Reducing Tax Imposed for Qualifying Electrification, Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation Retrofits**  
**From: City Manager**  
**Referred: July 21, 2020**  
**Due: January 4, 2021**  
**Recommendation:** 1. Delay adoption of the first reading of an ordinance amending the Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) Chapter 7.52 to expand the Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program to include qualifying sustainability and resilience measures, and any associated budget requests, until FYE 2022 when more information on budget due to COVID-19 response and recovery is available; and  
2. Refer to the City Manager the design of a companion Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program that would provide funding for home retrofit improvements to low-income residents.  
**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Jordan Klein, Planning and Development, (510) 981-7400  
**Action:** The item was continued to the next meeting.

## Unscheduled Items

### 9. **Initiate a Citywide, Regional and International Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy to Address the Climate Emergency**

**From: Councilmember Davila (Author)**

**Referred: July 13, 2020**

**Due: December 27, 2020**

**Recommendation:** Adopt a resolution to initiate a citywide, regional and international Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy to address the Climate Emergency, and taking the following actions: 1. The City of Berkeley recognizes sustainability is not enough to protect residents from cumulative impacts of centuries of environmental and social degradation and instead will reorient its city planning, policy, and resource allocation to be socially and environmentally positive and will invest in a regenerative whole city infrastructure, policy, development and design process. 2. The City of Berkeley following the lead of Amsterdam and other cities will join in an attempt to embrace Doughnut Economics, which, by definition, recognizes the necessity of meeting the needs of residents within the carrying capacity of our planet Earth and the greater Bay Area bioregion. 3. The City of Berkeley will accelerate the transition to a zero-waste cradle to cradle, circular economy by a developing a series of ordinances ensuring only earth friendly products are sold within city limits by 2025. 4. All City of Berkeley commissions shall propose city policies, procedures and programs to enact a just transition that is socially, economically and ecologically regenerative by securing racial justice, bioregional restoration and sustainability, maximally reduces greenhouse gas emissions, increases public health, increases disaster preparedness and community resilience and reverses inequality and wealth extraction from Berkeley and Bay Area residents. 5. The City of Berkeley will create a city commission responsible for planning and implementing a Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy that is anti-racist, provides reparations and transformative support for those who are black, Indigenous, people of color, low income, and those struggling with mental health challenges, is community-driven and democratically-funded, environmentally-regenerative, and prioritizes local and independent businesses. 6. The City of Berkeley commits to suspend any and all projects and policies that are incompatible with protecting the Earth and people from further environmental degradation, social inequality, public health risks, and global warming and urges all neighboring agencies, statewide, national, and international, to do the same. 7. The City of Berkeley will create a regional and statewide collaborative to ensure the maximal climate mitigation and adaptation scenarios to begin as soon as possible and formally requests all regional agencies, cities, and counties to a shared table to devise and execute a Just Transition plan to the Regenerative Economy here in the greater Bay Area through a regional Green New Deal. 8. The City of Berkeley calls on governments who have declared a climate emergency and who broadly recognize the immense challenge facing humanity to form a transnational task force to be sustained until 2050 to co-execute a shared transitional peace effort in moving their immediate societies and economies toward ethical and regenerative trajectories. 9. The City of Berkeley within the first 90 days will invite all the cities, counties, and institutions such as the UC system to form a regional and statewide task force to oversee a justice- oriented evidence- based transition to a regenerative economy to be sustained until 2050;

## Unscheduled Items

10. The City of Berkeley identifies our current economy with its focus on near-term perpetual growth requiring resource extraction and wealth enclosure as defunct and incompatible with the needs of sustainability, human thriving, and dignity, and calls for a new economic system which in its design meets human needs within planetary and local environmental and social boundaries, focuses on human and ecological flourishing, furthers a regenerative human presence on earth, achieves equitable distribution of resources throughout the planet, and fosters an immediate transition to avert climate catastrophe in the near and long term. 11. The City of Berkeley endorses the intention and vision behind a global Green New Deal that reverses centuries of colonization, and post-colonial imbalances of power, health, wealth, sovereignty, addresses the climate emergency at the speed and scale necessary, and protects the world from impending climate impacts. 12. The City of Berkeley recognizes the importance of indigenous leadership in designing and implementing a Regenerative Economy in Berkeley, the greater Bay Area, and the world, and shall invite delegates from indigenous communities to all stages of the planning and implementation process.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Cheryl Davila, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

**Action:** The item was continued and scheduled for a special meeting on November 23, 2020.

- 10. Enforce Bi-Weekly (Once Every Two Weeks) Residential Cleaning Measures to Address Encampments and Promote Clean Streets in Berkeley**  
**From: Councilmember Bartlett (Author), Councilmember Hahn (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Harrison (Co-Sponsor) and Councilmember Davila (Co-Sponsor)**

**Referred: October 13, 2020**

**Due: February 10, 2021**

**Recommendation:** Refer to the City Manager to promote equitable street cleaning practices and require biweekly (once every two weeks), cleanings of populated encampment sites in Berkeley and adjacent residential neighborhoods. In order to determine where City Staff should prioritize residential cleaning services, the City Manager should establish a radius around the campsites. When encampments are on non-City owned property, such as Caltrans, the City should bill the appropriate agency for the cost of staff and materials.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Ben Bartlett, Councilmember, District 3, (510) 981-7130

**Action:** The item was continued to the next meeting.

## Unscheduled Items

**11. Recognize the Rights of Nature**

**From: Councilmember Davila (Author)**

**Referred: October 13, 2020**

**Due: February 10, 2021**

**Recommendation:** Adopt a resolution to recognize that the natural living world has a right to exist, thrive, regenerate and evolve its life cycles; to protect the ecosystems upon which our own vitality depends; and to transform our human relationship with nature from a property-based to a legal rights-bearing entity.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Cheryl Davila, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

**Action:** The item was continued to the next meeting.

## Items for Future Agendas

- None

**Adjournment:** 2:28 pm.

**Action:** M/S/C (Robinson/Davila) to adjourn the meeting.

**Vote:** Ayes – Davila, Robinson; Noes – None; Abstain – None; Absent - Harrison

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct record of the Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment & Sustainability Committee meeting held on November 18, 2020.

---

Michael MacDonald, Assistant City Clerk



Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

## REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL

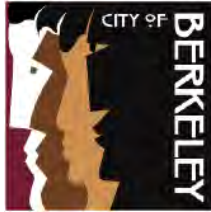
**Meeting Date:** September 16, 2020

**Item Description:** Initiate a Citywide, Regional and International Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy to Address the Climate Emergency

**Submitted by:** Councilmember Cheryl Davila

**Revisions:** 1. Changed the capitalization of certain terms; 2. Added the date 2025 by which the city will exclusively sell sustainable products and directed the city staff to develop a set of ordinances to make this so. 3. The City Adopts a Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy as an orienting framework for climate action; 4. City will create a trans-national task force among governments who have declared a climate emergency; 5. City will create a regional and California based task force to address the climate emergency; 6. Both task forces will have the purpose of co-executing a just transition to a regenerative economy and will function until 2050; 7. added more names of ecosystems to be recognized and afforded rights as examples; 8. The language community engaged was added to emphasize that a citywide just transition in Berkeley requires a profound cultural shift in that citizen participation is required for success. 9. Numerous edits to clarify the original intent of the resolution.

Item Subject updated to: 1. The terms Just Transition and Regenerative Economy refer to specific frameworks and definitions and are thus capitalized; 2. The city hosts a variety of businesses and services which sell products which contribute to environmental degradation and negative health impacts. Directing the city manager to develop a series of ordinances to remove such products from the city by a certain date allows the originally intended language of accelerating a transition to a circular economy more concrete; 3. Ideally a transition to sustainability is a given, unfortunately we cannot take this for granted. Further there are many transition scenarios that are not explicitly just by design. Only a just transition which explicitly and intentionally reverses existing inequities will improve the living conditions of marginalized people, ecosystems and wildlife to the maximal extent possible; 4. There are thousands of governments who have formally declared a climate emergency, in total these governments which include whole countries cover a significant portion of the world's population, a significant portion of the world's economy, and cumulatively can have a profoundly positive impact. Because 2050 is the conventional date by which sustainability is to be achieved in many governments this date was selected as the length of time this trans-national network will be sustained; 5. The revision that the City of Berkeley will create a regional/statewide task force to be sustained by 2050 is for the purpose of organizing 25 cities and counties who have explicitly declared a climate emergency and responded to Berkeley's call for regional collaboration in the Bay Area. A regional/statewide task force will be necessary for navigating the shift to a more sophisticated ecosystem-resilience management of governance called bio-regional governance in the resolution; 6. The City of Berkeley will put forth to the trans-national and statewide task forces the framework of a Just Transition as an orienting ethos and a Regenerative Economy as a framework for the collective aim of the task forces; 7. Affording critical ecosystems in and around the Bay Area with rights will ensure their protection, thus a couple examples were added; 8. was added to emphasize that a citywide just transition in Berkeley requires a profound cultural shift in that citizen participation is required for success; 9. Numerous content edits were provided to clarify the original intent of the resolution.



Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR  
July 28, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Cheryl Davila

Subject: Initiate a Citywide, Regional and International Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy to Address the Climate Emergency

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution to initiate a Citywide, Regional and International Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy to Address the Climate Emergency, and taking the following actions:

1. The City of Berkeley recognizes that attempting to be sustainable is not enough to protect residents from cumulative impacts of centuries of environmental and social degradation and instead will reorient its city planning, policy, and resource allocation to be socially and environmentally positive and will invest in a regenerative whole city infrastructure, policy, development and design process.
2. The City of Berkeley following the lead of Amsterdam and other cities will join in an attempt to embrace doughnut economics, which, by definition, recognizes the necessity of meeting the needs of residents within the carrying capacity of our planet Earth and the greater Bay area bioregion.
3. The City of Berkeley will accelerate the transition to a zero-waste cradle to cradle circular economy.
4. All City of Berkeley commissions shall propose city policies, procedures and programs to enact a just transition that is socially, economically and ecologically regenerative by securing racial justice, bioregional restoration and sustainability, maximally reduces greenhouse gas emissions, increases public health, increases disaster preparedness and community resilience and reverses inequality and wealth extraction of Berkeley and Bay Area residents.
5. The City of Berkeley will create a city commission responsible for planning and implementing a just transition to a regenerative economy that is anti-racist, provides reparations and transformative support for those who are black, Indigenous, people of color, low income, and those struggling with mental health challenges, is community-driven and democratically-funded, environmentally-regenerative, and prioritizes local and independent businesses.
6. The City of Berkeley commits to suspend any and all projects and policies that are incompatible with protecting the earth and people from further environmental degradation, social inequality, public health risks, and global warming.
7. The City of Berkeley calls for a regional collaborative effort to begin as soon as possible and formally requests all regional agencies, cities, and counties to a shared table to devise and execute a just transition plan to the regenerative economy here in the Greater Bay Area through a regional green new deal.
8. The City of Berkeley urges all neighboring governmental agencies (including local, state and federal) to suspend any and all projects and policies that are incompatible with protecting the earth and people from further environmental degradation, public health risks, and global warming.
9. The City of Berkeley calls on governments who have declared a climate emergency and who broadly recognize the immense challenge facing humanity to join together in



collaborative exchange and begin a shared transitional peace effort in moving their immediate societies and economies toward ethical and regenerative trajectories.

10. The City of Berkeley identifies our current economy with its focus on near-term perpetual growth requiring resource extraction and wealth enclosure as defunct and incompatible with the needs of sustainability, human thriving, and dignity, and calls for a new economic system which in its design meets human needs within planetary and local environmental and social boundaries, focuses on human and ecological flourishing, furthers a regenerative human presence on earth, achieves equitable distribution of resources throughout the planet, and achieves sustainable transition to avert climate catastrophe in the near and long term.
11. The City of Berkeley endorses the intention and vision behind a global Green New Deal that reverses centuries of colonization, and post-colonial imbalances of power, health, wealth, sovereignty, addresses the climate emergency at the speed and scale necessary, and protects the world from impending climate impacts.
12. The City of Berkeley recognizes the importance of Indigenous leadership in designing and implementing a regenerative economy in Berkeley, the Greater Bay Area, and the World, and shall invite delegates from Indigenous communities to all stages of the planning and implementation process.

## BACKGROUND

In addition to the massive worldwide health crisis, COVID-19 also caused a slow down to the global economy. Governments around the world have begun to and are planning to spend trillions to invest in economic recoveries. There is a time-sensitive need to prevent a carbon rebound and prevent a return to extractive overconsumption in order to avert climate catastrophe and secure a just future for humankind and wildlife. Berkeley as the third city to recognize we face a climate emergency has an opportunity and responsibility to lead and collaborate effort with over 1772 cities, counties, and countries who have formally recognized and declared a climate emergency. Over 102 municipalities in the United States, Bay Area have declared a climate emergency and called for a regional collaborative effort that has not yet begun. For the Bay Area to do its part for the world it must have a regional plan to achieve regeneration and sustainability, the City of Berkeley has a role and responsibility in leading this effort.

In leading this effort, Berkeley must recognize and address the following issues: (1) Climate change and its connection to public health (i.e., resurgence of diseases and pandemics, compounded effects on low income, people of color, and other groups systematically disenfranchised), (2) Injustice of the pre-COVID-19 economic and political system, and (3) a just transition to a sustainable and regenerative economy.

Climate change and harmful public health issues have a positive correlation. Even if reasonably curbed, global warming effects in the near future include increased danger from record breaking wildfires, increased oceanic storms potentially causing \$1 billion worth of damage to public infrastructure and coastal real estate in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>, forced migration for up to a billion climate refugees by 2050<sup>2</sup>, increased exposure to diseases, loss of arable farm land, increased death related to heat stress<sup>3</sup>, scarcity of freshwater, and further extinction of wildlife and biodiversity threatening the entire population of the world. More specific to the greater Bay area, the increased air pollution results in higher vulnerability to infectious viral respiratory illnesses, and

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/underwater>

<sup>2</sup> <https://unu.edu/media-relations/media-coverage/climate-migrants-might-reach-one-billion-by-2050.html>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.nature.com/articles/nclimate3322.epdf?sharing\\_token=MuYgnDiD-ztxrwuEdc-3xtRgN0jAjWel9jnR3ZoTv0P1ZmqVLxKfxqQX-KqJzVRLBBVboAWW8gu7iH3qRbNOymWZ\\_WLKYDK4-9wUkfwjoVC5-B45GtJEP2hxXrl49lGj-ukRYIR0z5H0Ps9kJtFARSUhbqgg4Q3sT1BsLgpXbQUGDQWRvtvQBvQRmVVAfq-OHUCsqHStoFZ0JZRago91BHNhojMkyy0ysY-TI9zjISCKsullA9wdl3ohvm8mQMdWbyqk-9ol7o9g\\_2CJmFBeCsruaICAY-UnopfvSUmuIdWbuAYOxifLoTWRbj2rCF\\_YwNh\\_INWWYrNDLcsrQoHUOyPwf02XWGva7D8jQiREZU%3D&tracking\\_referrer=www.theguardian.com](https://www.nature.com/articles/nclimate3322.epdf?sharing_token=MuYgnDiD-ztxrwuEdc-3xtRgN0jAjWel9jnR3ZoTv0P1ZmqVLxKfxqQX-KqJzVRLBBVboAWW8gu7iH3qRbNOymWZ_WLKYDK4-9wUkfwjoVC5-B45GtJEP2hxXrl49lGj-ukRYIR0z5H0Ps9kJtFARSUhbqgg4Q3sT1BsLgpXbQUGDQWRvtvQBvQRmVVAfq-OHUCsqHStoFZ0JZRago91BHNhojMkyy0ysY-TI9zjISCKsullA9wdl3ohvm8mQMdWbyqk-9ol7o9g_2CJmFBeCsruaICAY-UnopfvSUmuIdWbuAYOxifLoTWRbj2rCF_YwNh_INWWYrNDLcsrQoHUOyPwf02XWGva7D8jQiREZU%3D&tracking_referrer=www.theguardian.com)

low income neighborhoods systematically located close to oil refineries are disproportionately and compactly affected<sup>4</sup>.

Due to a history of imperial dominance the United States has forcibly positioned itself to consume an unsustainable and inequitable portion of the world's resources. We must recognize that San Francisco Bay Area, California, and the United States are historic beneficiaries of hundreds of years of enslavement of African people, genocide of Indigenous peoples, economic exploitation of the Global South and numerous unjust wars which has afforded it the ability to consume an unsustainable and inequitable portion of the world's resources at the expense of people of color worldwide, the earth and American people.

A Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy as championed by Movement Generation and GrassRoots Global Justice is a framework for achieving a regenerative economy that: focuses on Indigenous and Tribal Sovereignty, Justice for Black and Immigrant Communities, Just Transitions for Workers and communities impacted by extractive industries; reinvests in environmental sacrifice zones and communities and healthcare for all; ensures a home guarantee, further democracy in energy, food and land sovereignty, equitable clean energy and emissions free transit, a just recovery in the face of diverse forms of disasters; and advances feminist economies and regenerative finance.

The City of Berkeley should become a model post-COVID-19 city by creating a regenerative economy that reverses a history of colonization, wealth extraction and globalization, de-incarcerates and de-militarizes community life, makes reparative investments in marginalized communities, makes reparations for the descendants of enslaved persons for providing generations of free labor, supports Indigenous peoples and tribal nations in land reclamation and governance of their rightful lands, organizes workplaces and communities to collectively self govern, shifts means of production to works and communities, divests from fossil fuels and other extractive economies, invests in common access to energy, food, housing, and advances public dollars to build community wealth toward reversing inequality.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

To be determined.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Go beyond sustainability to embrace regenerative and restorative practices as necessary to achieve sustainability. Do a whole city community participatory design on how to shift the City into a net regenerative ecological and social impact.

#### CONTACT PERSONS

Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember District 2  
510.981.7120  
[cdavila@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:cdavila@cityofberkeley.info)

#### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution

---

<sup>4</sup> John Loike and Robert Pollack, "What We Can Do to Preserve Our Clean Air;" Bo Peiter Johannes Andree, "Incidence of Covid-19 Connections with Air Pollution Exposure: Evidence from the Netherlands." 4-7.

RESOLUTION NO. XXXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF BERKELEY TO INITIATE A CITYWIDE, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL JUST TRANSITION TO A REGENERATIVE ECONOMY TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley was the third city in the world to have declared a climate emergency in June 2018, calling for a just transition and regional collaborative effort in the San Francisco Bay Area as well as a statewide, national and global effort to immediately end greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the University of California<sup>5</sup> and cities of Richmond, Oakland, Hayward, El Cerrito, Fairfax, Sebastopol, San Jose, Petaluma, Cupertino, Alameda, San Anselmo, Benicia, Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Santa Rosa, Windsor, Menlo Park, Santa Cruz and the counties of San Francisco, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Sonoma have responded by declaring we face a climate emergency and joining the call for a regional collaborative effort in the San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, there is not a focused collaborative implementation plan in sight regionally or internationally amongst the thousands of universities and governments across the globe that have declared a climate emergency; and

WHEREAS, emissions need to intentionally fall between 2020 - 2030 are a critical frame wherein emissions must sharply and permanently fall to minimize climate catastrophe and meet internationally agreed upon targets which are insufficient to protect people from climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, governments are already spending or planning to spend \$9 trillion or more globally in the next few months on rescuing their economies,<sup>6</sup> during the same timeframe that addressing the root causes of global warming is required for meaningful action; and

WHEREAS, returning to a pre-COVID-19 global economic system, which is designed for unlimited growth on a finite planet requiring more extraction, production and consumption of materials and labor than the earth or people can handle, is a recipe for destruction; and

WHEREAS, a transformative economic intervention specifically designed to address the climate emergency and deal with the COVID-19 economic impacts is fully justified by the imminent and time-sensitive existential threat both crises pose; and

WHEREAS, the traditional land management and stewardship methods of Chochenyo, Muwekma, Karkin, Lisjan, Ohlone and other neighboring Indigenous peoples serve as the original design for a regenerative economy on the lands now occupied by the nine counties of the SF Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, legally recognizing the inherent rights of nature such as the Bay, is necessary to establish precautionary and restrictive measures to prevent human activities from causing additional harms to water, air, soil, species, ecosystems or ecological cycles on both local and global scales; and

WHEREAS, for the Greater Bay Area to fulfill its responsibility to address global warming without exacerbating a history of racial violence, wealth inequality, and ecological degradation, it must: Implement a Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy; Embrace a doughnut

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/university-california-declares-climate-emergency>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/18/world-has-six-months-to-avert-climate-crisis-says-energy-expert>

economics<sup>7</sup> wherein the Bay Area brings its overall footprint well within the earth's carrying capacity while meeting the social needs of its residents; phase out the refining, transport, and consumption of fossil fuels and other polluting industries, energies, and waste products; and define the bioregional boundaries upon which the Bay Area attempts to be regenerative and sustainable; and be an accelerator for a circular economic strategies such as cradle-to-cradle design wherein the material streams of waste is designed to be feedstock; lead the world by collaboratively initiating a world-saving transitional effort; sustain focus and unity of purpose in successfully executing a just transition to a regenerative economy until such an economy is fully functioning; and

WHEREAS, a Regenerative Economy as defined by Movement Generation<sup>8</sup> and GrassRoots Global Justice<sup>9</sup> as a framework for achieving a regenerative economy that focuses on: Indigenous and Tribal Sovereignty, Justice for Black and Immigrant Communities, Just Transitions for Workers and communities impacted by extractive industries; Reinvestment in environmental sacrifice zones and communities; Healthcare for all; Ensures a home guarantee; Energy democracy; Food and land sovereignty; Equitable clean energy; Emissions-free transit; Bioregional governance; A just recovery in the face of diverse forms of disasters; and Advances feminist economies; and

WHEREAS, a just transition to a regenerative economy should in practice: Reverse a history of colonization, wealth extraction and imperialistic globalization; Reverse patterns of mass incarceration and demilitarize community life; Make reparative investments in marginalized communities; Make reparations for the descendants of enslaved persons; Support Indigenous peoples and tribal nations in land reclamation and governance of their rightful lands; Organize workplaces and communities to be democratic, equitable and collectively self governing; Shift to cooperative and public ownership of businesses; Divest from fossil fuels and other extractive economic activities; Invest in common access to renewable energy, food, and housing; Advance public dollars to build community wealth reversing inequality; and

WHEREAS, for any transition plan to be successful, it must include: reducing consumption and production of the remaining GHG budget in order to extend our transition timeline; investing in research and innovation to transform major industries; creating an optimal psychological and cultural climate wherein the work of transition can be carried out free from the compounded stress of racism, climate change impacts, income and wealth inequality, jobs loss, COVID-19, and political polarization are relieved; and training and preparation of our workforces for all the skilled labor required for a just transition; enacting regenerative and sustainable constraints for whole societies that are in balance with humans needs, ecosystems and wildlife; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley will initiate a Citywide Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy because this moment in history is our best and minimize climate catastrophe in an attempt to at least meet agreed upon international targets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley will invest city funds, staff time, and To create a transnational task force focused on coordinating among on governments who have declared a climate emergency to be sustained until 2050;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley within the first 90 days will invite all the cities, counties, and institutions such as the UC system to form a regional and statewide task force to oversee a justice oriented evidence based transition to a regenerative economy to be sustained until 2050.

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.amsterdam.nl/en/policy/sustainability/circular-economy/>  
: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/08/amsterdam-doughnut-model-mend-post-coronavirus-economy>

<sup>8</sup> [https://movementgeneration.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/JT\\_booklet\\_English\\_SPREADs\\_web.pdf](https://movementgeneration.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/JT_booklet_English_SPREADs_web.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> <https://ggjalliance.org/programs/a-pathway-to-a-regenerative-economy/>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley recognizes that attempting to be sustainable is not enough to protect residents from cumulative impacts of centuries of environmental and social degradation and instead will reorient its city planning, policy, and resource allocation to be socially and environmentally positive and will invest in a regenerative whole city infrastructure, policy, development and design process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley will join the early adoption of doughnut economics methodology, which, by definition, recognizes the necessity of meeting the needs of residents within the carrying capacity of our planet Earth and the greater Bay area bioregion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley will accelerate the transition to a zero-waste cradle to cradle circular economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all city commissions shall propose city policies, procedures and programs to enact a just transition that is socially, economically and ecologically regenerative by securing racial justice, bioregional restoration and sustainability, maximally reduces greenhouse gas emissions, increases public health, increases disaster preparedness and community resilience and reverses inequality and wealth extraction of Berkeley and Bay Area residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley will create a city commission responsible for planning and implementing a just transition to a regenerative economy that is anti-racist, provides reparations and transformative support for those who are black, Indigenous, people of color, low income, and those struggling with mental health challenges, is community-driven and democratically-funded, environmentally-regenerative, and prioritizes local and independent businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley commits to suspend any and all projects and policies that are incompatible with protecting the earth and people from further environmental degradation, social inequality, public health risks, and global warming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley commits to the formation of a co-funded regional collaborative effort to begin as soon as possible and formally requests all regional agencies, cities, and counties to a shared table to devise and execute a just transition plan to the regenerative economy here in the Greater Bay Area through a regional green new deal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley calls for a regional agencies, cities, and counties to agree on a shared definition of the Bay Area's bioregion, to define the shared limits of our bio-region's carrying capacity and to organize our governance to be bio-regionally regenerative, sustainable, and to define a developmental trajectory that maximizes the health and vitality of the ecosystems, wildlife, and people for generations to come; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley urges all neighboring governmental agencies (including local, state and federal) to suspend any and all projects and policies that are incompatible with protecting the earth and people from further environmental degradation, public health risks, and global warming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley identifies our current economy with its focus on near-term perpetual growth requiring resource extraction and wealth enclosure as defunct and incompatible with the needs of sustainability, human thriving, and dignity, and calls for a new economic system which in its design meets human needs within planetary and local environmental and social boundaries of wellbeing and furthers human and ecological flourishing, furthers a regenerative human presence on earth, achieves equitable distribution of resources throughout the planet, and achieves sustainability just a just and regenerative transition to bring emissions to zero and adapt to further warming in the near and long term; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley commits to enacting a deep decent emissions scenario radically reducing its environmental footprint aiming for zero in the next 10 years through a real time decadal city wide response network.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley endorses the intention and vision behind a global Green New Deal that reverses centuries of colonization, and post-colonial imbalances of power, health, wealth, sovereignty, addresses the climate emergency at the speed and scale necessary, and protects the world from impending climate impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley recognizes the importance of Indigenous leadership in designing and implementing a regenerative economy in Berkeley, the Greater Bay Area, and the World, and shall invite delegates from Indigenous communities to all stages of the planning and implementation process.

# Just Transition Resolution for the FITES Committee 10/21/2020

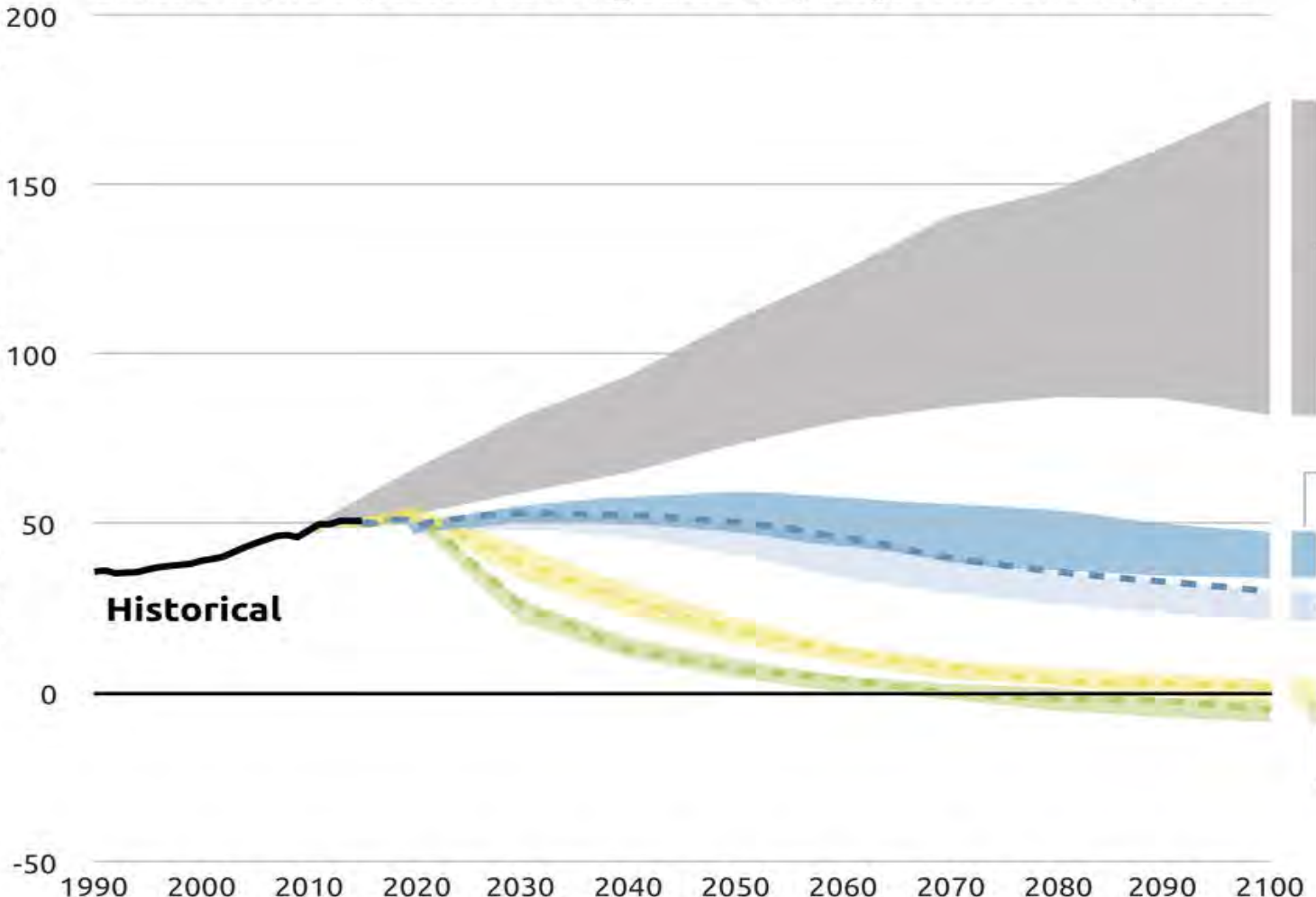
# 2100 WARMING PROJECTIONS

Emissions and expected warming based on pledges and current policies



Sept 2020 update

Global greenhouse gas emissions GtCO<sub>2e</sub>/year



Warming projected by 2100

**Baseline**  
4.1 – 4.8°C

**Current policies**  
2.7 – 3.1°C

**Pledges & Targets**  
2.4 – 2.7°C

**2°C consistent**  
1.6 – 1.7°C

**1.5°C consistent**  
1.3°C



# The Climate Reality:

- These are the final years to transition off fossil fuels and recover dying ecosystems, secure ethical migration practices, and prevent climate apartheid
- A deep descent scenario is unavoidable to preserve life and has yet to be established

**We need to coordinate a safe and just transition to a one planet compatible global economy that equitable and renewably distributes abundance.**

**The City of Berkeley recognizes sustainability is not enough and will:**

- 1. Invest in a regenerative whole-city infrastructure, policy, development and design process**
- 2. Embrace Doughnut Economics meetings social needs within planetary boundaries**
- 3. Draft a set of ordinances ensuring only earth-friendly products are sold within city limits by 2025**
- 4. Focus the Commissions on a Just Transition**
- 5. Create a Just Transition Commission**

6. Fund form and hold a regional and statewide collaborative through 2050 to plan a Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy here in the greater Bay Area.
6. Form a transnational task force to be sustained until 2050. to co-execute a shared transitional peace effort in moving their immediate societies and economies toward ethical and regenerative trajectories
6. Define the hard bio-regional boundaries by which Berkeley and the Bay Area governments will attempt to govern safely within
6. Suspend any and all projects and policies that are incompatible with protecting the Earth and people from further environmental degradation, social inequality, and public health risks
6. Center indigenous leadership in all of the above

9. Calls for a new economic system which in its design meets human needs within planetary and local environmental and social boundaries.

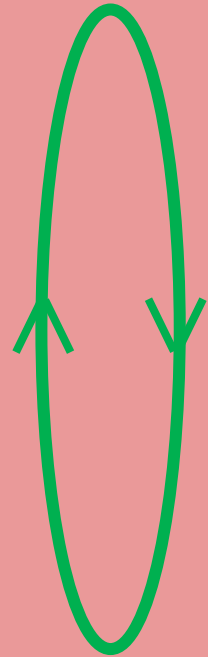
10. Endorse a Global Green New Deal

# The Big Ideas:

Formally organize the region, and governments globally who have declared a climate emergency, to form an international task force through 2050

# Action has to be taken on all levels in parallel

- Globally/internationally
- Nationally
- On state level
- Bio-regionally
- On **city** level/locally
- On neighborhood/community level
- On family level/individually



The Big Ideas:  
Initiate a full-scale  
societal mobilization  
toward a regenerative  
economy

---



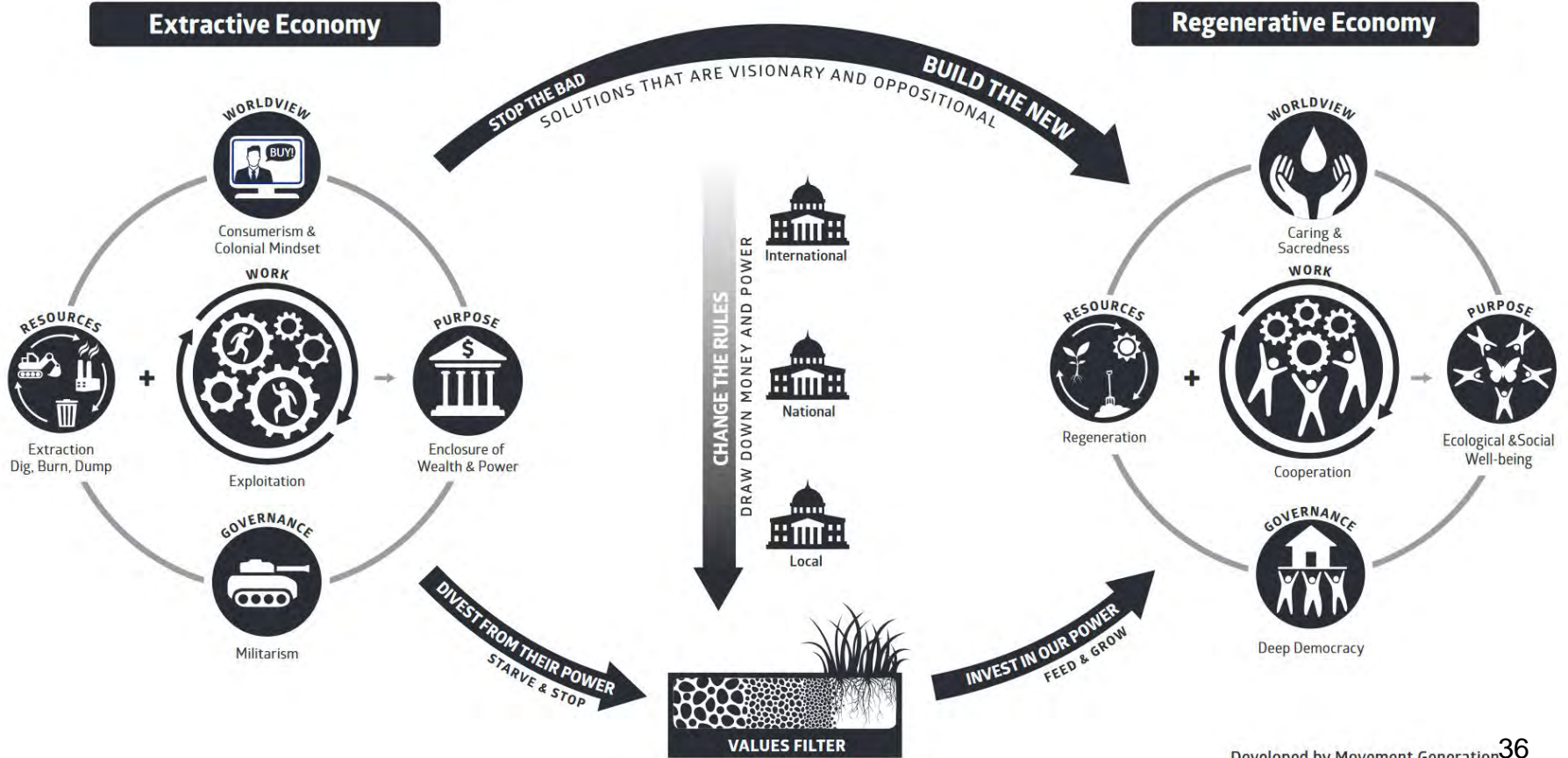
**This is what the world is waiting for, the moment when we enter full transition mode.**

**Berkeley as a community is ready for this. Berkeley as a city is positioned to do this regionally and globally being the 6th city to declare a climate emergency**

# The Big Ideas:

Commit to a just transition ethos and framework developed by frontline environmental justice organizations for Berkeley's sustainability efforts

# A STRATEGY FRAMEWORK FOR JUST TRANSITION



- A JUST TRANSITION MUST:**
- ▶ Shift economic control to communities
  - ▶ Democratize wealth and the workplace
  - ▶ Advance ecological restoration
  - ▶ Drive racial justice and social equity

Formalize these criteria and standards for projects with oversight:

**PROTECT:** *Solutions must protect, not harm our communities.*

**REPAIR:** *Solutions must repair the harms of our extractive economy.*

**INVEST:** *Solutions must move non-extractive and equitable investments to our communities and workers.*

**TRANSFORM:** *Solutions must provide the foundation to transform relationships and structures so that they are rooted in respect, equity, and justice.*

How we govern or fail to govern a just transition will determine the strength and wellbeing of all of Berkeley's residents for generations to come worldwide.

Oakland has a race and equity department, a direction we should follow.

We cannot leave justice to chance. Formalizing the standards with appropriate oversight and data is the only ethical option we have.

# The Big Ideas: Going beyond sustainability - Bay Area as a fully regenerative economy

---

**7 Counties: Sonoma, San  
Francisco, Contra Costa,  
Santa Clara, Alameda,  
Santa Cruz, San Mateo**



**18 Bay Area Cities:** Richmond, Oakland, Hayward, El Cerrito, Fairfax, Sebastopol, San Jose, Petaluma, Cupertino, Alameda, San Anselmo, Benicia, Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Santa Rosa, Windsor, Menlo Park, Santa Cruz

## Sustainability means

- Meeting our needs without interfering in future generations' ability to meet theirs
- Operating within planetary and bio-regional boundaries

## Regeneration means

- Reversing ecological overshoot, GHG emissions, public health impacts, and centuries of ecological and genocidal violence
- Replenishing depleted soils, fisheries, ecosystems

**This will require a planning processes and design methodologies that are explicitly regenerative, justice-enacting, and resilient to shocks**

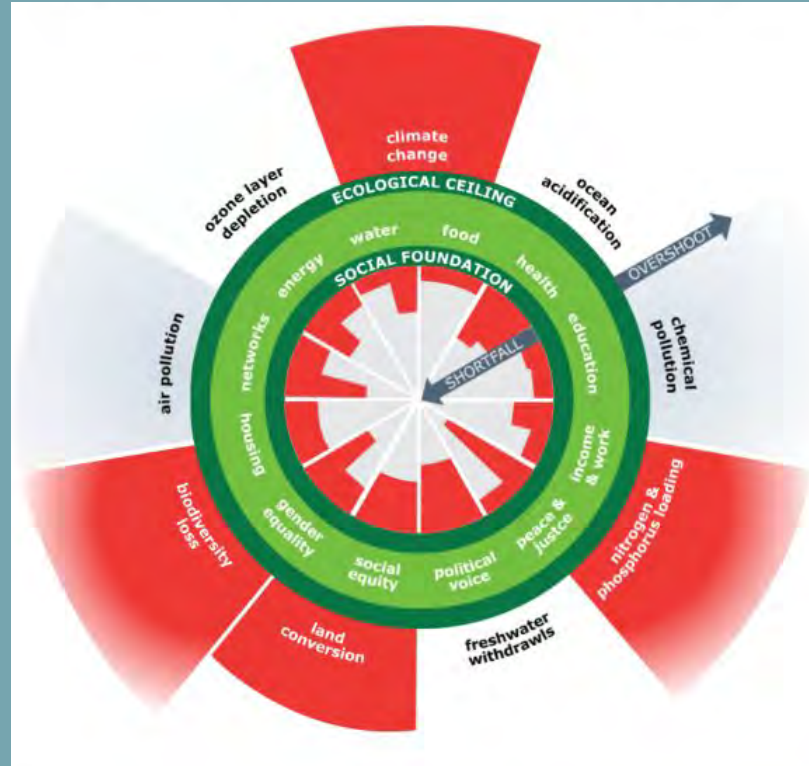
**The Big Ideas:**  
**Build Doughnut Economics**  
**methodology into Berkeley's**  
**Sustainability planning and the**  
**Bay Area's regional planning**

# The Doughnut offers a vision of what it means for humanity to thrive in the 21st century



- The **ecological ceiling** consists of nine planetary boundaries, beyond which lie unacceptable environmental degradation and potential tipping points in Earth systems.
- The twelve dimensions of the **social foundation** are derived from internationally agreed minimum social standards, as identified by the world's governments in the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015.
- Between social and planetary boundaries lies an **ecologically safe and socially just space** in which humanity can thrive.

Doughnut Economics: The world is currently outside the safe and just space on alarmingly many dimensions



# Doughnut Economics at city level: 4 lenses



# The Big Ideas:

Draft ordinances to accelerate the Circular Economy and the Cradle-to-Cradle standard for products and services sold in Berkeley



**“Everything is a resource for something else.** In nature, the “waste” of one system becomes food for another. Everything can be designed to be disassembled and safely returned to the soil as biological nutrients, or re-utilized as high quality materials for new products as technical nutrients without contamination.”

Instead of tackling each product at time such as take out food, single use plastic, etc.

Set a standard for all products to be zero waste - biodegradable - food for ecosystems by a certain date

# Big Ideas:

Lobby the region to shift to bioregional governance.

Bring the Bay Area's ecological footprint toward the planets and it's own carrying capacity

# Bay Area Bioregion:

The San Francisco Bay Bioregion encompasses the entire San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta

# Thank you



Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR  
July 28, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Cheryl Davila

Subject: Initiate a Citywide, Regional and International Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy to Address the Climate Emergency

### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution to initiate a citywide, regional and international Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy to address the Climate Emergency, and taking the following actions:

1. The City of Berkeley recognizes sustainability is not enough to protect residents from cumulative impacts of centuries of environmental and social degradation and instead will reorient its city planning, policy, and resource allocation to be socially and environmentally positive and will invest in a regenerative whole city infrastructure, policy, development and design process.
2. The City of Berkeley following the lead of Amsterdam and other cities will join in an attempt to embrace Doughnut Economics, which, by definition, recognizes the necessity of meeting the needs of residents within the carrying capacity of our planet Earth and the greater Bay Area bioregion.
3. The City of Berkeley will accelerate the transition to a zero-waste cradle to cradle, circular economy by a developing a series of ordinances ensuring only earth friendly products are sold within city limits by 2025
4. All City of Berkeley commissions shall propose city policies, procedures and programs to enact a just transition that is socially, economically and ecologically regenerative by securing racial justice, bioregional restoration and sustainability, maximally reduces greenhouse gas emissions, increases public health, increases disaster preparedness and community resilience and reverses inequality and wealth extraction from Berkeley and Bay Area residents.
5. The City of Berkeley will create a city commission responsible for planning and implementing a Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy that is anti-racist, provides reparations and transformative support for those who are black, Indigenous, people of color, low income, and those struggling with mental health challenges, is community-driven and democratically-funded, environmentally-regenerative, and prioritizes local and independent businesses.
6. The City of Berkeley commits to suspend any and all projects and policies that are incompatible with protecting the Earth and people from further environmental degradation, social inequality, public health risks, and global warming and urges all neighboring agencies, statewide, national, and international, to do the same.
7. The City of Berkeley will create a regional and statewide collaborative to ensure the maximal climate mitigation and adaptation scenarios to begin as soon as possible and formally requests all regional agencies, cities, and counties to a shared table to devise and execute a Just Transition plan to the Regenerative Economy here in the greater Bay Area through a regional Green New Deal.

8. \
9. The City of Berkeley calls on governments who have declared a climate emergency and who broadly recognize the immense challenge facing humanity to **form a transnational task force to be sustained until 2050 to co-execute** a shared transitional peace effort in moving their immediate societies and economies toward ethical and regenerative trajectories.
10. **The City of Berkeley within the first 90 days will invite all the cities, counties, and institutions such as the UC system to form a regional and statewide task force to oversee a justice- oriented evidence- based transition to a regenerative economy to be sustained until 2050;**
11. The City of Berkeley identifies our current economy with its focus on near-term perpetual growth requiring resource extraction and wealth enclosure as defunct and incompatible with the needs of sustainability, human thriving, and dignity, and calls for a new economic system which in its design meets human needs within planetary and local environmental and social boundaries, focuses on human and ecological flourishing, furthers a regenerative human presence on earth, achieves equitable distribution of resources throughout the planet, and **fosters an immediate** transition to avert climate catastrophe in the near and long term.
12. The City of Berkeley endorses the intention and vision behind a global Green New Deal that reverses centuries of colonization, and post-colonial imbalances of power, health, wealth, sovereignty, addresses the climate emergency at the speed and scale necessary, and protects the world from impending climate impacts.
13. The City of Berkeley recognizes the importance of **indigenous** leadership in designing and implementing a **Regenerative Economy** in Berkeley, the **greater Bay Area**, and the **world**, and shall invite delegates from **indigenous** communities to all stages of the planning and implementation process.

## BACKGROUND

In addition to the massive worldwide health crisis, COVID-19 also caused a slow down to the global economy. Governments around the world have begun, and are planning, to **invest trillions of dollars** in economic recoveries. There is a time-sensitive need to prevent a carbon rebound and prevent a return to extractive overconsumption in order to avert climate catastrophe and secure a just future for humankind and wildlife. **As the sixth city in the world** to recognize **that** we face a **Climate Emergency**, **Berkeley** has an opportunity and responsibility to lead and collaborate **the** effort with over 1772 cities, counties, and countries **that** have formally recognized and declared a **Climate Emergency**. Over 102 municipalities in the United States, **25 of those within the Bay Area and more across the state of California** have declared a **Climate Emergency** and called for a regional collaborative effort that has not yet begun. For the Bay Area to do its part for the world, it must have a regional plan to achieve regeneration and sustainability, the City of Berkeley has a role and responsibility in leading this effort.

In leading this effort, Berkeley must recognize and address the following issues: (1) Climate change and its connection to public health (i.e., resurgence of diseases and pandemics, compounded effects on low income, people of color, and other groups systematically disenfranchised), (2) Injustice of the pre-COVID-19 economic and political system, and (3) a **Just Transition** to a sustainable and **Regenerative Economy**.

Climate change and harmful public health issues have a positive correlation. Even if reasonably curbed, global warming effects in the near future include increased danger from record breaking wildfires, increased oceanic storms potentially causing **at least \$1 billion** worth of damage to public infrastructure and coastal real estate in the U.S.,<sup>1</sup> forced migration for up to a billion climate refugees by 2050<sup>2</sup>, increased exposure to diseases, loss of arable farm land, increased

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/underwater>

<sup>2</sup> <https://unu.edu/media-relations/media-coverage/climate-migrants-might-reach-one-billion-by-2050.html>

deaths related to heat stress<sup>3</sup>, scarcity of freshwater, and further extinction of wildlife and biodiversity threatening the entire population of the world. More specific to the greater Bay Area, the increased air pollution results in higher vulnerability to infectious viral respiratory illnesses, and low income neighborhoods systematically located close to oil refineries are disproportionately and compactly affected.<sup>4</sup>

Due to a history of imperial dominance the United States has forcibly positioned itself to consume an unsustainable and inequitable portion of the world's resources. We must recognize that the San Francisco Bay Area, California, and the United States are historic beneficiaries of hundreds of years of enslavement of African people, genocide of Indigenous peoples, economic exploitation of the Global South and numerous unjust wars which has afforded it the ability to consume an unsustainable and inequitable portion of the world's resources at the expense of people of color worldwide, the earth and the American people.

A Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy as championed by Movement Generation and GrassRoots Global Justice is a framework for achieving a Regenerative Economy that: focuses on Indigenous and Tribal Sovereignty, Justice for Black and Immigrant Communities, Just Transitions for workers and communities impacted by extractive industries; reinvests in environmental sacrifice zones and communities and healthcare for all; ensures a home guarantee, greater democracy in energy, food and land sovereignty, equitable clean energy and emissions free transit, a just recovery in the face of diverse forms of disasters; and advances feminist economies, regenerative finance with an emphasis on bio-regional governance.

The City of Berkeley should become a model post-COVID-19 city by creating a regenerative economy that reverses a history of colonization, wealth extraction and globalization, de-incarcerates and de-militarizes community life, makes reparative investments in marginalized communities, makes reparations for the descendants of enslaved persons for providing generations of free labor, supports Indigenous peoples and Tribal Nations in land reclamation and governance of their rightful lands, organizes workplaces and communities to collectively self govern, shifts means of production to works and communities, divests from fossil fuels and other extractive economies, invests in common access to energy, food, housing, and advances public dollars to build community wealth toward reversing inequality.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

To be determined.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Go beyond sustainability to embrace regenerative and restorative practices as necessary to achieve sustainability. Do a whole city community participatory design on how to shift the City into a net regenerative ecological and social impact.

### CONTACT PERSONS

Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember District 2  
510.981.7120  
[cdavila@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:cdavila@cityofberkeley.info)

### ATTACHMENTS:

---

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.nature.com/articles/nclimate3322.epdf?sharing\\_token=MuygnDiD-ztxrwuEdc-3xtRgNOjAjWel9jnR3ZoTv0P1ZmqVLxKfxqQX-KqJzVRLBBVboAWW8gu7iH3qRbNOymWZ\\_WLKYDK4-9wUkfwjoVC5-B45GtJEP2hxXrl49lGj-ukRYIR0z5H0Ps9kJtFARSUhbQgg4Q3sT1BsLgpXbQUGDQWRvtvQBvQRmVVAfq-OHUCsqHStoFZ0JZRaGO91BHNhojMky0ysY-TI9zjISCKsullA9wdl3ohvm8mQMdWbyqk-9ol7o9g\\_2CJmFBeCsruaCAY-UnopfvSUMuidWbuAYOXifLoTWRbj2rCF\\_YwNh\\_INWWYrNDLcsrQoHUOyyPwf02XWGva7D8jQiREZU%3D&tracking\\_referrer=ww.w.theguardian.com](https://www.nature.com/articles/nclimate3322.epdf?sharing_token=MuygnDiD-ztxrwuEdc-3xtRgNOjAjWel9jnR3ZoTv0P1ZmqVLxKfxqQX-KqJzVRLBBVboAWW8gu7iH3qRbNOymWZ_WLKYDK4-9wUkfwjoVC5-B45GtJEP2hxXrl49lGj-ukRYIR0z5H0Ps9kJtFARSUhbQgg4Q3sT1BsLgpXbQUGDQWRvtvQBvQRmVVAfq-OHUCsqHStoFZ0JZRaGO91BHNhojMky0ysY-TI9zjISCKsullA9wdl3ohvm8mQMdWbyqk-9ol7o9g_2CJmFBeCsruaCAY-UnopfvSUMuidWbuAYOXifLoTWRbj2rCF_YwNh_INWWYrNDLcsrQoHUOyyPwf02XWGva7D8jQiREZU%3D&tracking_referrer=ww.w.theguardian.com)

<sup>4</sup> John Loike and Robert Pollack, "What We Can Do to Preserve Our Clean Air;" Bo Peiter Johannes Andree, "Incidence of Covid-19 Connections with Air Pollution Exposure: Evidence from the Netherlands." 4-7.



1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. XXXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF BERKELEY TO INITIATE A CITYWIDE, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL JUST TRANSITION TO A REGENERATIVE ECONOMY TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley was the **sixth** city in the world to have declared a **C**limate **E**mergency in June 2018, calling for a just transition and regional collaborative effort in the San Francisco Bay Area as well as a statewide, national and global effort to immediately end greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the University of California<sup>5</sup> and cities of Richmond, Oakland, Hayward, El Cerrito, Fairfax, Sebastopol, San Jose, Petaluma, Cupertino, Alameda, San Anselmo, Benicia, Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Santa Rosa, Windsor, Menlo Park, Santa Cruz and the counties of San Francisco, Santa Cruz, **Alameda**, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Sonoma have responded by declaring **that** we face a climate emergency and **by** joining the call for a regional collaborative effort in the San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, there is not a focused collaborative implementation plan in sight, regionally or internationally, amongst the thousands of universities and governments across the globe that have declared a climate emergency; and

WHEREAS, 2020 - 2030 **is** a critical **t**ime**f**rame wherein emissions must sharply and permanently fall to minimize climate catastrophe and meet internationally agreed upon targets which are insufficient to protect people from climate impacts; and

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/university-california-declares-climate-emergency>

WHEREAS, governments are already spending or planning to spend \$9 trillion or more globally in the next few months on rescuing their economies,<sup>6</sup> during the same timeframe that addressing the root causes of global warming is required for meaningful impact; and

WHEREAS, returning to a pre-COVID-19 global economic system, which is designed for unlimited growth on a finite planet requiring more extraction, production and consumption of materials and labor than the earth or people can handle, is a recipe for destruction; and

WHEREAS, a transformative economic intervention specifically designed to address the climate emergency in all of its dimensions and deal with the COVID-19 economic impacts is fully justified by the imminent and time-sensitive existential threat both crises pose; and

WHEREAS, the traditional land management and stewardship methods of Chochenyo, Muwekma, Karkin, Lisjan, Ohlone and other neighboring Indigenous peoples serve as the original design for a regenerative economy on the lands now occupied by the nine counties of the SF Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, legally recognizing the inherent rights of nature such as the Bay, the Pacific Ocean, Strawberry Creek, the Wetlands, Tilden, and other ecosystems, is necessary to establish precautionary and restrictive measures to prevent human activities from causing additional harms to water, air, soil, species, ecosystems or ecological cycles on both local and global scales; and

WHEREAS, for the greater Bay Area to fulfill its responsibility to address global warming without exacerbating a history of racial violence, wealth inequality, and ecological degradation, it must: implement a Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy; embrace a doughnut economics<sup>7</sup> wherein the Bay Area brings its overall footprint well within the earth's carrying capacity while meeting the social needs of its residents; phase out the refining, transport, and consumption of fossil fuels and other polluting industries, energies, and waste products; and define the bioregional boundaries upon which the Bay Area attempts to be regenerative and sustainable; and be an accelerator for a circular economic strategies such as cradle-to-cradle design<sup>8</sup> wherein the material streams of waste are designed to be nutrients for further ecological reproduction; lead a trans-national task force amongst the 1700+ cities, counties, states and countries who recognize we face a Climate Emergency; sustain focus and unity of purpose in successfully executing a Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy until such an economy is fully functioning; and

WHEREAS, a Regenerative Economy as defined by Movement Generation<sup>9</sup> and GrassRoots Global Justice<sup>10</sup> as a framework for achieving a regenerative economy that focuses on: Indigenous and Tribal Sovereignty, Justice for Black and Immigrant Communities, Just Transitions for Workers and communities impacted by extractive industries; reinvestment in environmental sacrifice zones and communities; Healthcare for All; ensures a home guarantee, energy democracy, food and land sovereignty; equitable clean energy; emissions-free transit; bioregional governance; a just recovery in the face of diverse forms of disasters; and advances feminist economies; and

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/18/world-has-six-months-to-avert-climate-crisis-says-energy-expert>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.amsterdam.nl/en/policy/sustainability/circular-economy/>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/08/amsterdam-doughnut-model-mend-post-coronavirus-economy>

<sup>8</sup> <https://mcdonough.com/cradle-to-cradle/>

<sup>9</sup> [https://movementgeneration.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/JT\\_booklet\\_English\\_SPREADs\\_web.pdf](https://movementgeneration.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/JT_booklet_English_SPREADs_web.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://ggjalliance.org/programs/a-pathway-to-a-regenerative-economy/>

WHEREAS, a Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy should, in practice: Transform a history of colonization, wealth extraction and imperialistic globalization; Transform patterns of mass incarceration and demilitarize community life; make reparative investments in marginalized communities; make reparations for the descendants of enslaved persons; support Indigenous peoples and Tribal Nations in land reclamation and governance of their rightful lands; organize workplaces and communities to be democratic, equitable and collectively self governing; shift to cooperative and public ownership of businesses; divest from fossil fuels and other extractive economic activities; invest in common access to renewable energy, food, and housing; advance public dollars to build community wealth reversing inequality; and

WHEREAS, for any transition plan to be successful, it must include: reducing consumption and production of the remaining GHG budget in order to extend our transition timeline; investing in research and innovation to transform major industries; creating an optimal psychological and cultural climate wherein the work of transition can be carried out free from the compounded stress of racism, climate change impacts, income and wealth inequality, jobs loss, COVID-19, and political polarization are relieved; and training and preparation of our workforces for all the skilled labor required for a just transition; enacting regenerative and sustainable constraints for whole societies that are in balance with humans needs, ecosystems and wildlife; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley will a citywide community engaged Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy because this moment in history is our best and last opportunity to minimize climate catastrophies in an attempt to at least meet agreed upon international targets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley within the first 90 days will create a city commission responsible for planning and implementing a Just Transition to a regenerative economy that is anti-racist, provides reparations and transformative support for those who are black, Indigenous, people of color, low income, and those struggling with mental health challenges, is community-driven and democratically-funded, environmentally-regenerative, and prioritizes local and independent businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley will invest city funds, staff time, to create a trans-national task force focused on coordinating with governments who have declared a climate emergency to be sustained until 2050;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley within the first 90 days will invite all the cities, counties, and institutions such as the UC system to form a regional and statewide task force to oversee a justice-oriented evidence-based transition to a regenerative economy to be sustained until 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley recognizes that attempting to be sustainable is not enough to protect residents from cumulative impacts of centuries of environmental and social degradation and instead will reorient its city planning, policy, governance culture, and resource allocation to be socially and environmentally positive, participatory and will invest in a centuries long regenerative whole city culture, infrastructure, policy, development and design process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley will join the early adoption of the doughnut economics methodology to assess its sustainability which, by definition, recognizes the necessity of meeting the needs of residents within the carrying capacity of our planet Earth and the greater Bay Area bioregion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The City Council directs the City manager to develop a set of ordinances to ensuring only zero-waste, cradle to cradle, non-toxic, earth friendly products are sold within city limits by 2025;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all city commissions shall propose city policies, procedures and programs to enact a Just Transition that is socially, economically and ecologically regenerative by securing racial justice, bioregional restoration and sustainability, maximally reduces greenhouse gas emissions, increases public health, increases disaster preparedness and community resilience and reverses inequality and wealth extraction of Berkeley and Bay Area residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley commits to suspend any and all projects and policies that are incompatible with protecting the earth and people from further environmental degradation, social inequality, public health risks, and global warming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley commits to the formation of a co-funded regional collaborative effort to begin and formally requests all regional agencies, cities, and counties to a shared table to devise and execute a just transition plan to the regenerative economy here in the Greater Bay Area through a regional green new deal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley calls for a bio-regional governance wherein agencies and municipalities define a shared recognition of our bio-region, define its carrying capacity and bring the Bay Area as a whole within the regenerative zone of our local bio-region in order to prioritize the long term resilience and adaptive capacity to coming environmental changes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley calls for a regional agencies, cities, and counties to agree on a shared definition of the Bay Area's bioregion, to define the shared limits of our bio-region's carrying capacity and to organize our governance to be bio-regionally regenerative, sustainable, and to define a developmental trajectory that maximizes the health and vitality of the ecosystems, wildlife, and people for generations to come; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley urges all neighboring governmental agencies (including local, state and federal) to suspend any and all projects and policies that are incompatible with protecting the earth and people from further environmental degradation, public health risks, and global warming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley identifies our current economy with its focus on near-term perpetual growth requiring resource extraction and wealth enclosure as defunct and incompatible with the needs of sustainability, human thriving, and dignity, and calls for a new economic system which in its design meets human needs within planetary and local environmental and social boundaries of wellbeing and furthers human and ecological flourishing, furthers a regenerative human presence on earth, achieves equitable distribution of resources throughout the planet, and achieves sustainability through a just and regenerative transition to restore a safe climate and adapt to further warming in the near and long term; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley endorses the intention and vision behind a global Green New Deal that reverses centuries of colonization, and post-colonial imbalances of power, health, wealth, sovereignty, addresses the climate emergency at the speed and scale necessary, and protects the world from impending climate impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley recognizes the importance of Indigenous leadership in designing and implementing a regenerative economy in Berkeley, the greater Bay Area, and the World, and shall invite delegates from Indigenous communities to all stages of the planning and implementation process.



Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR  
July 28, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Cheryl Davila

Subject: Initiate a Citywide, Regional and International Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy to Address the Climate Emergency

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution to initiate a Citywide, Regional and International Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy to Address the Climate Emergency, and taking the following actions:

1. The City of Berkeley recognizes that attempting to be sustainable is not enough to protect residents from cumulative impacts of centuries of environmental and social degradation and instead will reorient its city planning, policy, and resource allocation to be socially and environmentally positive and will invest in a regenerative whole city infrastructure, policy, development and design process.
2. The City of Berkeley embraces doughnut economics, which, by definition, recognizes the necessity of meeting the needs of residents within the carrying capacity of our planet Earth and the greater Bay area bioregion.
3. The City of Berkeley will accelerate the transition to a zero-waste cradle to cradle circular economy.
4. All City of Berkeley commissions shall propose city policies, procedures and programs to enact a just transition that is socially, economically and ecologically regenerative by securing racial justice, bioregional restoration and sustainability, maximally reduces greenhouse gas emissions, increases public health, increases disaster preparedness and community resilience and reverses inequality and wealth extraction of Berkeley and Bay Area residents.
5. The City of Berkeley will create a city commission responsible for planning and implementing a just transition to a regenerative economy that is anti-racist, provides reparations and transformative support for those who are black, Indigenous, people of color, low income, and those struggling with mental health challenges, is community-driven and democratically-funded, environmentally-regenerative, and prioritizes local and independent businesses.
6. The City of Berkeley commits to suspend any and all projects and policies that are incompatible with protecting the earth and people from further environmental degradation, social inequality, public health risks, and global warming.
7. The City of Berkeley calls for a regional collaborative effort to begin as soon as possible and formally requests all regional agencies, cities, and counties to a shared table to devise and execute a just transition plan to the regenerative economy here in the Greater Bay Area through a regional green new deal.

8. The City of Berkeley urges all neighboring governmental agencies (including local, state and federal) to suspend any and all projects and policies that are incompatible with protecting the earth and people from further environmental degradation, public health risks, and global warming.
9. The City of Berkeley calls on governments who have declared a climate emergency and who broadly recognize the immense challenge facing humanity to join together in collaborative exchange and begin a shared transitional peace effort in moving their immediate societies and economies toward ethical and regenerative trajectories.
10. The City of Berkeley identifies our current economy with its focus on near-term perpetual growth requiring resource extraction and wealth enclosure as defunct and incompatible with the needs of sustainability, human thriving, and dignity, and calls for a new economic system which in its design meets human needs within planetary and local environmental and social boundaries, focuses on human and ecological flourishing, furthers a regenerative human presence on earth, achieves equitable distribution of resources throughout the planet, and achieves sustainable transition to avert climate catastrophe in the near and long term.
11. The City of Berkeley endorses the intention and vision behind a global Green New Deal that reverses centuries of colonization, and post-colonial imbalances of power, health, wealth, sovereignty, addresses the climate emergency at the speed and scale necessary, and protects the world from impending climate impacts.
12. The City of Berkeley recognizes the importance of Indigenous leadership in designing and implementing a regenerative economy in Berkeley, the Greater Bay Area, and the World, and shall invite delegates from Indigenous communities to all stages of the planning and implementation process.

## BACKGROUND

In addition to the massive worldwide health crisis, COVID-19 also caused a slow down to the global economy. Governments around the world have begun to and are planning to spend trillions to invest in economic recoveries. There is a time-sensitive need to prevent a carbon rebound and prevent a return to extractive overconsumption in order to avert climate catastrophe and secure a just future for humankind and wildlife. Berkeley as the third city to recognize we face a climate emergency has an opportunity and responsibility to lead and collaborate effort with over 1700 cities, counties, and countries who have formally recognized and declared a climate emergency. Over 20 municipalities in the Bay Area have declared a climate emergency and called for a regional collaborative effort that has not yet begun. For the Bay Area to do its part for the world it must have a regional plan to achieve regeneration and sustainability, the City of Berkeley has a role and responsibility in leading this effort.

In leading this effort, Berkeley must recognize and address the following issues: (1) Climate change and its connection to public health (i.e., resurgence of diseases and pandemics, compounded effects on low income, people of color, and other groups systematically disenfranchised), (2) Injustice of the pre-COVID-19 economic and political system, and (3) a just transition to a sustainable and regenerative economy.

Climate change and harmful public health issues have a positive correlation. Even if reasonably curbed, global warming effects in the near future include increased danger from record breaking wildfires, increased oceanic storms potentially causing \$1 billion worth of damage to public infrastructure and coastal real estate in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>, forced migration for up to a billion climate

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/underwater>

refugees by 2050<sup>2</sup>, increased exposure to diseases, loss of arable farm land, increased death related to heat stress<sup>3</sup>, scarcity of freshwater, and further extinction of wildlife and biodiversity threatening the entire population of the world. More specific to the greater Bay area, the increased air pollution results in higher vulnerability to infectious viral respiratory illnesses, and low income neighborhoods systematically located close to oil refineries are disproportionately and compactly affected<sup>4</sup>.

Due to a history of imperial dominance, the United States has forcibly positioned itself to consume an unsustainable and inequitable portion of the world's resources. We must recognize that San Francisco Bay Area, California, and the United States are historic beneficiaries of hundreds of years of enslavement of African people, genocide of Indigenous peoples, economic exploitation of the Global South and numerous unjust wars which has afforded it the ability to consume an unsustainable and inequitable portion of the world's resources and at the expense of people of color worldwide.

A Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy as championed by Movement Generation and GrassRoots Global Justice is a framework for achieving a regenerative economy that: focuses on Indigenous and Tribal Sovereignty, Justice for Black and Immigrant Communities, Just Transitions for Workers and communities impacted by extractive industries; reinvests in environmental sacrifice zones and communities and healthcare for all; ensures a home guarantee, further democracy in energy, food and land sovereignty, equitable clean energy and emissions free transit, a just recovery in the face of diverse forms of disasters; and advances feminist economies and regenerative finance.

The City of Berkeley should become a model post-COVID-19 city by creating a regenerative economy that reverses a history of colonization, wealth extraction and globalization, de-incarcerates and de-militarizes community life, makes reparative investments in marginalized communities, makes reparations for the descendants of enslaved persons for providing generations of free labor, supports Indigenous peoples and tribal nations in land reclamation and governance of their rightful lands, organizes workplaces and communities to collectively self govern, shifts means of production to works and communities, divests from fossil fuels and other extractive economies, invests in common access to energy, food, housing, and advances public dollars to build community wealth toward reversing inequality.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

To be determined.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Go beyond sustainability to embrace regenerative and restorative practices as necessary to achieve sustainability. Do a whole city community participatory design on how to shift the City into a net regenerative ecological and social impact.

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://unu.edu/media-relations/media-coverage/climate-migrants-might-reach-one-billion-by-2050.html>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.nature.com/articles/nclimate3322.epdf?sharing\\_token=MuYgnDiD-ztxrwuEdc-3xtRgN0jAjWEl9jnR3ZoTv0P1ZmqVLxKfxqQX-KqJzVRLBBVboAww8gu7iH3qRbNOymWZ\\_WLKYDK4-9wUkfwjoVC5-B45GtJEP2hxXr149IGj-ukRYIR0z5H0Ps9kJtFARSUhBqgg4Q3sT1BsLgpXbQUGDQWRvtvQBvQRmVVAfq-OHUCsqHStoFZ0JZRaGO91BHNhojMky0ysY-TI9zjISCKsullA9wdl3ohvm8mQMdWbyqk-9ol7o9g\\_2CJmFBcSrualCAY-UnopfvSUMuidWbuAYOxifLoTWRbj2rCF\\_YwNh\\_INWWYrNDLcsrQoHUOyyPwf02XWGva7D8jQiREZU%3D&tracking\\_referrer=ww.w.theguardian.com](https://www.nature.com/articles/nclimate3322.epdf?sharing_token=MuYgnDiD-ztxrwuEdc-3xtRgN0jAjWEl9jnR3ZoTv0P1ZmqVLxKfxqQX-KqJzVRLBBVboAww8gu7iH3qRbNOymWZ_WLKYDK4-9wUkfwjoVC5-B45GtJEP2hxXr149IGj-ukRYIR0z5H0Ps9kJtFARSUhBqgg4Q3sT1BsLgpXbQUGDQWRvtvQBvQRmVVAfq-OHUCsqHStoFZ0JZRaGO91BHNhojMky0ysY-TI9zjISCKsullA9wdl3ohvm8mQMdWbyqk-9ol7o9g_2CJmFBcSrualCAY-UnopfvSUMuidWbuAYOxifLoTWRbj2rCF_YwNh_INWWYrNDLcsrQoHUOyyPwf02XWGva7D8jQiREZU%3D&tracking_referrer=ww.w.theguardian.com)

<sup>4</sup> John Loike and Robert Pollack, "What We Can Do to Preserve Our Clean Air;" Bo Peiter Johannes Andree, "Incidence of Covid-19 Connections with Air Pollution Exposure: Evidence from the Netherlands." 4-7.

CONTACT PERSONS

Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember District 2  
510.981.7120  
[cdavila@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:cdavila@cityofberkeley.info)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution



RESOLUTION NO. XXXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF BERKELEY TO INITIATE A CITYWIDE, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL JUST TRANSITION TO A REGENERATIVE ECONOMY TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley was the third city in the world to have declared a climate emergency in June 2018, calling for a just transition and regional collaborative effort in the San Francisco Bay Area as well as a statewide, national and global effort to immediately end greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the University of California<sup>5</sup> and cities of Richmond, Oakland, Hayward, El Cerrito, Fairfax, Sebastopol, San Jose, Petaluma, Cupertino, Alameda, San Anselmo, Benicia, Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Santa Rosa, Windsor, Menlo Park, Santa Cruz and the counties of San Francisco, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Sonoma have responded by declaring we face a climate emergency and joining the call for a regional collaborative effort in the San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, there is not a focused collaborative implementation plan in sight regionally or internationally amongst the thousands of universities and governments across the globe that have declared a climate emergency; and

WHEREAS, emissions need to intentionally fall between 2020 - 2030 are a critical frame wherein emissions must sharply and permanently fall to minimize climate catastrophe and meet internationally agreed upon targets which are insufficient to protect people from climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, governments are already spending or planning to spend \$9 trillion or more globally in the next few months on rescuing their economies,<sup>6</sup> during the same timeframe that addressing the root causes of global warming is required for meaningful action; and

WHEREAS, returning to a pre-COVID-19 global economic system, which is designed for unlimited growth on a finite planet requiring more extraction, production and consumption of materials and labor than the earth or people can handle, is a recipe for destruction; and

WHEREAS, a transformative economic intervention specifically designed to address the climate emergency and deal with the COVID-19 economic impacts is fully justified by the imminent and time-sensitive existential threat both crises pose; and

WHEREAS, the traditional land management and stewardship methods of Chochenyo, Muwekma, Karkin, Lisjan, Ohlone and other neighboring Indigenous peoples serve as the original design for a regenerative economy on the lands now occupied by the nine counties of the SF Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, legally recognizing the inherent rights of nature such as the Bay, is necessary to establish precautionary and restrictive measures to prevent human activities from causing additional harms to water, air, soil, species, ecosystems or ecological cycles on both local and global scales; and

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/university-california-declares-climate-emergency>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/18/world-has-six-months-to-avert-climate-crisis-says-energy-expert>

WHEREAS, for the Greater Bay Area to fulfill its responsibility to address global warming without exacerbating a history of racial violence, wealth inequality, and ecological degradation, it must: Implement a Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy; Embrace a doughnut economics<sup>7</sup> wherein the Bay Area brings its overall footprint well within the earth's carrying capacity while meeting the social needs of its residents; phase out the refining, transport, and consumption of fossil fuels and other polluting industries, energies, and waste products; and define the bioregional boundaries upon which the Bay Area attempts to be regenerative and sustainable; and be an accelerator for a circular economic strategies such as cradle-to-cradle design wherein the material streams of waste is designed to be feedstock; lead the world by collaboratively initiating a world-saving transitional effort; sustain focus and unity of purpose in successfully executing a just transition to a regenerative economy until such an economy is fully functioning; and

WHEREAS, a Regenerative Economy as defined by Movement Generation<sup>8</sup> and GrassRoots Global Justice<sup>9</sup> as a framework for achieving a regenerative economy that focuses on: Indigenous and Tribal Sovereignty, Justice for Black and Immigrant Communities, Just Transitions for Workers and communities impacted by extractive industries; Reinvestment in environmental sacrifice zones and communities; Healthcare for all; Ensures a home guarantee; Energy democracy; Food and land sovereignty; Equitable clean energy; Emissions-free transit; Bioregional governance; A just recovery in the face of diverse forms of disasters; and Advances feminist economies; and

WHEREAS, a just transition to a regenerative economy should in practice: Reverse a history of colonization, wealth extraction and imperialistic globalization; Reverse patterns of mass incarceration and demilitarize community life; Make reparative investments in marginalized communities; Make reparations for the descendants of enslaved persons; Support Indigenous peoples and tribal nations in land reclamation and governance of their rightful lands; Organize workplaces and communities to be democratic, equitable and collectively self governing; Shift to cooperative and public ownership of businesses; Divest from fossil fuels and other extractive economic activities; Invest in common access to renewable energy, food, and housing; Advance public dollars to build community wealth reversing inequality; and

WHEREAS, for any transition plan to be successful, it must include: reducing consumption and production of the remaining GHG budget in order to extend our transition timeline; investing in research and innovation to transform major industries; creating an optimal psychological and cultural climate wherein the work of transition can be carried out free from the compounded stress of racism, climate change impacts, income and wealth inequality, jobs loss, COVID-19, and political polarization are relieved; and training and preparation of our workforces for all the skilled labor required for a just transition; enacting regenerative and sustainable constraints for whole societies that are in balance with humans needs, ecosystems and wildlife; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley will initiate a Citywide Just Transition to a Regenerative Economy because this moment in history as our best and last chance to avert climate catastrophe in an attempt to at least meet agreed upon international targets; and

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.amsterdam.nl/en/policy/sustainability/circular-economy/>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/08/amsterdam-doughnut-model-mend-post-coronavirus-economy>

<sup>8</sup> [https://movementgeneration.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/JT\\_booklet\\_English\\_SPREADs\\_web.pdf](https://movementgeneration.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/JT_booklet_English_SPREADs_web.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> <https://ggjalliance.org/programs/a-pathway-to-a-regenerative-economy/>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley recognizes that attempting to be sustainable is not enough to protect residents from cumulative impacts of centuries of environmental and social degradation and instead will reorient its city planning, policy, and resource allocation to be socially and environmentally positive and will invest in a regenerative whole city infrastructure, policy, development and design process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley embraces doughnut economics, which, by definition, recognizes the necessity of meeting the needs of residents within the carrying capacity of our planet Earth and the greater Bay area bioregion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley will accelerate the transition to a zero-waste cradle to cradle circular economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all city commissions shall propose city policies, procedures and programs to enact a just transition that is socially, economically and ecologically regenerative by securing racial justice, bioregional restoration and sustainability, maximally reduces greenhouse gas emissions, increases public health, increases disaster preparedness and community resilience and reverses inequality and wealth extraction of Berkeley and Bay Area residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley will create a city commission responsible for planning and implementing a just transition to a regenerative economy that is anti-racist, provides reparations and transformative support for those who are black, Indigenous, people of color, low income, and those struggling with mental health challenges, is community-driven and democratically-funded, environmentally-regenerative, and prioritizes local and independent businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley commits to suspend any and all projects and policies that are incompatible with protecting the earth and people from further environmental degradation, social inequality, public health risks, and global warming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley calls for a regional collaborative effort to begin as soon as possible and formally requests all regional agencies, cities, and counties to a shared table to devise and execute a just transition plan to the regenerative economy here in the Greater Bay Area through a regional green new deal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley urges all neighboring governmental agencies (including local, state and federal) to suspend any and all projects and policies that are incompatible with protecting the earth and people from further environmental degradation, public health risks, and global warming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley calls on governments who have declared a climate emergency and who broadly recognize the immense challenge facing humanity to join together in collaborative exchange and begin a shared transitional peace effort in moving their immediate societies and economies toward ethical and regenerative trajectories; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley identifies our current economy with its focus on near-term perpetual growth requiring resource extraction and wealth enclosure as defunct and incompatible with the needs of sustainability, human thriving, and dignity, and calls for a new economic system which in its design meets human needs within planetary and local environmental and social boundaries, focuses on human and ecological flourishing, furthers a

regenerative human presence on earth, achieves equitable distribution of resources throughout the planet, and achieves sustainable transition to avert climate catastrophe in the near and long term; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley endorses the intention and vision behind a global Green New Deal that reverses centuries of colonization, and post-colonial imbalances of power, health, wealth, sovereignty, addresses the climate emergency at the speed and scale necessary, and protects the world from impending climate impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley recognizes the importance of Indigenous leadership in designing and implementing a regenerative economy in Berkeley, the Greater Bay Area, and the World, and shall invite delegates from Indigenous communities to all stages of the planning and implementation process.



03

Kate Harrison  
Councilmember District 4

ACTION CALENDAR  
December 10, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Councilmembers Harrison and Hahn  
Subject: Adopt an Ordinance Adding a Chapter 11.62 to the Berkeley Municipal Code to Regulate Plastic Bags at Retail and Food Service Establishments

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt an ordinance adding a Chapter 11.62 to the Berkeley Municipal Code to regulate plastic bags at retail and food service establishments.

BACKGROUND

Californians throw away 123,000 tons of plastic bags each year, and much of it finds its way into regional and international waterways.<sup>1</sup> The situation is only getting worse with 18 billion more pounds of plastic added to the already colossal amount in our seas.<sup>2</sup> Today, there are 100 million tons of trash in the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre;<sup>3</sup> in some parts, plastic outweighs plankton 6 to 1.<sup>4</sup>

Legislative action at the state level has been successful in achieving reductions in plastic bag pollution. According to the 2018 Change the Tide report, restrictions on plastic bags such as that in effect in California have resulted in a “steady drop” in plastic grocery bags found on California beaches. Berkeley has also recently made substantial progress on its restriction of plastic litter in the city through the Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction ordinance (BMC Chapter 11.64).<sup>5</sup> The ordinance restricts food providers from offering take-out and dine-in food in single-use disposable ware. These items include “containers, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, boxes, pizza boxes, cups, utensils, straws, lids, sleeves, condiment containers, spill plugs, paper or foil wrappers, liners and any

<sup>1</sup> Environment California, “Keep Plastic Out of the Pacific,”

<https://environmentcalifornia.org/programs/cae/keep-plastic-out-pacific>.

<sup>2</sup> Division of Boating and Waterways, “The Changing Tide,”

[http://dbw.parks.ca.gov/pages/28702/files/Changing%20Tide%20Summer%202018%20HQ%20\(1\).pdf](http://dbw.parks.ca.gov/pages/28702/files/Changing%20Tide%20Summer%202018%20HQ%20(1).pdf).

<sup>3</sup> The North Pacific Gyre, also known as the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre, is a system of ocean currents that covers much of the northern Pacific Ocean. It stretches from California to Japan and contains the Great Pacific Trash Patch, or Pacific trash vortex. National Geographic, “Great Pacific Garbage Patch,” <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/great-pacific-garbage-patch/>.

<sup>4</sup> Environment California, “Keep Plastic Out of the Pacific,”

<https://environmentcalifornia.org/programs/cae/keep-plastic-out-pacific>.

<sup>5</sup> Berkeley Municipal Code, Chapter 11.64 Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction.

other items used to hold, serve, eat, or drink Prepared Food.”<sup>6</sup> Notably, plastic bags do not fall within the purview of the Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction ordinance.

In order to take a further step in protecting the environment and reaching our zero waste goal, Berkeley must consider more aggressive action to close critical loopholes in state law with regard to plastic bags.

California currently prohibits the sale of plastic bags that fall into several categories, based on composition, intended use and business size and type. The statewide Single-Use Carryout Bag Ban prevents the sale of single-use plastic carryout bags in most large grocery stores, retail stores with a pharmacy, convenience stores, food marts, and liquor stores. Affected stores may offer reusable or recycled paper bags to a customer at the point of sale. Despite these restrictions, the law provides for the sale of plastic bags that are more than 2.25 mils thick in these stores, and exempts a number of key commercial establishments such as restaurants, general retailers, farmers markets, and other smaller businesses. State law also fully exempts plastic bags in grocery stores used for carrying produce from the shelf to the check stand.<sup>7</sup>

This proposed ordinance intends to expand the scope of existing regulation to further reduce plastic waste across these exempt categories, avoiding further destruction of the local, regional and global environment.

### **State Restrictions on Plastic Bags**

California’s legislature decided in 2014 to take a step to limit single-use plastic bag waste. Senate Bill 270 mandates that stores of a certain size and type offer only reusable bags at checkout and sets a minimum price of at least \$0.10.<sup>8</sup> As a result, thin film bags, known as t-shirt bags, are no longer available at larger retail and grocery stores.

The scope of state regulation includes minimum percentage of post-consumer recycled plastics the bag must include and banning plastic bags deemed adequate for only one use. The state defines single-use plastic bags as thin film bags—bags made out of flexible sheets of plastic usually of polyethylene resin. Legislation often distinguishes between single-use film bags and reusable ones based on their thickness, measured in mils—1 thousandth of an inch.

The ban however does not apply to other types of plastic bags deemed reusable or to smaller retailers and restaurants. Many plastic film bags, in particular, are still permitted under SB 270. They are permitted for sale as long as: the bags contain more than 20%

---

<sup>6</sup> Berkeley Municipal Code Section 11.64.020D.

<sup>7</sup> Ban on Single-Use Carryout Bags (SB 270 / Proposition 67) Frequently Asked Questions, Office of the Attorney General and CalRecycle, April 2017, <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Plastics/CarryOutBags/FAQ/>.

<sup>8</sup> California Legislature, Senate Bill 270,  
[https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201320140SB270](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB270)

post-consumer recycled material<sup>9</sup>; are recyclable in the state of California; are properly labeled as containing post-consumer recycled material; can carry over 22lb for a minimum of 175ft for at least 125 uses; and are at least 2.25 mils thick.

Despite the assumption of reusability, there is limited evidence to suggest that plastic bags are being repurposed to the degree accounted for by SB 270. Some studies suggest that fewer than 1% of people actually reuse the thicker and thus technically-reusable film bags.<sup>10</sup> This erroneous legislative assumption can be addressed at the local level.

Aside from SB 270, the only other legislation governing plastic bag usage in Berkeley is an Alameda County ordinance implementing SB 270 and local ordinances regulating the type of plastic allowed in food packaging.<sup>11</sup> By not addressing plastic produce bags and defining reusable bags as any film bag exceeding 2.25 mils, current regional and local law shares many of the shortcomings of state legislation.<sup>1213</sup>

### Local Restrictions on Plastic Bags

Contested but upheld in a 2016 ballot measure,<sup>14</sup> SB 270 set a statewide code that has been built upon by numerous local governments, including many in the Bay Area.

Palo Alto is one of the most recent cities to amend its municipal code and take the extra step in limiting the distribution of film bags. By splitting plastic bags into three categories by use—produce bags, checkout bags, and product bags—the city is able to differentiate regulation for each purpose. Its ordinance<sup>15</sup> bans grocery stores and farmers markets from packaging food in film bags, requiring instead the use of compostable plastics. For checkout, Palo Alto mandates that all stores only offer their customers recycled paper bags or reusable bags, a term it defines in accordance with California law as a bag thicker than 2.25 mils.

<sup>9</sup> [In 2020, the percentage required will increase to 40% post-consumer recycled material.](#)

<sup>10</sup> Save Our Shores, “Help Ban Plastic Bags,” <https://saveourshores.org/help-ban-plastic-bags/>

<sup>11</sup> Alameda County Waste Management Authority, “Ordinance Regulating the use of carryout bags and promoting the use of reusable bags,” <http://reusablebagsac.org/acwma-ordinance-2012-2-amended-ordinance-2016-2>.

<sup>12</sup> Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 11.58 Prohibition of Chlorofluorocarbon-Processed Food Packaging, <https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Berkeley/cgi/NewSmartCompile.pl?path=Berkeley11/Berkeley1158/Berkeley1158.html>.

<sup>13</sup> Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 11.60 Polystyrene Foam, Degradable and Recyclable Food Packaging, <https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Berkeley/cgi/NewSmartCompile.pl?path=Berkeley11/Berkeley1160/Berkeley1160.html>.

<sup>14</sup> Ballotpedia, “California Proposition 67, Plastic Bag Ban Veto Referendum (2016),” [https://ballotpedia.org/California\\_Proposition\\_67,\\_Plastic\\_Bag\\_Ban\\_Veto\\_Referendum\\_\(2016\)](https://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_67,_Plastic_Bag_Ban_Veto_Referendum_(2016))

<sup>15</sup> Palo Alto Municipal Code, “Chapter 5.35 Retail and Food Service Establishment Checkout Bag Requirements,” <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/63550>.

San Francisco has similar provisions.<sup>16</sup> It decided in July 2019<sup>17</sup> to both increase the amount of money charged for checkout bags from \$0.10 to \$0.25 and ban what it calls “pre-checkout bags”—defined as a “bag provided to a customer before the customer reaches the point of sale,” nearly identical in definition to Palo Alto’s produce bag language. San Francisco drew inspiration from Monterey, Pacifica, Santa Cruz and Los Altos, all of which charge more than SB270 requires for plastic bags.<sup>18</sup> The ordinance also specifically referenced an Irish law, which increased the price of plastic checkout bags from 15 cents to 22 cents, reducing plastic checkout usage by more than 95 percent, as precedent.<sup>19</sup>

Yet there are some cities that have gone even farther in their restriction of single-use plastics. Although Capitola does not ban produce/pre-checkout bags, it notably redefined the thickness of a reusable bag as equal or exceeding 4 mils, instead of 2.25 mils.<sup>20</sup> This means that any carryout bag provided by a retailer in the city is more durable than those considered multi-use by the state of California.

New York State recently introduced a plastic bag reduction ordinance that provides a number of precedents for a potential Berkeley ordinance. It bans “the provision of plastic carryout bags at any point of sale.”<sup>21</sup> It exempts compostable bag and *non*-film plastic bags and does away with any distinction between reusable and non-reusable film bags based on their thickness. Where the New York ban falls short is in its regulation of non-checkout bags: bags for produce, meat, newspapers, take-out food and garments remain legal.

Given the progress many cities and states have made in regulating plastic bags, Berkeley has many examples to emulate.

### Past Efforts in Berkeley

<sup>16</sup> San Francisco Municipal Code Chapter 17: Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance, [http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/environment/chapter17plasticbagreductionordinance?f=templates\\$fn=default.htm\\$3.0\\$vid=amlegal:sanfrancisco\\_ca](http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/environment/chapter17plasticbagreductionordinance?f=templates$fn=default.htm$3.0$vid=amlegal:sanfrancisco_ca).

<sup>17</sup> San Francisco Municipal Code, “Ordinance amending the Environment Code,” <https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/o0172-19.pdf>.

<sup>18</sup> Isabela Agnus, “San Francisco bumps bag fee up to 25 cents,” <https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/SF-bumps-bag-fee-25-cents-plastic-produce-ban-14102908.php>.

<sup>19</sup> Republic of Ireland Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment, “Plastic Bags,” <https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/environment/topics/waste/litter/plastic-bags/Pages/default.aspx>.

<sup>20</sup> Capitola Municipal Code Chapter 8.07: Single-use Plastic and Paper Carryout Bag Reduction, <https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Capitola/#!/Capitola08/Capitola0807.html#8.07>.

<sup>21</sup> New York State Governor’s Office, “An act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting plastic carryout bags,” <https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/PlasticBagBan.pdf>.



Berkeley attempted to pass its own plastic bag ban in 2010.<sup>22</sup> In the years following councilmembers have pushed for reform, calling for an ordinance to improve upon county and state legislation.<sup>23</sup> Yet the threat of lawsuits<sup>24</sup> and movement on the state and county level appear to have delayed local reform.

### The Proposed Ordinance

This proposed ordinance picks up where prior attempts failed, bringing Berkeley on par with many of its neighbors in tightening restrictions on plastic bag sales. On some points, this ordinance ensures that the City again becomes a leader in environmental regulation. The following details the key changes that close loopholes in state and local law:

- Plastic bag regulations would now apply to a number of retail service establishments previously omitted from the state ban. Restaurants and food vendors would no longer be able to distribute single-use plastic carryout bags. Grocery stores and other retailers selling prepared food would be required to move away from single-use plastic produce bags.
- Retail service establishments of all sizes would be included, closing exemptions for smaller stores.
- Reusable plastic bags would be redefined as non-film plastic bags, adjusting the criteria to more accurately reflect common perceptions of reusability and the tendency for consumers treat all film bags as disposable, regardless of thickness.
- The price per non-plastic bag increases from \$0.10 to \$.25, to avoid a substitution effect.

The most common concern in reducing plastic bag waste is that the alternatives are even less sustainable. Substituting paper bags for plastic could be equally, if not more, hazardous for the environment because of the energy, transport and disposal processes required.<sup>25</sup> Cloth bags are also imperfect options, because of the large amount of energy and water necessary to produce them.<sup>26</sup> The California ban on bags thinner than 2.25

<sup>22</sup> Berkeley City Council, "Berkeley Bag Reduction Ordinance," [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public\\_Works/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Solid\\_Waste/BagReductionDraftOrdinance.100316.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Solid_Waste/BagReductionDraftOrdinance.100316.pdf).

<sup>23</sup> Kriss Worthington, "Adopt Expanded Single Use Plastic Bag Ban/Paper Bag Fee Ordinance," [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level\\_3\\_-\\_City\\_Council/2012/01Jan/2012-01-31\\_Item\\_25\\_Adopt\\_Expanded\\_Single\\_Use\\_Plastic\\_Bag.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level_3_-_City_Council/2012/01Jan/2012-01-31_Item_25_Adopt_Expanded_Single_Use_Plastic_Bag.pdf).

<sup>24</sup> Doug Oakley, "Berkeley's plan for plastic bag ban part of larger movement," <https://www.mercurynews.com/2009/12/23/berkeleys-plan-for-plastic-bag-ban-part-of-larger-movement/>.

<sup>25</sup> The Environmental Literacy Council, "Paper or Plastic?" <https://enviroliteracy.org/environment-society/life-cycle-analysis/paper-or-plastic/>.

<sup>26</sup> Patrick Barkham, "Paper bags or plastic bags: which are best?" <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/shortcuts/2011/dec/20/paper-plastic-bags-which-best>.

mils may also have resulted in a substitution toward thicker and less sustainable film bags.<sup>27</sup> Moreover, international studies confirm that even single-use bags are reused to a limited degree for other household functions, such as garbage disposal or to pick up dog feces.<sup>28</sup> A University of Sydney economist found that garbage bag consumption increased when California placed restrictions on single-use plastic bags, likely because consumers no longer had as many free single-use film bags at hand in which to dispose their waste. Yet that same study also concluded that the benefits of the ban were still significant: Californians consumed 28 million pounds fewer plastic than they did before.<sup>29</sup>

Still, eliminating plastic bags cannot be the only approach to combat the cycle of consumer waste. It must come, as this ordinance would ensure, in combination with higher prices and greater requirements for the percentage of recycled content in paper bags. Any paper bags sold in Berkeley must per this resolution contain no old growth fiber, be 100% recyclable overall and contain a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content.

Data from Alameda County as a whole seems to indicate that when the cost of single-use paper bags was set at \$0.10, consumption *decreased* by approximately 40% within three years.<sup>30</sup> The same report revealed that “plastic bags found in storm drains decreased by 44 percent, indicating that the ordinance has been successful in reducing single use plastic bag litter.” Further price increases have been shown to realize even larger benefits.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff or contractor costs for the launch, for outreach and education, enforcement, administration and analysis.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Reducing the amount of discarded plastic bags—previously classified as multi-use—in the city of Berkeley will result in less over all waste and fewer plastic that makes it into local and regional waterways.

---

<sup>27</sup> Christian Britschgi, “California Plastic Bag Bans Spur 120 Percent Increase in Sales of Thicker Plastic Garbage Bags,” <https://reason.com/2019/04/11/california-plastic-bag-bans-spur-120-per/>.

<sup>28</sup> NPR Planet Money, “Are Plastic Bag Bans Garbage?” <https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2019/04/09/711181385/are-plastic-bag-bans-garbage>.

<sup>29</sup> Rebecca L.C. Taylor, “Bag leakage: The effect of disposable carryout bag regulations on unregulated bags,” <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0095069618305291>.

<sup>30</sup> Alameda County Waste Management Authority, “Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report Mandatory Recycling and Single Use Bag Reduction Ordinances,” <http://reusablebagsac.org/resources/addendum-final-environmental-impact-report-2016>.

Furthermore, a switch toward bags made from polyester or plastics like polypropylene, which are more sustainable than film bags and sold at many grocery stores will lead to greater environmental sustainability.<sup>31</sup>

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Kate Harrison, Council District 4, (510) 981-7140

---

<sup>31</sup> Claire Thompson, "Paper, Plastic or Reusable?" [https://stanfordmag.org/contents/paper-plastic-or-reusable?utm\\_source=npr\\_newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=20190408&utm\\_campaign=money&utm\\_term=nprnews](https://stanfordmag.org/contents/paper-plastic-or-reusable?utm_source=npr_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20190408&utm_campaign=money&utm_term=nprnews).

ORDINANCE NO. –N.S.

ADDING CHAPTER 11.62 TO THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO REGULATE PLASTIC BAGS AT RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. That Chapter 11.62 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is added to read as follows:

**Chapter 11.62**

**PLASTIC BAGS - RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS**

**Sections:**

**11.62.010 Findings and Purpose.**

**11.62.020 Definitions.**

**11.62.030 Types of Checkout Bags permitted at Retail Service and Food Service Establishments.**

**11.62.040 Checkout Bag charge for paper or Reusable Checkout Bags at Retail Service establishments.**

**11.62.050 Use of Compostable Produce Bags at Retail Service Establishments.**

**11.62.060 Hardship Exemption**

**11.62.070 Duties, responsibilities and authority of the City of Berkeley.**

**11.62.080 City of Berkeley--purchases prohibited**

**11.62.090 Liability and Enforcement.**

**11.62.100 Severability.**

**11.62.110 Construction.**

**11.62.120 Chapter supersedes existing laws and regulations.**

**11.62.130 Effective Date.**

**11.62.010 Findings and Purpose.**

The Council of the City of Berkeley finds and declares as follows:

- A. Single-use plastic bags, plastic produce bags, and plastic product bags are a major contributor to street litter, ocean pollution, marine and other wildlife harm and greenhouse gas emissions.
- B. The production, consumption and disposal of plastic based bags contribute significantly to the depletion of natural resources. Plastics in waterways and oceans break down into smaller pieces that are not biodegradable, and present a great harm to global environment.
- C. Among other hazards, plastic debris attracts and concentrates ambient pollutants in seawater and freshwater, which can transfer to fish, other seafood and salt that is eventually sold for human consumption. Certain plastic bags can also contain microplastics that present a great harm to our seawater and freshwater life, which implicitly presents a threat to human life.
- D. It is in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of all who live, work and do business in the City that the amount of litter on public streets, parks and in other public places be reduced.
- E. The City of Berkeley must eliminate solid waste at its source and maximize recycling and composting in accordance with its Zero Waste Goals. Reduction of plastic bag waste furthers this goal.
- F. The State of California regulates single-use carryout bags as directed under Senate Bill 270, but numerous local governments, including San Francisco and Palo Alto, have imposed more stringent regulations to reduce the toll plastic bags inflict upon the environment.
- G. Stores often provide customers with plastic pre-checkout bags to package fruits, vegetables, and other loose or bulky items while shopping, before reaching the checkout area. They share many of the same physical qualities as single-use plastic carryout bags no longer permitted in California, and are difficult to recycle or reuse.
- H. SB 270 permits local governments to increase the price of bags provided at the point of sale and leaves open any regulation on pre-checkout bags, such as at meat or vegetable stands within grocery stores.
- I. The City of Berkeley regulates a number of disposable plastic items through the Single-Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance (Ord. 7639-NS § 1 (part), 2019), but does not impose regulations on bags.
- J. This Chapter is consistent with the City of Berkeley's 2009 Climate Action Plan, the County of Alameda Integrated Waste Management Plan, as amended, and the CalRecycle recycling and waste disposal regulations contained in Titles 14 and 27 of the California Code of Regulations.

**11.62.20 Definitions.**

"Checkout Bag" means a bag provided by a Retail Service Establishment at the checkstand, cash register, point of sale or other point of departure for the purpose of transporting food or merchandise out of the establishment. Checkout Bags do not include Produce Bags or Product Bags.

"Recyclable Paper Checkout Bag" means a paper bag that meets the following criteria:

- 1. Contains no old growth fiber;
- 2. Is 100% recyclable overall and contains a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content;
- 3. Displays the word "Recyclable" on the outside of the bag along with the manufacturer, the location (country) where manufactured and the percentage of post-consumer recycled content in an easy-to-read size font;

4. Or is made from alternative material or meets alternative standards approved by the City Manager or their designee.

"Reusable Checkout Bag" means all Checkout Bags defined as reusable under Cal. PRC §42280-42288, such as cloth or other washable woven bags, but do not include film bags considered reusable under Cal. PRC §42280-42288.

"Produce Bag" means a bag provided to a customer to carry produce, meats, bulk food, or other food items to the point of sale inside a store and protects food or merchandise from being damaged or contaminated by other food or merchandise when items are placed together in a Reusable Checkout Bag or Recyclable Paper Checkout Bag.

"Compostable Produce Bags" means paper bags and bags made of plastic-like material if the material meets the ASTM Standard Specifications for compostability D6400 or D6868, or the product is Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) certified, or is considered acceptable within the City's compost collection program.

"Product Bag" means a bag provided to a customer to protect merchandise from being damaged or contaminated by other merchandise when items are placed together in a Reusable Checkout Bag or Recyclable Paper Checkout Bag; a bag to hold prescription medication dispensed from a pharmacy; or a bag without handles that is designed to be placed over articles of clothing on a hanger.

"Retail Food Establishment" means any establishment, located or providing food within the City, which provides prepared and ready-to-consume food or beverages, for public consumption including but not limited to any Retail Service Establishment, eating and drinking service, takeout service, supermarket, delicatessen, restaurant, food vendor, sales outlet, shop, cafeteria, catering truck or vehicle, cart or other sidewalk or outdoor vendor or caterer which provides prepared and ready-to-consume food or beverages, for public consumption, whether open to the general public or limited to certain members of the public (e.g., company cafeteria for employees).

"Retail Service Establishment" means a for-profit or not-for-profit business that where goods, wares or merchandise or services are sold for any purpose other than resale in the regular course of business (BMC Chapter 9.04.135).

#### **11.62.030 Types of Checkout Bags permitted at Retail Service and Food Service Establishments.**

- A. Retail Service Establishments and Food Service Establishments shall provide or make available to a customer only Reusable Checkout Bags, Compostable Produce Bags, or Recyclable Paper Checkout Bags for the purpose of carrying away goods or other materials from the point of sale, subject to the terms of this Chapter.
  1. Exception: Single-use plastic bags exempt from the Chapter include those integral to the packaging of the product, Product Bags, or bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage, pet waste or yard waste bags.
- B. Effective [ ], 2020, farmers markets shall only provide Compostable Produce Bags to hold produce, meats, bulk food or other food items. Single-use Plastic Checkout Bags, Produce Bags or Product Bags shall not be provided by farmers markets for produce or meat.

- C. Nothing in this Chapter prohibits customers from using bags of any type that they bring to the establishment themselves or from carrying away goods that are not placed in a bag at point of sale, in lieu of using bags provided by the establishment.

**11.62.040 Checkout Bag charge for paper or Reusable Checkout Bags at Retail Service Establishments.**

- A. Effective [ ], 2020, no Retail Service Establishment shall provide a Compostable Produce Bag, Recyclable Paper Checkout Bag or Reusable Checkout Bag to a customer at the point of sale, unless the store charges the customer a Checkout Bag charge of at least twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per bag to cover the costs of compliance with the Chapter, the actual costs of providing Recyclable Paper Checkout Bags, educational materials or other costs of promoting the use of Reusable Checkout Bags.
- B. Retail Service Establishments shall establish a system for informing the customer of the charge required under this section prior to completing the transaction. This system can include store clerks inquiring whether customers who do not present their own Reusable Checkout Bag at point of checkout want to purchase a Checkout Bag.
- C. The Checkout Bag charge shall be separately stated on the receipt provided to the customer at the time of sale and shall be identified as the Checkout Bag charge. Any other transaction fee charged by the Retail Service Establishment in relation to providing a Checkout Bag shall be identified separately from the checkout bag charge. The Checkout Bag charge may be completely retained by the Retail Service Establishment and used for public education and administrative enforcement costs.
- D. Retail services establishments shall keep complete and accurate records of the number and dollar amount collected from Recyclable Paper Checkout Bags and Reusable Checkout Bags sold each month and provide specifications demonstrating that paper and reusable bags meet the standards set forth in Section 11.62.030 using either the electronic or paper reporting format required by the city. This information is required to be made available to city staff upon request up to three times annually and must be provided within seven days of request. Reporting false information, including information derived from incomplete or inaccurate records or documents, shall be a violation of the Chapter. Records submitted to the city must be signed by a responsible agent or officer of the establishment attesting that the information provided on the form is accurate and complete.

**11.62.050 Use of Compostable Produce Bags at Retail Service Establishments.**

Effective [ ], 2020, Retail Service Establishments shall only provide Compostable Produce Bags to carry produce, meats, bulk food, or other food items to point of sale within the store.

**11.62.060 Hardship Exemption.**

- A. Undue hardship. The City Manager, or their designee, may exempt a retail service or food service establishment from the requirements of this Chapter for a period of up to one year, upon sufficient evidence by the applicant that the provisions of this Chapter would cause undue hardship. An undue hardship request must be submitted in writing to the city. The phrase "undue hardship" may include, but is not limited to, the following:
  - 1. Situations where there are no acceptable alternatives to single-use plastic Checkout Bags for reasons which are unique to the Retail Service Establishment or Food Service Establishment.

2. Situations where compliance with the requirements of this Chapter would deprive a person of a legally protected right.
- B. Retail Service Establishments shall not enforce the ten cent (\$0.25) store charge for customers participating in the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children, or in CalFresh, or in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

**11.62.070 Duties, responsibilities and authority of the City of Berkeley.**

The City Manager or their designee shall prescribe, adopt, and enforce rules and regulations relating to the administration and enforcement of this Chapter and is hereby authorized to take any and all actions reasonable and necessary to enforce this Chapter including, but not limited to, inspecting any Retail Service Establishment's premises to verify compliance.

**11.62.080 City of Berkeley—purchases prohibited.**

The City of Berkeley shall not purchase any Foodware or Bag that is not Compostable, Recyclable or Reusable under Disposable Foodware and Bag Standards in Section 11.64.080, nor shall any City-sponsored event utilize non-compliant Disposable Foodware and Bag.

**11.62.090 Liability and Enforcement.**

- A. Anyone violating or failing to comply with any requirement of this Chapter may be subject to an Administrative Citation pursuant to Chapter 1.28 or charged with an infraction as set forth in Chapter 1.20 of the Berkeley Municipal Code; however, no administrative citation may be issued or infraction charged for violation of a requirement of this Chapter until one year after the effective date of such requirement.
- B. Enforcement shall include written notice of noncompliance and a reasonable opportunity to correct or to demonstrate initiation of a request for a waiver or waivers pursuant to Section 11.64.090.
- C. The City Attorney may seek legal, injunctive, or other equitable relief to enforce this Chapter.
- D. The remedies and penalties provided in this section are cumulative and not exclusive.

**11.62.100 Severability.**

If any word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion of this Chapter, or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared void, unconstitutional, or invalid for any reason, then such word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion, or the prescribed application thereof, shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this Chapter, and all applications thereof, not having been declared void, unconstitutional or invalid, shall remain in full force and effect. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this title, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases had been declared invalid or unconstitutional.

**11.62.110 Construction.**

This Chapter is intended to be a proper exercise of the City's police power, to operate only upon its own officers, agents, employees and facilities and other persons acting within its boundaries, and not to regulate inter-city or interstate commerce. It shall be construed in accordance with that intent.

**11.62.120 Chapter supersedes existing laws and regulations.**

The provisions of this Chapter shall supersede any conflicting law or regulations.



**11.62.130 Effective Date.**

The provisions in this ordinance are effective [ ], 2020.

Section 2. Copies of this Ordinance shall be posted for two days prior to adoption in the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Within 15 days of adoption, copies of this Ordinance shall be filed at each branch of the Berkeley Public Library and the title shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation.





Community Environmental  
Advisory Commission

04

ACTION CALENDAR

April 14, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Community Environmental Advisory Commission  
Submitted by: Ben Gould, Chairperson, Community Environmental Advisory Commission  
Subject: Prohibition on the Sale of Gasoline, Diesel, and Other Carbon-Based  
Transportation Fuels by 2045

RECOMMENDATION

Review and refer to the City Attorney for finalization the attached ordinance prohibiting the sale of gasoline, diesel, and other carbon-based transportation fuels effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2045.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Some staff time for review and finalization of the ordinance. Adoption of the ordinance itself may expose the City to potential fiscal impacts, including risk of a lawsuit and, if ultimately enforced, additional fiscal impacts from impacts to sales, property, and other tax or fee revenues.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Numerous Berkeley businesses are fossil fuel dealers, promoting the sale and use of carbon-based transportation fuels which are known to pollute our air, water, and soil; pose major fire risks; contribute to the risk of cancer; and are either potent greenhouse gases or, upon combustion, leading contributors to climate change.

These carbon-based transportation fuel dealerships – colloquially known as gas stations – are known to cause significant traffic and congestion, generate elevated levels of carcinogenic air pollutants in their local neighborhoods, and are frequently found to have leaked toxic chemicals into the ground, contaminating our soil and groundwater.

In 2018 alone, according to California Energy Commission data, over 20 million gallons of gasoline was sold in Berkeley at roughly 15 gas stations throughout the city. Ten of these gas stations had unresolved CalEPA violations as of October 2019.

The transportation of these fuels is also extremely dangerous. Vehicles transporting or storing fossil fuels regularly collide, leading to fuel spills or leaks – further contaminating water and/or soil and/or air – and posing major risks of fire or explosion, with the

potential for significant damage to property and harm to public safety. Alternatively, even if the vehicles themselves do not themselves have fuel leaks, the firefighting materials that must be used to prevent serious fires or explosions are themselves hazardous and difficult to clean up.

These fuels are typically used to power the operation of roughly 97% of all vehicles registered in the City of Berkeley. However, the City, County, and State are all working to dramatically increase the use and availability of vehicles which do not rely upon these hazardous chemicals. One such alternative – electric vehicles – are expected to reach price parity with traditional combustion-powered vehicles by roughly 2025. In addition, the City of Berkeley has adopted the goal of carbon neutrality by 2045, which – if successful – will require ending the use of these fuels.

There are also numerous other fossil fuel dealerships located outside of Berkeley, ensuring that these fuels are still accessible to anyone who is either unable or chooses not to switch to alternatives.

At a regular meeting on Thursday, November 14, 2019, the Community Environmental Advisory Commission unanimously approved a motion to send the *Prohibition on sales of Carbon-Based Transportation Fuels by 2045* recommendation to City Council (M/S/C) Gould, Hetzel. Ayes: Simmons, Varnhagen, Hetzel, Goldhaber, Gould. Abstained: De Leon. Absent: Ticconi.

## BACKGROUND

Berkeley has permitted and even encouraged the sale of transportation fuels for decades. In recent years the cumulative harmful impacts of these chemicals across environmental, health, and safety impacts has become clear, and recently the City Council adopted a Fossil Fuel Free Berkeley resolution, setting the goal of eliminating fossil fuels – the majority of which are carbon-based transportation fuels – in Berkeley.

Gasoline, diesel, and other carbon-based transportation fuels are known to be harmful chemicals, posing a variety of risks to human health, public safety, and the environment, both of their own virtue and as a result of their combustion or oxidation for powering transportation<sup>1,2,3</sup>.

These chemicals have the same health and safety risks and environmental impacts regardless of the source or feedstock – benzene, found in gasoline, is a known

---

<sup>1</sup> Material Safety Data Sheet: Gasoline, All Grades, Vermillion County, IL: <https://www.vercounty.org/MSDS/EMA/9950allgradesgasoline.pdf> (accessed September 2019)

<sup>2</sup> Safety Data Sheet: Diesel Fuels, Valero: [https://www.valero.com/en-us/Documents/OSHA\\_GHS\\_SDS/SDS%20US%20-%20102-GHS%20DIESEL%20FUELS%20rev2%205-14.pdf](https://www.valero.com/en-us/Documents/OSHA_GHS_SDS/SDS%20US%20-%20102-GHS%20DIESEL%20FUELS%20rev2%205-14.pdf) (accessed September 2019)

<sup>3</sup> Safety Data Sheet: Natural Gas Odorized, Hess Corporation: <https://www.hess.com/docs/us-safety-data-sheets/natural-gas.pdf?sfvrsn=2> (accessed September 2019)

carcinogen whether it is derived from petroleum or from corn, and biodiesel poses the same fire risks as regular diesel. As a result, truly addressing the health and safety impacts of these chemicals requires addressing the chemicals regardless of their origination source.

The hazards of these chemicals are significant and acute, and even if the chemicals themselves do not escape into the environment or catch fire, the risk of them doing so is so severe that efforts to control or prevent them from doing so is similarly damaging.

In one recent instance in Berkeley, the cargo of a recycling truck caught fire. This recycling truck was also carrying compressed natural gas (CNG), a type of carbon-based transportation fuel. In a memo by the city manager, this fire was described as “extremely dangerous,” a “highly explosive threat to nearby people and homes,” and a “potentially explosive, deadly disaster,” due to the risk of the CNG either catching fire or heating up to the point of explosion. According to the memo, a similar garbage truck fire in 2015 created “an explosion that sent shrapnel in 360 degrees, including one compressed natural gas tank that flew a quarter of a mile.”

To put out this fire fast enough to prevent this potentially deadly explosion, the firefighting team deployed special foams originally designed to fight wildfires. These foams spilled into a storm drain and polluted Berkeley’s natural waterways, leading to the death of 63 threatened Central Coast California Steelhead Trout.

Even if Berkeley’s trucks were fueled with a renewable, non-fossil CNG, this near-disaster – and the lesser disaster that resulted from it – would have happened regardless. The health and safety risk derives from the chemical nature and composition of the fuels, not the feedstock used to create them.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Banning the sale of gasoline, diesel, and other carbon-based transportation fuels will improve local air quality, protect our soil and waterways, and improve public health and safety.

#### CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

The proposed policy is categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15307 and 15308.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Eliminating the sale of these carbon-based transportation fuels will reduce one of the major environmental, public health, and safety hazards currently prevalent in the City of Berkeley.

Providing a 25-year phaseout period will ensure a smooth transition that businesses and individuals can successfully plan for without unconstitutionally taking or eliminating economic uses of property.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

CEAC considered taking no action, but determined that continuing to permit the sale of carbon-based transportation fuels would not achieve a fossil fuel free Berkeley, as set forth in the Fossil Fuel Free Berkeley resolution.

CEAC considered providing a carve-out exemption for carbon-based transportation fuels that are derived from non-petroleum / fossil sources. CEAC determined that such an exemption would be prohibitively difficult to enforce, and would not achieve the desired goal of reducing health and safety risks.

CEAC considered prohibiting only certain carbon-based transportation fuels, but did not find substantial health and safety, or environmental reasons which would justify permitting gasoline, diesel, or compressed natural gas but not the others.

CEAC considered a shorter phase-out period (such as 2040 or 2030) or a more extended one (such as 2050 or 2055) but determined that 2045 best aligned with other policies and programs in place, proposed, or likely at the local, regional, state, and national level to ensure that an adequate supply of vehicles and infrastructure to support non-combustion vehicles. However, it is possible that all of Berkeley's fossil fuel dealerships could go out of business sooner than 2045, due to a transition away from combustion fuel usage, in which case this policy would have no significant effect.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Ben Gould, Chair, Community Environmental Advisory Commission, 510-725-9176

Attachments:

1: Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. -N.S.

AMENDING BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 9 TO PROHIBIT THE SALE AND  
TRANSPORTATION OF FOSSIL FUELS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. That the Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 9.98 is added to read as follows:

**Chapter 9.98**  
**SALE OF TRANSPORTATION FOSSIL FUELS**

**Sections:**

- 9.98.010 Findings**
- 9.98.020 Purpose**
- 9.98.030 Definitions**
- 9.98.040 Prohibition**
- 9.98.050 Severability**

9.98.010 Findings

- A. Carbon-based transportation fuels, such as gasoline, diesel, and others, are known to be harmful and hazardous chemicals, contributing to cancer, climate change, and known to pollute our local air, water, and soil.
- B. Carbon-based transportation fuels pose major fire and explosive hazards, with risk to public health and safety.
- C. The transport, storage, and sale of transportation fuels exacerbates all risks associated with these chemicals.

9.98.020 Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to promote the health and safety of Berkeley residents and visitors, and to address environmental impacts and public health and safety impacts from transportation fuels.

9.98.030 Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning respectively ascribed to them by this section:

A. "Transportation fuel" shall mean any gasoline, diesel, compressed natural gas, or other carbon-based fuel which is intended to provide power or propulsion to any land motor vehicle through its combustion or oxidation.

#### 9.98.040 Prohibition

Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2045, it shall be unlawful to sell, trade, or distribute any transportation fuel by any means anywhere within the City of Berkeley.

#### 9.98.050 Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this chapter is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter. In addition, the City Council hereby declares that it would have passed the ordinance codified in this chapter, and each and every section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase not declared invalid or unconstitutional without regard to whether any portion of this chapter would be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional.





Community Environmental  
Advisory Commission

**05**

ACTION CALENDAR

April 14, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Community Environmental Advisory Commission  
Submitted by: Ben Gould, Chairperson, Community Environmental Advisory Commission  
Subject: Prohibition on the Use of City Streets for Operating, Parking, or Idling  
Combustion Vehicles by 2045

RECOMMENDATION

Review and refer to the City Attorney for finalization the attached ordinance prohibiting the use of City-owned streets for the operation, parking, or idling of combustion vehicles beginning in 2045, and establishing an offset-driven fee-based enforcement mechanism.

SUMMARY

Achieving carbon neutrality by 2045 and an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 will require aggressive policies to phase out the use of fossil fuels for transportation. This proposed ordinance would prohibit vehicles which rely on burning fossil fuels (or other carbon-based fuels) from operating, parking, or idling on local City-owned streets. Enforcement is proposed to be through a fee structure similar to a congestion pricing zone, with pricing set to cover the cost of enforcement and of purchasing carbon offsets in order to achieve carbon neutrality.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Some staff time for review. Additional staff time may be required leading up to 2045 to develop and establish a carbon offset program for combustion vehicles, though any such program would also be required for offsetting any residual emissions present in the city at such time. No ongoing net fiscal impacts, as any fiscal impacts associated with enforcement or program management are to be offset by levied fees.

Adoption of the ordinance may expose the City to other potential direct or indirect fiscal impacts, including a potential lawsuit, or impacts to sales, property, and other tax or fee revenues resulting from public behavior changes.

## CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Citywide, transportation is the single largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, contributing 60% of the city's total emissions. The City of Berkeley has adopted goals of being a Fossil Fuel Free city and becoming a net carbon sink by 2030, achieving carbon neutrality by 2045, achieving an 80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050, and has declared a Climate Emergency, calling for "a just citywide emergency mobilization effort to end citywide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible." However, greenhouse gas emissions from transportation are currently expected to grow.

Berkeley's Strategic Plan sets the goal of being a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment. In line with this, City staff are working aggressively to develop a comprehensive action-based Electric Vehicle (EV) roadmap to find opportunities to increase equitable access to EV's within Berkeley's diverse community. This roadmap – currently in draft form – identifies the key barriers to electric mobility adoption, analyzes equity challenges and opportunities, and provides a comprehensive set of strategies to expand access to electric mobility choices throughout the city, including approaches which specifically tackle equity concerns in electric mobility, work towards net zero carbon, expand alternatives to driving, and call for city leadership.

In preparing this roadmap, staff has found that in order to reach the goal of carbon neutrality by 2045, given current vehicle turnover rates, the rate of EV uptake would need to accelerate dramatically, reaching 100% of new vehicle registrations by 2030 in order to achieve roughly 100% electrification by 2045. To achieve the City's voter-ratified goal of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, roughly 100% of new vehicle registrations would have to be EVs by 2035.

Berkeley's current rate of EV uptake is not high enough to achieve this without significant policy changes. In 2017, only 16% of new personal vehicle registrations in Berkeley were EVs. This is a significantly higher adoption rate than much of the rest of California, but achieving Berkeley's goals would require this to be accelerated further still. At the current rate of uptake growth, Berkeley's newly registered vehicles would be 100% EVs in 2055. Assuming an average vehicle lifespan of ~15 years<sup>1</sup>, there would still be combustion vehicles registered in Berkeley through at least 2070 – 25 years past the target date for carbon neutrality.

Expanding equitable access to electric mobility options for Berkeley residents is critical for driving uptake, including improving alternatives to driving and expanding public

---

<sup>1</sup> Based upon DMV data on roughly 30 million registered automobiles and light trucks (<https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/wcm/connect/5aa16cd3-39a5-402f-9453-0d353706cc9a/official.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>), and California New Car Dealers Association data on roughly 2 million new vehicle sales annually (<https://www.cncda.org/wp-content/uploads/Cal-Covering-2Q-19.pdf>), the lifespan of a typical vehicle in California is roughly 15 years.

charging infrastructure. The EV roadmap currently being prepared will be effective in the 5-10 year timeline it considers, and will help to substantially move the needle on Berkeley residents' EV uptake.

While the EV roadmap's efforts are critical, they will still fall short in achieving overall carbon neutrality. Many people who work, shop, or study in Berkeley either cannot afford or choose not to live in Berkeley, and so are less likely to be directly impacted by the EV roadmap's initiatives. Most other Bay Area cities have EV uptake rates even lower than Berkeley's, and are often doing less to accelerate the transition to EVs. In addition, Berkeley is served by numerous freight and delivery trucks bringing goods to Berkeley's businesses and residents, and these trucks are unlikely to be impacted by the EV roadmap.

The limited scope of the EV roadmap means it is unable to address the entire picture of Berkeley's greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, and should not be considered as the only set of approaches Berkeley can take. Other policies which support and align with the EV roadmap can help add to its effectiveness.

Without significant action, including the proposals in the EV Roadmap and more, it is extremely unlikely that Berkeley will be able to achieve the dramatic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions called for by the voters and its carbon neutrality goal.

At a regular meeting on Thursday, November 14, 2019, the Community Environmental Advisory Commission unanimously approved a motion to send the *Prohibition on the Use of City Street for Operating, Parking, or Idling Combustion Vehicles by 2045* recommendation to City Council (M/S/C) Gould, Hetzel. Ayes: Simmons, Varnhagen, Hetzel, Goldhaber, Gould. Abstained: De Leon. Absent: Ticconi.

### BACKGROUND

In 2006, Berkeley voters overwhelmingly supported Measure G, calling to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Berkeley's original award-winning Climate Action Plan was built around this goal.

Following this, on June 12, 2018, Berkeley City Council unanimously declared a Climate Emergency, calling for "a just citywide emergency mobilization effort to end citywide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible." Berkeley also set a goal of being a Fossil Fuel Free city, becoming a net carbon sink by 2030, and achieving carbon neutrality by 2045.

Citywide, transportation is the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, contributing 60% of the city's total emissions. Berkeley is home to, and a route for, tens of thousands of combustion-powered automobiles, trucks, and other vehicles which annually emit roughly 360,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse

gases. Unfortunately, this share – and the total level of emissions – is currently expected to grow.

The generally accepted accounting methodology for greenhouse gas emissions, which was used to generate this estimate, only considers vehicle trips on public roads which either start or end within city limits as affecting the City's overall greenhouse gas emissions. In order to achieve carbon neutrality under that accounting methodology, therefore, the City must ensure that vehicle trips which start or end within city limits, traveling upon City streets, are carbon neutral by 2045.

The proposed policy would prohibit the use of City-owned streets for operating, parking, or idling combustion vehicles<sup>2</sup> beginning in 2045. Under the policy, combustion vehicles found to be operating, parked, or idle would be levied a fee to cover the cost to the City of purchasing a carbon offset to neutralize the emissions (along with an administrative fee to cover the cost of enforcement). In effect, this policy creates a zero-emission zone covering all local surface streets in Berkeley (with exceptions for state and federal highways), similar to congestion pricing zones in other cities.

This would be a novel and unprecedented policy approach which relies upon the principle of local police power over city streets to regulate the operation of certain vehicles. While this policy is novel, it effectively works as a zero-emission pricing zone – similar to a congestion zone, where vehicles are charged for their use of limited streetscape, vehicles are instead charged to offset the impact of their emissions. Vehicle operators who choose to operate a combustion vehicle do *not* face criminal penalties.

This unusual policy raises numerous questions and special considerations, which are elaborated upon in Attachments 2 and 3.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Prohibiting the use of City streets for the operation, parking, or idling of combustion vehicles within City limits will reduce fossil fuel use and prevent the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Requiring violators to cover the cost of carbon offsets would, if effective, ultimately bring the overall environmental impacts of combustion transportation down to effectively zero. Driving consumer shifts towards non-combustion vehicles, like electric vehicles, will reduce overall greenhouse gas

---

<sup>2</sup> A combustion vehicle is defined in the policy as any on-road land motor vehicle which relies upon the combustion or oxidation of any carbon-based fuel (such as gasoline, diesel, or compressed natural gas [CNG]) for power or propulsion. Combusting or oxidizing carbon-based fuels results in the creation of carbon dioxide, regardless of whether it is emitted.

emissions globally: on a life-cycle basis, electric vehicles have significantly lower overall greenhouse gas emissions<sup>3,4</sup>.

#### CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

The proposed policy is categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15307 and 15308.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

CEAC recommends adopting the attached ordinance to prohibit the use of City streets for the operation, parking, or idling of combustion vehicles beginning in 2045, with certain exemptions, in order to achieve the City's carbon reduction and fossil-fuel-free goals.

In order to reach carbon neutrality without a significant, dramatic, and costly annual expenditure in carbon offsets to neutralize emissions, Berkeley needs a long-term strategy to both drive behavior change among all who work, play, or frequent our city, and to raise any funds that may be required to procure the necessary offsets in 2045. This proposed policy achieves that without encountering insurmountable legal barriers.

Berkeley is extremely unlikely to meet its carbon reduction and fossil-free goals without aggressive action on transportation decarbonization. Expanding efforts to drive EV uptake is critical, and CEAC believes that setting a sunset date for combustion vehicles will dramatically improve the success of EV uptake efforts. It may ultimately be the only way to ensure a full citywide transition to decarbonized transportation.

Structuring enforcement of the prohibition as enforcement of an emissions-free zone throughout most streets in the city, with a fee to enter with a combustion vehicle, aligns the policy with existing domestic and international legal precedent for congestion and low-emission zones, and ensures it is not a de facto mandate or an undue burden. Depositing any excess fees collected into a restricted fund for sustainability projects and programs, and particularly zero-emission transportation initiatives, ensures the fees are used appropriately.

In order to ensure full compliance with all applicable state and federal law and precedents, CEAC recommends a limited set of exemptions to minimize undue burdens to interstate commerce, ensure ongoing public services and public safety, and comply with other state and federal preemptions.

---

<sup>3</sup> Cleaner Cars from Cradle to Grave, Union of Concerned Scientists: <https://www.ucsusa.org/clean-vehicles/electric-vehicles/life-cycle-ev-emissions> (accessed September 2019)

<sup>4</sup> Life Cycle Analysis of Electric Vehicles, University of British Columbia: [https://sustain.ubc.ca/sites/default/files/2018-63%20Lifecycle%20Analysis%20of%20Electric%20Vehicles\\_Kukreja.pdf](https://sustain.ubc.ca/sites/default/files/2018-63%20Lifecycle%20Analysis%20of%20Electric%20Vehicles_Kukreja.pdf) (accessed September 2019)

### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

CEAC considered taking no immediate action and instead waiting to see the impacts of the City's planned EV roadmap. However, upon consideration and recognition of the roadmap's finding that consumers must begin planning for full decarbonization 15-20 years in advance, we determined that waiting 5-10 years to evaluate the impacts of the EV roadmap strategy would not ensure Berkeley is able to meet its carbon neutral target. Instead, CEAC believes that this policy would lend weight and import to the EV roadmap strategy, as it is short- to medium-term plans like the EV roadmap that will make this larger, full decarbonization effort feasible in 25 years – without both working together, neither are likely to be successful.

CEAC considered a gradual, phased approach that would restrict combustion vehicles on a narrower set of streets initially, and over time expand that to include more of the city. While the city can expect a gradual, phased increase in the use of electric vehicles, it is likely to be dispersed throughout the city as residents, apartments, and businesses install chargers or purchase vehicles over time. Other policies, such as those proposed in the EV roadmap, will help encourage and accelerate this gradual uptake; however, phasing certain streets into a combustion-free zone did not provide a clear benefit and could, ultimately, reduce in an *increase* in greenhouse gas emissions as combustion vehicles attempt to route around limited areas which are combustion-free.

CEAC also considered a less stringent enforcement mechanism, but determined that weaker enforcement would dramatically reduce the effectiveness of the policy. CEAC also recognizes the ability of Council to direct the City Manager on enforcement priorities.

CEAC considered leaving excess fees collected as unrestricted revenue, but determined that would potentially hamper the ability of the city to achieve a just citywide zero-emission mobility transition.

### CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

### CONTACT PERSON

Ben Gould, Chair, Community Environmental Advisory Commission, 510-725-9176

### Attachments:

- 1: Ordinance
- 2: Frequently Asked Questions
- 3: Analysis of Legal Considerations

ORDINANCE NO. -N.S.

AMENDING BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 14 TO PROHIBIT THE  
OPERATION OF COMBUSTION-POWERED VEHICLES

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. That the Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 14.94 is added to read as follows:

**Chapter 14.94**  
**OPERATION OF COMBUSTION VEHICLES**

**Sections:**

<b>14.94.010</b>	<b>Findings</b>
<b>14.94.020</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>14.94.030</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
<b>14.94.040</b>	<b>Prohibition</b>
<b>14.94.050</b>	<b>Enforcement</b>
<b>14.94.060</b>	<b>Exemptions</b>
<b>14.94.070</b>	<b>Severability</b>

14.94.010 Findings

A. Climate change, caused by the generation of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, is harmful to human health and public safety, acting through increased risks of wildfire, drought, landslides, heat stress, sea level rise, disease, pests, environmental degradation, and other pathways.

B. The City of Berkeley has adopted a goal of carbon neutrality by 2045, becoming a fossil fuel free city, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

C. The State of California has adopted the goal of carbon neutrality by 2045, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

D. Combustion vehicles are responsible for over 60% of the greenhouse gas emissions attributable to the City of Berkeley.

E. At present, over 95% of all vehicles traveling through the City of Berkeley are combustion vehicles. In 2017, only 17% of new vehicles registered in the City of Berkeley were plug-in vehicles.

F. In order to reach carbon neutrality by 2045, projections show that there must be an aggressive and unprecedented transition to electric vehicles.

G. Berkeley's current rate of uptake is not projected to reach the goal of carbon neutrality before 2045.

H. The California Vehicle Code (CVC § 21101 (c)) grants cities the authority to regulate the use of certain roads by certain vehicles.

I. The City of Berkeley is a charter city with jurisdiction over municipal affairs, including the use of public right of way.

J. Due to improvements in battery technology and declining costs, the prices of electric vehicles are expected to decline, becoming cost-competitive with traditional combustion vehicles in under 10 years and likely subsequently declining further, while the available range continues to further increase.

K. Disadvantaged and low-income communities have traditionally shouldered the brunt of the impacts associated with combustion vehicles.

L. Combustion vehicles, by the mechanics of their engine operation, exacerbate noise and heat issues in already increasingly noisy, hot cities and neighborhoods.

M. Combustion vehicles, by necessity of their design, transport and store hazardous, polluting chemicals as fuel – such as gasoline – which pose risks of contamination to air and water.

N. Combustion vehicles, by necessity of their design, transport and store hazardous polluting chemicals as fuel which pose serious risks of fire and explosion, threatening health, property, and public safety.

O. Advancing the adoption of non-combustion vehicles helps make them more affordable and supports the expansion of supportive infrastructure.

P. The State of California, as well as Bay Area counties, cities, and community choice energy providers are working to increase equitable access to alternatives to combustion vehicles, such as by supporting electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.

Q. Achieving a transportation system which is nearly 100% decarbonized is feasible and viable by 2045.

R. Significant action at the local and state level is required to drive full decarbonization by 2045.

14.94.020 Purpose



The purpose of this chapter is to promote the health and safety of Berkeley residents and visitors, to address environmental impacts and prevent climate change from the emission of greenhouse gases resulting from the combustion of fossil fuels used for transportation, and to fulfill upon the intent of the voters as expressed in Berkeley's 2006 Measure G.

#### 14.94.030 Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning respectively ascribed to them by this section:

A. "Combustion vehicle" shall mean any on-road land motor vehicle which uses the combustion or oxidation of any carbon-based fuel to provide power or propulsion.

B. "Carbon offset" shall mean a competitively procured, third-party verified project or program which, with the funding provided through the purchase of the offset, results in the permanent, indefinite storage or sequestration of carbon dioxide.

C. "Greenhouse gas" shall mean any planet-warming chemical which is a gas at standard temperature and pressure, and for which anthropogenic sources are disproportionately responsible for their presence in the atmosphere including, but not limited to, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides, hydrocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, and others.

D. "Combustion Vehicle Carbon Offset Program" shall be any program through which the City of Berkeley assesses its attributable share of emissions from any combustion vehicles passing through its city limits using a standard and widely accepted methodology, and acquires and retires carbon offsets equal to the attributable emissions from those combustion vehicles.

E. "Green Initiative Fund" shall be any program through which the City of Berkeley dedicates and allocates funding for programs and projects which improve environmental sustainability, including but not limited to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy efficiency, reducing or diverting waste, reducing or cleaning up pollution, reducing or cleaning stormwater runoff, improving resiliency, and reducing dependency on automobiles.

#### 14.94.040 Prohibition

Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2045, it shall be unlawful to operate any combustion vehicle upon any public streets or highways exclusively under the jurisdiction of the City of Berkeley.

Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2045, it shall be unlawful to park or idle any combustion vehicle upon any public street or highway exclusively under the jurisdiction of the City of Berkeley.

#### 14.94.050 Enforcement

- A. Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2045, any combustion vehicle operating, parked, or idling upon any public street or highway exclusively under the jurisdiction of the City of Berkeley shall pay a fine for each calendar day in which it is found operating, parked, or idling.
- B. The City of Berkeley shall set the fine amount annually based upon the cost of operating the Combustion Vehicle Carbon Offset Program and the cost of enforcing and collecting the fine.
- C. Fines collected shall be used to pay for the Combustion Vehicle Carbon Offset Program and the staff time required to enforce and collect the fines.
- D. At the end of each fiscal year, any fines collected in excess of those needed to cover the full cost of the Combustion Vehicle Carbon Offset Program and the staff time spent enforcing and collecting the fines, shall be deposited into the City's Green Initiative Fund, to support programs and projects which facilitate and encourage the use of zero-emission modes of transportation, including but not limited to pedestrian improvements, bicycle and scooter lanes, public transit infrastructure, public electric vehicle charging, and/or educational programs.
- E. Fines shall be levied equally across all combustion vehicles, independent of vehicle make, manufacturer, type, class, model year, date of manufacture, date of sale, operator, place of registration, or other factor.

#### 14.94.060 Exemptions

This Section shall not apply to:

- A. Combustion vehicles owned or operated by: government bodies, utilities or telecommunications providers, healthcare providers, emergency services, paratransit services, or passenger stage corporations (as defined in PUC § 1031).
- B. Combustion vehicles operating, parked, or idling upon the I-80/I-580 corridor, State Route 123 (San Pablo Ave), State Route 13 (Ashby Ave, and Tunnel Road between Claremont Ave and Hiller Dr.), or other designated state or federal highways at the time of enforcement.
- C. New motor vehicles, as defined in the Clean Air Act under 42 U.S. Code § 7550(3), where "the term 'new motor vehicle' means a motor vehicle the equitable or legal title to which has never been transferred to an ultimate purchaser." However, for imported vehicles, the term "new motor vehicle" means "mean a motor vehicle and engine, respectively, manufactured after the effective date of a regulation issued under [42 U.S. Code § 7521]... which is applicable to such vehicle or engine (or which would be

applicable to such vehicle or engine had it been manufactured for importation into the United States).”

#### 14.94.070 Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this chapter is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter. In addition, the City Council hereby declares that it would have passed the ordinance codified in this chapter, and each and every section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase not declared invalid or unconstitutional without regard to whether any portion of this chapter would be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *Is this even legal?*

In developing this approach, several potential legal barriers were considered and evaluated. None were found to expressly prohibit, and several actually reinforce the underlying legal principles behind this approach. See Appendix 2 (Attachment 3) for more information.

### *Why set policy so far in advance? Why not take a more incremental approach?*

Traditional policy approaches have worked on much narrower time horizons, such as 3-5 years. However, traditional policy approaches have never attempted a wholesale transformation as complete and thorough as that which we must achieve within the next 30 years to maintain a habitable planet. Nor have the stakes ever been this high.

Fundamentally, this policy is intended to help reshape public expectations and decision-making at a grand scale – while traditional policies have aimed to achieve incremental, progressive improvements, this one aims to achieve a world in which we truly achieve zero emissions. The types of decisions and planning which must be made to achieve that cannot be affected by implementing this policy one street at a time.

### *Electric vehicles are expensive. Won't this disproportionately impact low-income and disadvantaged communities?*

An additional concern raised by this proposed policy is equity concerns and access to electric vehicles by low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Electric vehicles across all on-road types are expected to be widely available and achieve cost parity, if not savings, within the next decade (by 2030). Both Bloomberg and the International Council for Clean Transportation expect price parity for passenger vehicles to be achieved between 2022<sup>5</sup> and 2028<sup>6</sup>, respectively. Bloomberg has already found that electric buses are cheaper today, in 2019, on a total cost of ownership basis across nearly all use cases, and will achieve unsubsidized parity by around 2030<sup>7</sup>. For trucks, McKinsey Energy Insights expects light- and medium-duty trucks running regional and urban trips to reach cost parity by roughly 2028. Long-haul trips and heavy-duty trucks may not achieve cost parity until after 2030, although they have economical use cases much sooner<sup>8</sup>.

Because EVs are anticipated to reach parity before 2030, there is almost certain to be a wide variety of options available, both new and used, at a mix of price points, by the

<sup>5</sup> <https://about.bnef.com/blog/bullard-electric-car-price-tag-shrinks-along-battery-cost/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://theicct.org/publications/update-US-2030-electric-vehicle-cost>

<sup>7</sup> <https://about.bnef.com/blog/electric-buses-cities-driving-towards-cleaner-air-lower-co2/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.mckinseyenergyinsights.com/insights/new-reality-electric-trucks-and-their-implications-on-energy-demand/>

time this policy takes effect in 2045. Furthermore, the availability of EVs for low-income communities in 2045 depends heavily on consumer and government choices over the next 25 years; a policy like this would likely only expand the availability of EVs compared to a business-as-usual scenario.

Low-income and disadvantaged communities today are disproportionately impacted by the effects of air pollution and climate change. Implementing this policy will result in significant benefits to these communities.

*How will this be enforced? Won't it disproportionately impact low-income and disadvantaged communities?*

As 2045 approaches, Berkeley could further ensure the policy will be enforced in an equitable fashion by adding flexibility through amendments or direction to the city Manager on enforcement approaches.

A variety of mechanisms exist for enforcement. Because any combustion vehicle has a tailpipe, it is relatively easy to spot a combustion vehicle during ordinary parking enforcement activities or on standard police patrols, minimizing surveillance concerns. If Berkeley chooses to invest in automated billing systems (such as for a congestion pricing zone), or if vehicle position information is shared on a network (such as for autonomous vehicles), billing could be done automatically.

Equity and affordability challenges could be addressed by setting a cap on fees levied annually based on a certain percentage of household income, or a permitting system could be established to grant exemptions to enforcement. Either of these approaches would work with a variety of enforcement mechanisms. Due to the likelihood of significant technological change in the intervening decades, and the uncertainty around non-combustion vehicle uptake and availability for low-income households, these issues would need to be evaluated at a future date.

Furthermore, low-income and disadvantaged communities today are disproportionately impacted by the effects of air pollution and climate change. Implementing this policy will result in significant benefits to these communities.

*Where will all these electric vehicles charge? What about people who can't charge at home?*

City staff are in the process of developing an EV Roadmap, which will include recommendations for expanding EV charging citywide, particularly to serve low-income and multi-unit building residents. These approaches will include expanded workplace and public charging (e.g., at grocery stores and parking garages), as well as curbside charging in neighborhoods and commercial districts. Over the next 25 years, Berkeley should have ample time to prepare for a dramatic increase in the usage of electric vehicles.

*Have other cities enacted similar policies?*

The City of London has enacted a low-emission zone<sup>9</sup> and, within it, an ultra-low emission zone<sup>10</sup>. These zones charge fees to drivers of polluting vehicles on a daily basis to drive within the zone, with a comprehensive program for enforcement across vehicle types and considering needs for discounts and exemptions. Numerous additional cities in Europe have created low-emission zones<sup>11</sup>, frequently targeting diesel vehicles (which are more prevalent due to the popularity of diesel automobiles). The city center of Paris prohibits larger and older vehicles<sup>12</sup>, while Barcelona is in the process of establishing a similar low-emission zone<sup>13</sup> for older vehicles which do not meet more modern emission standards.

No city has yet enacted a low-emission zone in the United States, though New York has discussed congestion pricing<sup>14</sup> and San Francisco has set forth the goal of achieving 100% of trips taken by sustainable modes by 2040<sup>15</sup>. Berkeley could be the first city in the world to pass a law establishing a future zero-emission zone, and play a leadership role in supporting other cities regionally, nationally, and globally in moving towards a clean and sustainable future for transportation. Berkeley's unique political environment empowers it to advance groundbreaking, socially conscious environmental policy, helping clear the way for other cities to follow suit.

---

<sup>9</sup> Transport for London, "Low Emission Zone": <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/low-emission-zone>.

<sup>10</sup> Transport for London, "Ultra Low Emission Zone": <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone>.

<sup>11</sup> Wikipedia, "Low-Emission Zone": [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Low-emission\\_zone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Low-emission_zone).

<sup>12</sup> Environmental Badge, "Ecological zone Paris": <https://www.environmentalbadge.com/eco-zone-paris/>.

<sup>13</sup> Distintivo-Ambiental.es, "The LEZ Barcelona/City environmental zone": <https://www.distintivo-ambiental.es/en/info-menu/die-umweltzonen/barcelonacity-lez.html>

<sup>14</sup> The New York Times, "Confused about congestion pricing? Here's what we know": <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/24/nyregion/what-is-congestion-pricing.html>

<sup>15</sup> Mayor's Electric Vehicle Working Group Electric Mobility Subcommittee, "Proposed Electric Vehicle Roadmap for San Francisco": [https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/reports-and-documents/2019/07/evroadmap\\_final\\_june2019.pdf](https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/reports-and-documents/2019/07/evroadmap_final_june2019.pdf)

## **Analysis of Legal Considerations**

In reviewing the potential legal barriers to implementation, CEAC consulted with environmental lawyers with particular expertise in clean air and transportation issues from Coltura, EarthJustice, Sierra Club, and Environmental Defense Fund. The considerations identified are explained below.

### **Federal Preemption**

Federal laws which conflict with state or local laws trump those laws, under the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution. There are several federal laws which may potentially conflict with this proposed policy. Fortunately, in determining federal preemption, the courts generally start “with the assumption that the historic police powers of the States were not to be superseded by the Federal Act unless that was the clear and manifest purpose of Congress.” *Medtronic, Inc. v. Lohr*, 518 U.S. 470, 485 (1996).

In passing the Clean Air Act, Congress found that “air pollution prevention (that is, the reduction or elimination, through any measures, of the amount of pollutants produced or created at the source) and air pollution control at its source is the primary responsibility of States and local governments” (42 USC § 7401(a)(3)). In *Huron Portland Cement Co. v. Detroit*, 362 U.S. 440, 442 (1960), the Supreme Court found that “Legislation designed to free from pollution the very air that people breathe clearly falls within the exercise of even the most traditional concept of what is compendiously known as the police power.”

As a result, local laws to regulate air pollution, such as the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, fall under the traditional scopes of local authorities. Federal laws which may conflict must demonstrate clear legislative intent to supersede this authority.

### **Relating To Consideration**

When federal laws are intended to preempt local regulations, they frequently prohibit states and cities from implementing laws “related to” the area under federal concern. For example, the Clean Air Act prohibits states and cities from adopting standards “relating to” the control of emissions; the Energy Policy Conservation Act prohibits states and cities from adopting laws “related to” fuel economy standards; and the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act (FAAAA) prohibits states and cities from enacting laws “related to” the price, route, or service of any motor carrier.

Under an extremely broad interpretation of “related to”, it is possible that just about any policy could be construed as “related to” a preempted area, as it could have indirect effects on that area. For instance, the recent increase in bridge tolls throughout the Bay Area to raise funds for public transportation could be construed as “related to” the price of motor carriers, as higher bridge tolls leads to higher prices, and thus it could be argued that it would be pre-empted under the FAAAA.

However, prior case law indicates that laws and regulations which are not directly related are not preempted. For example, in *Californians for Safe and Competitive Dump Truck Transportation v. AFL CIO*, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals found that while California's Prevailing Wage Law has effects on price, routes, and services of motor carriers, it is only an indirect, remote, and tenuous effect and thus not pre-empted by the FAAAA.

More broadly, the Supreme Court decision in *California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement et al. v. Dillingham Construction, N.A., Inc., et al* provides further precedent as to what laws are considered "related to" under federal preemption: the unanimous opinion finds that laws are preempted if they impose requirements by reference to, or a connection with, an area of preemption. In a concurring opinion, Justice Scalia, joined by Justice Ginsburg, wrote that "the 'relate to' clause of the preemption provision is meant, not to set forth a test for preemption, but rather to identify the field in which ordinary field preemption applies."

As a result, "related to" can broadly be understood to apply if the laws under question are within the field identified by the area of preemption, and if the laws also impose requirements by reference to, or in connection with, an area of preemption.

### **Potential Federal Preemption**

#### **Clean Air Act (CAA)**

The Clean Air Act grants the federal government authority to set emission standards for new vehicles (and provides California the opportunity to set its own, subject to findings by the EPA). Local jurisdictions are expressly prohibited from setting emission standards for, or otherwise regulating emissions of, new vehicles, as stated in 42 U.S. Code § 7543(a): "No state or any political subdivision thereof shall adopt or enforce any standard relating to the control of emissions from new motor vehicles or new motor vehicle engines subject to this part."

Two key components of § 7543(a) must be further defined. Firstly, as used in this section, a "standard relating to the control of emissions" means an emission standard, as defined in 42 U.S. Code § 7602(k): "The [term]... 'emission standard' mean[s] a requirement established by the State or the Administrator which limits the quantity, rate, or concentration of emissions of air pollutants on a continuous basis, including any requirement relating to the operation or maintenance of a source to assure continuous emission reduction, and any design, equipment, work practice or operational standard promulgated under this chapter."

Secondly, 42 U.S. Code § 7550(3) defines "new motor vehicles" as "...a motor vehicle the equitable or legal title to which has never been transferred to an ultimate purchaser."



Ultimately, this means that states and cities are clearly preempted from setting standards that affect how vehicles are manufactured (with the exception that California may be granted a waiver from this preemption). Case law<sup>16,17</sup> has found that requirements to purchase certain vehicles based upon emissions is similarly subject to preemption.

This policy does not attempt to enforce standards for how vehicles are manufactured or sold based on emissions. Berkeley does not need to, and should not, make any attempt to set or enforce standards for emissions from new vehicles.

To achieve its goal of carbon neutrality under the standard greenhouse gas accounting methodology, Berkeley need only address the use of combustion vehicles for trips which start or end in Berkeley. However, combustion vehicles may be sold in Berkeley and stored or used on private property, or transported outside of the city and operated elsewhere, while having no impact on the city's overall emissions.

As a result, new vehicles (following the definition in § 7550(3)) are explicitly exempted from this policy (14.94.060.C).

As far as state and national emission standards for new motor vehicles are concerned, Berkeley's state and national elected leaders are champions for the environment and public health, and the city can reasonably rely upon them to advocate for the city's best interests in setting state and national policies on new vehicle emission standards.

Under the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S. Code § 7543(d) states that "Nothing in this part shall preclude or deny to any State or political subdivision thereof the right otherwise to control, regulate, or restrict the use, operation, or movement of registered or licensed motor vehicles."

While the Clean Air Act does preempt cities from regulating new vehicles, it largely defines those as unsold vehicles. Otherwise, it reinforces the principle that cities are permitted to use local police power to regulate the operation of vehicles.

#### Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA)

The EPCA grants the federal government authority to set fuel economy standards for new vehicles, and subsequently prohibits local jurisdictions from "adopt[ing] or enforc[ing] a law or regulation related to fuel economy standards..." (49 U.S. Code § 32919(a)).

Berkeley is unconcerned with fuel economy (distance traveled per unit of energy), and this proposed policy has no relation to fuel economy standards.

---

<sup>16</sup> *Engine Manufacturers Association v. South Coast Air Quality Management District*, 2004

<sup>17</sup> *Metropolitan Taxicab Board of Trade v. City of New York*, 2009

As with the Clean Air Act, Berkeley is concerned with the emission of greenhouse gases associated with the operation of combustion vehicles. The fuel economy of a new vehicle is not relevant. Furthermore, vehicles sold in Berkeley could be transported and operated outside of the city, or on private property, or pass through without stopping, without affecting the City's greenhouse gas emissions, and so Berkeley does not need to, and should not, make any attempt to regulate fuel economy of new vehicles.

This policy does not attempt to do so.

#### FAA Authorization Act (FAAAA)

The FAA Authorization Act (49 US Code § 14501) prohibits states and cities from enacting laws related to the price, route, or service of any motor carrier (a person providing motor vehicle transportation for compensation).

As previously discussed, under an extremely broad interpretation of "relating to", it is possible that this policy could be construed as "relating to" price, route, or service, as it could have indirect effects on prices or routes, or service (if the vehicle's method of propulsion is considered an element of a motor carrier's service).

However, this policy does not specifically reference or have a direct connection to motor carriers; nor does it directly affect prices, routes, or services; nor is it within the field of preemption intended under the FAAAA. As a result, under the precedent for areas of "related to" preemption, it is unlikely to be found to be in violation of the FAAAA.

#### Interstate Commerce

The "dormant commerce clause," derived from inferences of the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution, requires that any local or state law which affects interstate commerce must not discriminate against out-of-state commerce, and must not be unduly burdensome, with exceptions available if there is no other way to achieve an important goal.

This policy may have impacts on interstate commerce, as either individuals or goods may travel across state lines to conduct business in Berkeley using a combustion vehicle. However, Berkeley's voters clearly consider reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving carbon neutrality to be an important goal, as evidenced by the overwhelming 82% support from voters for the 2006 Measure G. As Berkeley cannot physically prevent combustion vehicles from entering the city, there is no other way to achieve carbon neutrality without collecting the revenue necessary to offset the emissions associated with combustion vehicle trips.

The burden on interstate commerce is minimized by exempting the state and federal highways passing through Berkeley, and ensuring there are no criminal penalties associated with operating a combustion vehicle. Furthermore, Berkeley is a city well-

served by exceptional local and regional transit services, as well as bicyclist and pedestrian infrastructure, reducing the need to drive into or within the city. It is also in close proximity to ports, freight rail yards, and regional distribution centers, reducing the need for goods to be delivered by long-haul truck directly from the point of origin, and thereby reducing any burden from haulers which choose to switch to a zero-emission vehicle for final delivery within the city to avoid the carbon offset fee.

### **Potential State Preemption**

#### **Municipal Affairs**

Generally, local jurisdictions are preempted from regulating in areas which are subject to state control. Charter cities like Berkeley are granted authority over municipal affairs, but what exactly is considered a municipal affair is typically decided by the courts on a case-by-case basis. Frequently, courts will overturn arguments based upon municipal affairs if the state has already issued extensive regulations or legislation on the issue, or if there exists a paramount need for state control over the subject.

To date, the State of California has taken a mixed approach to achieving its statewide emissions reductions goals. In some areas, like energy, the State has taken a highly regulatory approach, setting renewable portfolio standards and implementing cap-and-trade. However, in areas relating to transportation, and in particular the strategies that local governments can deploy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, the State has to date treated it as a municipal affair. SB 375, the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008, has served as the cornerstone of the State's strategy for reducing vehicle miles traveled for over a decade. SB 375 directs the California Air Resources Board to set targets for regional emissions reductions from passenger vehicles, and subsequently wholly recognizes the right of regional and local governments to custom-tailor their approach to reducing VMT and transportation GHGs based upon local conditions and needs. Berkeley has traditionally set policies regulating the use of its local roads to achieve GHG and VMT reductions as though it is a municipal affair.

Berkeley's voters also clearly consider local reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to be a municipal affair. In 2006, an overwhelming 82% of Berkeley's voters supported Measure G, which proposed establishing a goal of 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and advising the Mayor to work on a Climate Action Plan. This direct mandate by Berkeley's voters calls for the city to take aggressive action, particularly if it finds the state's actions alone will not achieve the city's goals.

#### **California Vehicle Code**

The state's vehicle code generally sets the rules of the road and requirements for vehicles to ensure safety. In addition, CVC § 21101 (c) states "Local authorities, for those highways under their jurisdiction, may adopt rules and regulations by ordinance or resolution on the following matters... Prohibiting the use of particular highways by certain vehicles," except for passenger stage corporations, as provided in the Public

Utilities Code. Passenger stage corporations are granted an exemption from the proposed policy.

Based upon this section, it appears that the State considers regulating the use of local streets to be a municipal affair, and that prohibiting the use of local city streets by combustion vehicles is an application of local police power authorized under both state and federal law.

No other applicable laws, legal principles, examples from case law, or precedents were identified. As such, based upon review of the above considerations, there do not appear to be insurmountable existing federal or state legal barriers to implementing a policy of this type.



Office of the City Manager

**06**

CONSENT CALENDAR  
July 21, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Timothy Burroughs, Director, Department of Planning & Development

Subject: Referral Response: Ordinance Amending Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 7.52, Reducing Tax Imposed for Qualifying Electrification, Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation Retrofits

RECOMMENDATION

1. Delay adoption of the first reading of an ordinance amending the Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) Chapter 7.52 to expand the Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program to include qualifying sustainability and resilience measures, and any associated budget requests, until FYE 2022 when more information on budget due to COVID-19 response and recovery is available; and
2. Refer to the City Manager the design of a companion Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program that would provide funding for home retrofit improvements to low-income residents.

SUMMARY

On November 27, 2018, City Council adopted a referral sponsored by Councilmembers Harrison and Davila to expand the existing Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program to include qualifying electrification, energy efficiency and water conservation retrofits.<sup>1</sup> The Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program provides refunds for voluntary seismic upgrades to residential properties. Up to one-third of the base 1.5% transfer tax rate may be refunded, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, for voluntary seismic upgrades to residential property. Applicants have up to one year from the record of transfer to complete all seismic retrofit work, then apply for the rebate. The ordinance allows this deadline to be extended for good cause for up to one additional year.

This report and proposed actions are the result of in-depth analysis and input from stakeholders, including the Energy Commission and Disaster & Fire Safety Commission. The recommendations for updating the Transfer Tax Rebate program have General Fund budget implications for the City. Given challenges and uncertainties from COVID-19 response and recovery, staff now recommend that adoption of these

<sup>1</sup> See November 27, 2018 Council Referral:

[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2018/11\\_Nov/Documents/Item\\_24\\_Rev\\_Harrison.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2018/11_Nov/Documents/Item_24_Rev_Harrison.aspx)

proposed changes be delayed. Staff will return to Council in one year, when more information on future budget constraints is available. Should Council approve the program changes in the future, staff would develop Administrative Regulations to define the qualifying measures and rebate application process.

The current Transfer Tax Rebate Program only benefits Berkeley residents who can afford to purchase a home in Berkeley, while low-income residents who often live in older homes most in need of improvements are excluded from this resource. Given that COVID-19 is exacerbating vulnerabilities of low income homeowners and renters, staff proposes development of a Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program now, to complement a proposed future update to the Transfer Tax Rebate program.

### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

#### *Resilience Transfer Tax Rebate Program*

The current proposal of delaying program changes for one year has no fiscal impacts.

If these program changes are adopted in the future, there would be budget impacts. The current Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program reserves one-third of the base 1.5% transfer tax amount to be rebated from the General Fund. Based on residential property sales from 2014 to 2019, the average annual total net residential Transfer Tax (1.5%) was nearly \$14 million,<sup>2</sup> and the eligible rebate amount was approximately \$4.6 million. Funds not spent on rebates have remained in the General Fund.

As of the FY2018-2019 adopted budget, up to \$12.5 million of the net Transfer Tax amount goes to the General Fund, including the one-third subset which can be rebated to homeowners as part of the Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program. Anything received by the City exceeding \$12.5 million is to be used for Capital Improvement Projects.<sup>3</sup>

See Table 1 below for average transfers of residential, commercial, and mixed-use properties from 2014-2019.

---

<sup>2</sup> This amount does not include the additional 1.0% of Transfer Tax funds that is dedicated for Measure P.

<sup>3</sup> City of Berkeley, Fiscal Years 2018 & 2019 Adopted Biennial Budget:  
<https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Manager/Budget/FY%202018-2019%20Adopted%20Budget%20Book.pdf>

Table 1 – 2014-2019 Residential, Commercial + Mixed Use Property Transfers<sup>4</sup>

Fiscal Year:	# Residential Transfers	Total Residential 1.5% Transfer Tax Amount	Eligible Residential Rebate Amount	# Commercial + Mixed Use Transfers	Commercial + Mixed Use Transfer Tax Amount (\$)	Potential Eligible Commercial + Mixed Use Rebate Amount	Total Potential Residential + Commercial + Mixed Use Rebate (\$)
2014	945	\$ 12,334,024	\$ 4,111,341	69	\$ 1,579,799	\$ 526,600	\$ 4,637,941
2015	886	\$ 12,474,066	\$ 4,158,022	71	\$ 3,093,733	\$ 1,031,244	\$ 5,189,267
2016	874	\$ 13,516,064	\$ 4,505,355	64	\$ 3,303,230	\$ 1,101,077	\$ 5,606,431
2017	710	\$ 13,410,320	\$ 4,470,107	61	\$ 3,002,048	\$ 1,000,683	\$ 5,470,789
2018	793	\$ 14,511,819	\$ 4,837,273	79	\$ 3,705,287	\$ 1,235,096	\$ 6,072,368
2019	863	\$ 17,577,210	\$ 5,859,070	53	\$ 2,519,843	\$ 839,948	\$ 6,699,018
<b>Average 2014-2019</b>	<b>845.17</b>	<b>\$ 13,970,584</b>	<b>\$ 4,656,861</b>	<b>66.17</b>	<b>\$ 2,867,323</b>	<b>\$ 955,774</b>	<b>\$ 5,612,636</b>

### Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program

Staff would design the program with existing capacity and return to Council with a full budget request, implementation strategy, and timelines.

### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On November 27, 2018, the City Council adopted a referral, sponsored by Councilmembers Harrison and Davila, to expand the existing Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program for qualifying electrification, energy efficiency and water conservation retrofits. The referral was intended to increase use of the program to advance the community's greenhouse gas reductions, address the urgency of the Climate Emergency Declaration, and increase the community's resilience. The referral asked staff to evaluate options for additional qualifying measures, evaluate how the program expansion should interact with the existing seismic program, and consider the framework for a just and equitable transition as set out in the Climate Emergency Declaration.

In response to the referral, staff conducted outreach over many months with staff from multiple City departments, the Energy Commission, the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission, as well as several technical experts and stakeholders. As developed through those efforts, staff developed proposed changes to amend BMC Chapter 7.52 to:

1. Add qualifying measures for the expanded Resilience Transfer Tax Rebate Program to include electrification, sustainability and resilience measures that require a building permit, in addition to the seismic measures already included in the program;
2. Expand the program to apply to all residential, commercial, and mixed-use buildings at time of property transfer, augmenting the current program which applies to only residential or mixed-use buildings with two or more dwelling units; and

<sup>4</sup> From City of Berkeley Finance Department.

3. Expand the deadline of the program so applicants have two years to apply for the rebate plus the opportunity to apply for a one-year extension, instead of the current program's one year deadline with a one-year extension.

Staff is recommending delaying approval of these changes, which would have potentially significant impacts to the General Fund. Staff will return next year and make another recommendation based on the budget situation at that time. If these changes are approved, staff would develop Administrative Regulations including qualifying measures, an implementation strategy, and timelines. In order to develop and administer the proposed changes, the next recommendation would include additional staff capacity to support the increased application review and processing.

### ***Proposal for Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program***

Communities of color and low-income communities are not only most impacted by financial disparities, they are also the frontline communities most impacted by climate change and other disasters. The City of Berkeley values equity and strives to be a leader in developing creative approaches for addressing the affordability and housing crises the City faces, leading to displacement of people of color and low-income community members. The City also has ambitious goals to combat climate change and to become a more resilient City. Further, in the referral, Council urged staff to consider “the framework for a just and equitable transition” as laid out in the Climate Emergency.<sup>5</sup> These goals can all be aligned together to achieve multiple benefits in a new Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program proposed by City staff.

An equity analysis of the impacts of the Transfer Tax Rebate Program considers who benefits, who is burdened and who is excluded. A transfer tax rebate program only benefits Berkeley residents who can afford to purchase a home, currently selling for an average of \$1.27 million<sup>6</sup>. Low-income residents often live in older homes that are most in need of home improvements for safety, health, comfort, efficiency, and resilience. Attachment 2 is an Equity White Paper written by Noel Simpkin, a UC Berkeley Masters of Planning graduate student. This paper applies an equity lens to the Seismic Retrofit Refund Program and recommends developing an equity pilot program that targets Berkeley's underserved residents.

A concurrent Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program would provide direct funding to low-income residents to improve their homes as a parallel program to the proposed expanded Resilience Transfer Tax Rebate, for home improvements. This equity pilot program would aim to provide a valuable benefit to low-income residents, long-term homeowners with limited incomes, and renters, who are not able to access the existing

<sup>5</sup> City of Berkeley, November 27, 2018 Council Referral:

[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2018/11\\_Nov/Documents/Item\\_24\\_Rev\\_Harrison.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2018/11_Nov/Documents/Item_24_Rev_Harrison.aspx)

<sup>6</sup> Zillow, “Berkeley Home Prices & Values”: <https://www.zillow.com/berkeley-ca/home-values/>. Last accessed 3/5/2020.



Seismic or future Resilience Transfer Tax Rebate Program. This program could support homeowners' ability to remain in their homes, improve occupant health and increase resilience in an aging building stock. An equity pilot program would create a replicable example of how City programs can operationalize equity in residential buildings and assure equitable distribution of City resources.

This program, once developed and approved, may provide additional funding and/or free resources for homeowners and leverage work in existing programs that benefit low income residents and homeowners. Staff would design the program in collaboration with community stakeholders to ensure that it will meet the needs of frontline communities such as low-income communities, communities of color, and those most affected by the impacts of climate change. If approved by Council, staff will:

1. Design the program in collaboration with community stakeholders;
2. Develop a detailed budget;
3. Identify potential funding sources for the program;
4. Determine necessary staffing for program administration and implementation;
5. Prepare an implementation strategy including timelines; and
6. Return to Council for approval of the budget and implementation of the program.

This equity pilot program concept was discussed with and received support from the Berkeley Energy Commission, Disaster & Fire Safety Commission, and other stakeholders.

### ***Related Initiatives***

Staff is concurrently advancing other programs and initiatives which may be directly impacted by an expansion of the Resilience Transfer Tax Rebate Program:

- *Building Energy Savings Ordinance (BESO)*<sup>7</sup>: The BESO program has just completed its evaluation, and will be updated to better align with the City's priorities of building electrification and resilience. The proposed update to BESO would prioritize electrification and provide recommendations at time of listing that would align with the transfer tax rebate eligible measures. This change, along with possible future mandatory requirements, has the potential to increase Transfer Tax Rebate Program participation.
- *Existing Building Electrification Strategy*: In April 24, 2018, Council requested the development of "policies to incentivize energy efficiency and electrification, in support of Climate Action Plan (CAP) goals" and referred \$50,000 to the budget process to fund the Existing Building Efficiency Strategy. Staff is working with a team of experts to identify how Berkeley can electrify its existing buildings as soon as

---

<sup>7</sup> BESO requires building owners and homeowners to complete and publicly report comprehensive energy assessments to uncover energy saving opportunities. More information at: <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/BESO/>.

possible. This report will include equitable strategies, policies, and programs that will help Berkeley achieve its goal of becoming a fossil fuel-free City, and will include specific building measures that can be supported by the proposed Resilience Transfer Tax Rebate Program and Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Project.

- *Automatic Gas Shutoff Valve Referral:* Another Council referral asked the Disaster & Fire Safety Commission to consider an ordinance amending BMC 19.34.040 to expand requirements for automatic natural gas shut-off valves or excess flow valves. The referral would expand use of such devices in multifamily, condominium and commercial buildings undergoing renovations, and in all existing buildings prior to execution of a contract for sale or close of escrow. It also asks the Commission to consider other triggers as appropriate. Installation of an automatic gas shutoff valve has been included as a qualifying measure under the proposed Resilience Transfer Tax Rebate Program.

Amending the BMC to update the Resilience Transfer Tax Rebate Program as proposed and approving the development of a Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Project would advance the City Strategic Plan goal to be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment. It also advances the following goals:

- Create affordable housing and housing support service for our most vulnerable community members.
- Create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city.
- Champion and demonstrate social and racial equity.

## BACKGROUND

### ***Existing Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program***

In 1991 the City created the Seismic Retrofit Refund Program which provides refunds for voluntary seismic upgrades to residential properties. Up to one-third of the base 1.5% transfer tax rate may be refunded on a dollar-for-dollar basis, for all expenses incurred on or after October 17, 1989 for voluntary seismic upgrades to residential property. This program applies to structures that are used exclusively for residential purposes, or any mixed-use structures that contains two or more dwelling units. Applicants have up to one year from the recordation of transfer to complete all seismic retrofit work, then apply for the rebate. The ordinance allows this deadline to be extended for good cause for up to one additional year.

Since July 2002, the City has distributed over \$12 million to homeowners through the Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program, which reduces the real estate transfer tax to

building owners who perform seismic safety work.<sup>8</sup> As shown in the table below, between 2014-2019 an average of 13% of homeowners took advantage of the program.

Table 2 - Seismic Transfer Tax Rebates, 2014-2019

Fiscal Year:	# Residential Transfers	Total # Seismic Transfer Tax Rebates	Total Seismic Rebate Amount Spent (\$)	Eligible Residential Rebate Amount	% Seismic Rebate Uptake (#)	% Seismic Rebate Amount Spent	Total Residential 1.5% Transfer Tax Amount
2014	945	171	\$ 823,352	\$ 4,111,341	18%	20%	\$ 12,334,024
2015	886	140	\$ 781,447	\$ 4,158,022	16%	19%	\$ 12,474,066
2016	874	142	\$ 826,994	\$ 4,505,355	16%	18%	\$ 13,516,064
2017	710	77	\$ 518,058	\$ 4,470,107	11%	12%	\$ 13,410,320
2018	793	94	\$ 676,042	\$ 4,837,273	12%	14%	\$ 14,511,819
2019	863	63	\$ 427,581	\$ 5,859,070	7%	7%	\$ 17,577,210
<b>Average 2014-2019</b>	<b>845.17</b>	<b>114.5</b>	<b>\$ 675,579</b>	<b>\$ 4,656,861</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>\$ 13,970,584</b>

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Amending the Resilience Transfer Tax Rebate Program would advance the City's ambitious climate action goals, by incentivizing energy efficiency, electrification, and other resilience improvements in Berkeley's buildings.

Developing a Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program would extend the City's sustainability efforts further by providing these benefits to more buildings, serving a broader and more diverse set of Berkeley residents than would otherwise have access to the Resilience Transfer Tax Rebate Program.

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Given the need to address COVID-19 response and recovery, and the associated budgetary impacts, staff recommends that Council delay approving the proposed changes to the B.M.C. Chapter 7.52. Staff will return next year for Council to consider approval at that time.

In the future, expanding the current Transfer Tax Rebate Program would encourage and incentivize sustainability and resilience upgrades in homes.

Developing the Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program is aligned with the City's Strategic Plan Goal to champion and demonstrate social and racial equity, and is aligned with the City's Resilience Strategy goal to advance racial equity. This program would aim to serve as an anti-displacement strategy for low-income homeowners as well as to incorporate equity into existing City policies. This could serve as a pilot equity pilot program that could be replicated and scaled.

<sup>8</sup> City of Berkeley 2019 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Summary-11:  
[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Fire/Level\\_3\\_-\\_General/City%20of%20Berkeley%202019%20LHMP%20-%20FINAL%2012-10-19%20-%20REDUCED%20SIZE.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Fire/Level_3_-_General/City%20of%20Berkeley%202019%20LHMP%20-%20FINAL%2012-10-19%20-%20REDUCED%20SIZE.pdf)

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Rather than delaying approval of this proposal, Council could consider adopting the proposed changes to the BMC Chapter 7.52 at this time. This would provide a benefit to home buyers sooner, but would have ongoing budget impacts.

Whenever Council does consider adopting the proposed changes to the BMC Chapter 7.52, other potential alternative actions for this proposal include:

- **Qualifying Measures:** Council could consider expanding the qualifying measures to include work that does not require a building permit. This would provide additional options and flexibility to the building owner, but would require design, development, and implementation of a new process to validate the measures, plus additional ongoing staff resources, because it would be staff time-intensive to verify completion of qualifying work.
- **Building Types:**
  - Council could continue to limit the program to residential and mixed-use buildings with two or more dwelling units. This approach would not generate as significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions, electrification, or resilience improvements in buildings.
  - Council could consider including industrial building types, for which sufficient information was not available for analysis in this report.
- **Application Deadline:** Council could keep the current program timeline as is, at one year plus a one year extension, or it could further extend timelines to provide even greater flexibility to applicants.

**Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program:** Council could reject the proposal for a Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program. Eliminating this program would mean no new benefits would be provided to low income residents, and would have no financial impact on the current budget.

CONTACT PERSON

Billi Romain, Sustainability Manager, Office of Energy and Sustainable Development, Planning & Development Department, 510-981-7432.

Katie Van Dyke, Climate Action Program Manager, 510-981-7403.

## Attachments:

1. Draft Ordinance language to expand existing Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program for possible future action
2. Equity White Paper
3. Potential list of qualifying measures for consideration in Administrative Regulations
4. Original Referral Report from November 27, 2018

ORDINANCE NO. XXXX-N.S.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE TO EXPAND THE  
TRANSFER TAX REBATE PROGRAM FOR RESILIENCE MEASURES

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. That Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 7.52.060 is amended to read as follows:

**7.52.060 Exceptions.**

K. 1. Up to one-third of the tax imposed by this chapter shall be reduced, on a dollar for dollar basis, for all expenses incurred on or after October 17, 1989 to perform a "resilience seismically retrofit" ~~on either~~ any structure which is used ~~exclusively~~ for residential, mixed-use, or commercial purposes, ~~or any mixed-use structure which contains two or more dwelling units.~~

2. The term "resilience seismically retrofit" within the meaning of this chapter means any of the following:

- a. That work which is needed and directly related to make the structure capable of withstanding lateral loads equivalent to the force levels defined by Chapter 23 of the 1976 Uniform Building Code;
- b. Replacement or repair of foundations; replacement or repair of rotted mud sills; bracing of basement or pony walls; bolting of mud sills to standard foundations; installation of shear walls; anchoring of water heaters; and/or securing of chimneys, stacks or water heaters;
- c. Corrective work on buildings which fit the criteria in subsection K.1, which are listed on the City of Berkeley inventory of potentially

hazardous, unreinforced masonry buildings when such work is necessary to meet City standards or requirements applicable to such buildings;

d. Any other work found by the building official to substantially increase the capability of those structures, specified in subsection K.1, to withstand destruction or damage in the event of an earthquake.

e. Any other work as defined in the list of qualifying measures for the Resilience Transfer Tax Rebate Program Administrative Regulations, including but not limited to measures that provide the following types of benefits: safety, health, electrification, efficiency, or other resilience measures.

3. The work to perform resilience seismically retrofits on structures as provided herein shall be completed either prior to the transfer of property or as provided in subsection K.4.

4. If the work to perform resilience seismically retrofits on the structures provided for herein is to be performed after the transfer of property which is subject to the tax imposed by this chapter, upon completion of such work and certification by the building official as to the amount of the expenses of such work the City Manager or his/her designee may refund such expenses not to exceed one-third of the base 1.5% transfer tax imposed to the parties to the sale in accordance with the terms of such sale. Any remaining tax shall be retained by the City.

5. From the date of the recordation of the transfer document, the applicant shall have one two years to complete all seismic-resilience retrofit work and submit a resilience seismic-retrofit verification application to ~~the codes and inspection division of~~ the City of Berkeley. If the work is not completed at the end of one two years, that portion which has been completed may be credited to the applicant upon submission of a resilience seismic-retrofit

verification application and substantiating documentation, as required by the ~~codes and inspections division of the~~ City of Berkeley, showing the dollar amount of work completed up to that date. All other monies remaining in escrow will be returned to the City of Berkeley upon written request by the Finance Department.

6. Within the ~~one~~two-year period established by paragraph 5, an applicant may request, and the City Manager may approve, an extension of up to one year. The City Manager or his/her designee may grant such an extension only for good cause. The decision of the City Manager or his/her designee shall be entirely within his or her discretion and shall be final.

a. "Good cause" includes (i) the inability of the applicant, after a prompt and diligent search to find and retain the services of an architect, engineer, contractor or other service provider whose services are necessary for the seismic-resilience retrofit work; (ii) unforeseen and unforeseeable circumstances such as a significant change in the scope of the seismic-resilience retrofit work due to circumstances in the field which could not reasonably have been known earlier; and (iii) serious illness or other extraordinary and unforeseeable circumstances that prevented the timely commencement or completion of the seismic-resilience retrofit work.

b. "Good cause" does not include (i) ignorance of the applicable City ordinances or regulations concerning the seismic-resilience retrofit rebate provided in this chapter or state or local laws relating to the standards with which seismic-resilience retrofit work must comply; or (ii) any delays which were within the control or responsibility of the applicant. (Ord. 6971-NS § 1, 2007: Ord. 6741-NS § 1, 2003: Ord 6539-NS § 1, 2000: Ord. 6262-NS § 1, 1994: Ord. 6146-NS §§ 1, 2, 1992: Ord. 6072-NS § 2, 1991: Ord. 6069-NS § 1, 1991: Ord. 5061-NS § 5, 1978)

# RESILIENCE FOR ALL

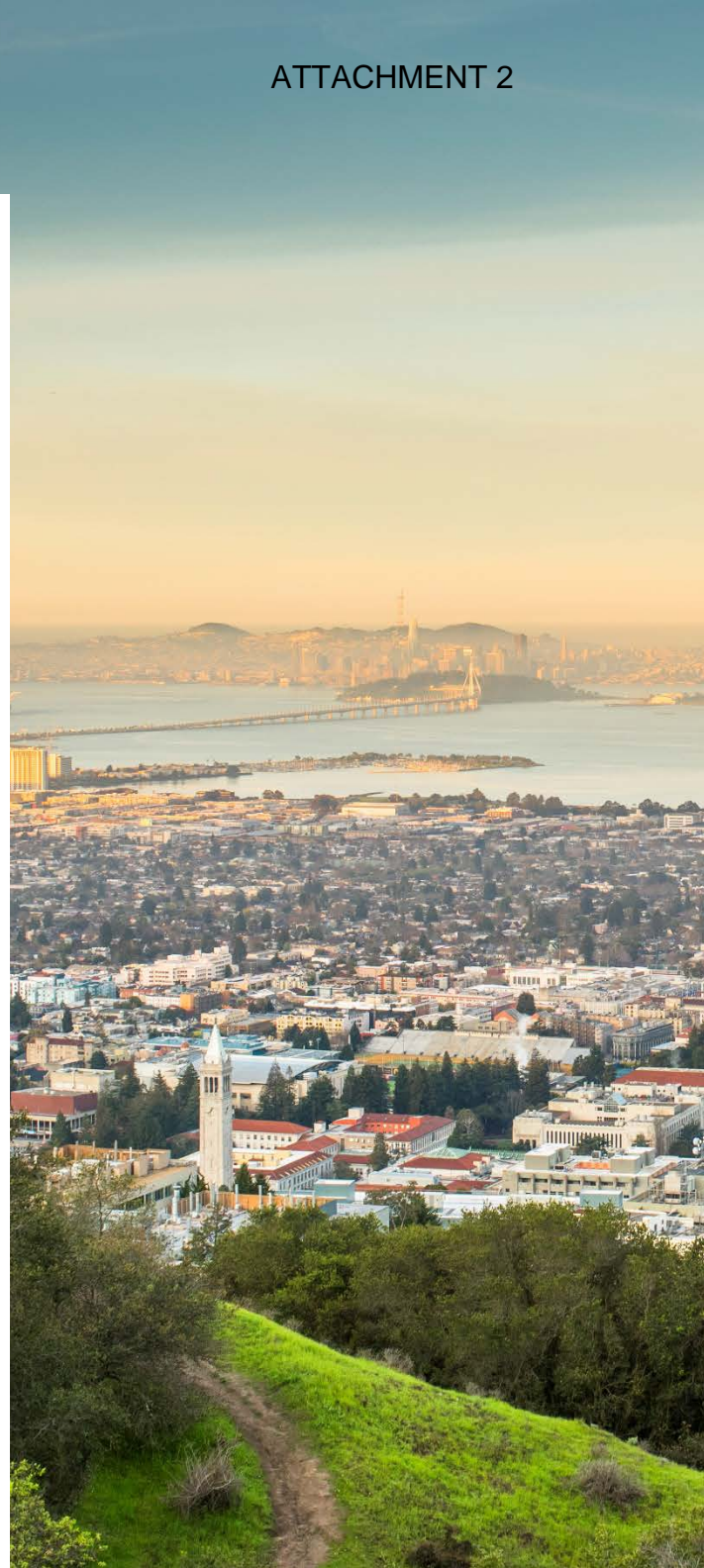
---

## Applying an Equity Lens to Berkeley's Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program

MARCH 2020

---

NOEL SIMPKIN  
MASTER OF CITY PLANNING, CLASS OF 2020  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY





---

# Contents

<b>I.</b>	<b>Executive Summary.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>Equity Principles &amp; Frameworks.....</b>	<b>5</b>
	1. Community-Driven Engagement.....	7
	2. Targeted Universalism.....	8
	3. Tripartite Approach to Equity.....	8
	4. GARE Racial Equity Toolkit .....	9
	5. City of Berkeley Racial Equity Lens Toolkit.....	9
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Berkeley’s Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>Applying an Equity Lens to the Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program .....</b>	<b>10</b>
	1. Current Homeownership.....	11
	2. Segregation and Displacement.....	12
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Recommendations .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Potential Impact .....</b>	<b>17</b>
	1. Increased Safety .....	17
	2. Improved Health Outcomes .....	18
	3. Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions .....	19
	4. Enables a Just Transition .....	20
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Conclusion .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>IX.</b>	<b>References.....</b>	<b>21</b>

# I. Executive Summary

The City of Berkeley (City) has long had a reputation for tolerance and inclusiveness, and yet social and racial inequity remains a significant challenge.<sup>1</sup> In its 2018-2019 Strategic Plan, the City identified a goal to “champion and demonstrate social and racial equity” and has prioritized integrating equity considerations throughout City operations and services.<sup>2</sup> To support this work, the City developed a Racial Equity Lens Toolkit (Toolkit) to assess city policies, plans, programs, and budgets in order to identify biases and help ensure equitable access to opportunities for all community members. Incorporating equity is particularly important in City programs aimed at increasing resilience for two reasons: without careful and deliberate planning, resilience strategies can actually exacerbate inequalities,<sup>3</sup> and true resilience can only be achieved when physical challenges as well as social challenges are addressed.<sup>4</sup>

The City’s current Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program (Program) offers an example of a resilience strategy that addresses physical vulnerabilities but fails to advance social and racial equity. The current Program allows a portion of the City’s transfer tax to be refunded to residential property owners for seismic upgrades, thus incentivizing homeowners who recently purchased a home to make important safety improvements. However when analyzing the Program through an equity lens it becomes clear that the Program is not reaching underserved members of the community, despite the fact that low-income and minority communities are more vulnerable to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change.<sup>5</sup> The current median sale price for a single-family home in Berkeley is over \$1.2 million, which suggests that many recent homebuyers in Berkeley are economically advantaged.<sup>6</sup> In addition, 75 percent of the City’s homeowners are white, and income disparities in the region demonstrate the challenge people of color face to purchase a home in Berkeley.<sup>7</sup>

In 2018, Berkeley City Council declared a Climate Emergency and established a goal of becoming a Fossil Fuel Free city. That same year, Council passed a referral to the City Manager and Office of Energy and Sustainable Development to expand the existing Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program in an effort to accelerate the transition toward more sustainable buildings. The referral identified the need for expanding the Program in order to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, address the urgency of the Climate Emergency Declaration, and increase the City’s resilience. In response, staff is providing recommendations to Council to expand the Program to include specific sustainability and resilience upgrades, as well as to establish a Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program (Equity Pilot) that would provide similar home-improvement benefits to frontline communities. A new, equity-centered program that parallels the existing Program can help the City more quickly achieve its Fossil Fuel Free

---

<sup>1</sup> *City of Berkeley Resilience Strategy 2016*

<sup>2</sup> *City of Berkeley Strategic Plan 2018*

<sup>3</sup> *Anguelovski 2016*

<sup>4</sup> *100 Resilient Cities 2019*

<sup>5</sup> *City of Berkeley Resilience Strategy 2016*

<sup>6</sup> *Zillow 2020*

<sup>7</sup> *ACS 2017 5-Year Estimates; Table DP05, Universe: Total Population; and Table B25003H, Universe: Occupied housing units with a householder who is White alone, not Hispanic or Latino.*

goal, while benefitting low-income residents, long-term homeowners with limited incomes, and renters, who are not able to access the current Program.

This paper analyzes the current Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program through an equity lens, and aims to demonstrate the need for a more inclusive approach to increasing Berkeley’s resilience. In addition, it recommends Berkeley City Council take the following actions to build both physical and social resilience:

1. Approve the development of a Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program that leverages the City’s Racial Equity Lens Toolkit in collaboration with community organizations and stakeholders.
2. Confirm a commitment to dedicate additional future funding to implement the Equity Pilot, with the exact annual amount to be determined during the program design phase.

An Equity Pilot offers many potential benefits, including: increased safety, improved health outcomes, reduction in GHG emissions, and it enables a Just Transition. It is also an opportunity to operationalize the City’s Toolkit, and learnings can inform how other City programs and policies can incorporate equity and assure equitable distribution of City resources. Through the Equity Pilot, the City will be better positioned to achieve its goals of demonstrating social equity and becoming Fossil Fuel Free, while building a safer, healthier, more sustainable, and more resilient community.

## II. Introduction

The City’s Resilience Strategy, released in 2016, prioritizes both physical and social resilience: through a combination of long-term goals and short-term actions, the strategy aims to build the capacity of residents, institutions, and businesses to manage physical challenges, such as earthquakes and sea level rise, as well as social challenges, including racial inequity.<sup>8</sup> The City reaffirmed this holistic approach more recently in its 2018-2019 Strategic Plan, which articulates a goal to “create a resilient, safe, connected and prepared city” as well as a “responsibility to advance social and racial equity.”<sup>9</sup> In order to make progress in these areas, City policies and programs must be designed to enable *all* residents to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from building Berkeley’s resilience – especially historically underserved residents. There is an opportunity to make meaningful progress toward achieving these goals while prioritizing those most in need by examining the City’s Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program, historically referred to as the Seismic Retrofit Rebate Program, through an equity lens. The current Program allows a portion of the City’s transfer tax to be refunded to residential property owners for seismic upgrades. This program incentivizes homeowners who recently purchased a home to make important safety improvements and creates a more resilient housing stock. However, because the median price to purchase a home in Berkeley is currently over \$1.2 million,<sup>10</sup> the Program is primarily supporting higher-income households and fails to reach low-income or long-term members of the community.

<sup>8</sup> City of Berkeley Resilience Strategy 2016

<sup>9</sup> City of Berkeley Strategic Plan 2018

<sup>10</sup> Zillow 2020

---

***“We have a responsibility to advance social and racial equity.”***

*- City of Berkeley 2018-2019 Strategic Plan*

---

In November 2018 Berkeley City Council passed a referral to the City Manager and the Office of Energy and Sustainable Development to expand the existing Program to include subsidies beyond seismic retrofit and potentially include qualifying electrification, energy efficiency, and water conservation retrofits. In addition, Council urged staff to consider “the framework for a just and equitable transition” as laid out in the Climate Emergency.<sup>11</sup> In response, staff has conducted an analysis with stakeholder input.<sup>12</sup> and is providing recommendations to Council to expand the Program to include specific sustainability and resilience upgrades, as well as to establish a Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program that would provide similar home-improvement benefits to frontline communities. An Equity Pilot, that parallels the existing Program, can improve physical resilience and advance equity by enabling underserved residents to improve their physical environments – making them safer, more comfortable, more sustainable, and less susceptible to disasters and climate change (more on potential impact in Section VII). The following sections describe how an Equity Pilot aims to address the impacts of harmful racist policies that favor high-income, white homeowners while furthering the City’s goals of resilience and equity.

### III. Equity Principles & Frameworks

Income inequality and health disparities are unfortunate realities in Berkeley: white families earn roughly three times more than African American families, and African American residents experience higher rates of hospitalization due to high blood pressure, stroke, asthma, and diabetes compared to other groups.<sup>13</sup> Improving these and other outcomes requires the City and its partners to address the “underlying social, economic, and environmental inequities that perpetuate them.”<sup>14</sup> However, addressing these inequities is rarely simple or straightforward and without intentional, strategic planning even well-intentioned efforts can reinforce injustices. When discussing equity principles and frameworks, it’s important to first define what is meant by “equity”. Equity is focused on giving communities what they need to thrive, while equality is about treating everyone the same (see Figure 1).

Equity frameworks are a valuable tool for governments, community development practitioners, and others to design and evaluate equitable policies and programs. By identifying who will benefit from or be burdened by decisions and potential unintended consequences of an intervention, equity frameworks help decision-makers mitigate negative effects and implement solutions that emphasize *equity* instead of *equality*.<sup>15</sup> In addition, it’s important to clearly identify the ‘who’ when assessing

---

<sup>11</sup> City of Berkeley Short-Term Referral Item 24, Nov. 27, 2018

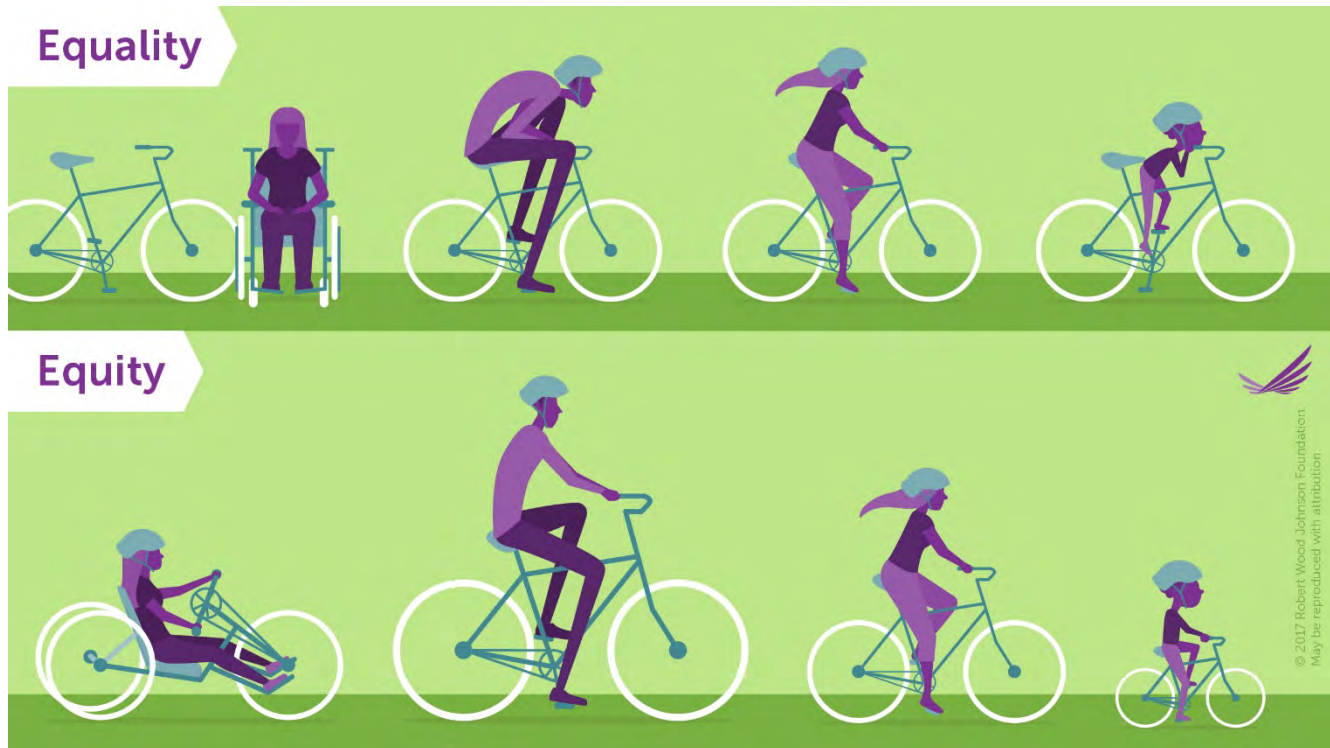
<sup>12</sup> Including the Energy Commission, Disaster & Fire Safety Commission, as well as other internal and external stakeholders

<sup>13</sup> City of Berkeley Health Status Report 2018

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> GARE 2016

Figure 1: Equity is focused on giving communities what they need to thrive, while equality is about treating everyone the same



Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2017

who may benefit or be burdened by interventions, and use the appropriate language to describe this group. There are a variety of terms that can describe potential target groups, such as frontline, underserved, vulnerable, low-income, and marginalized. These terms are often used interchangeably in development programs, despite the fact that they each have different definitions. According to The Greenlining Institute, “in conversations about social equity, terms such as underserved, vulnerable, low-income, disadvantaged, or environmental justice community are often interchanged but can potentially have different meaning depending the context.”<sup>16</sup> As a result, it’s important when designing an equitable program to clearly identify and define the target communities it aims to impact. In addition to providing clarity on specific target populations, terms are important because words can “promote compassion, empowerment, inclusiveness and equity.”<sup>17</sup> For example, the term ‘vulnerable’ can describe a population group that is socioeconomically disadvantaged, but it can also be a term that communities choose not to identify with because it can feel disempowering. For the purposes of this paper, the terms ‘underserved’ and ‘frontline’ are used interchangeably, and refers to “communities that are already facing environmental, health and socioeconomic inequities, and that are disproportionately impacted by climate change” as well as disasters.<sup>18</sup>

The following is a set of equity frameworks the City has engaged with and/or implemented in various planning processes and projects in recent years. In addition, principles from each framework presented

<sup>16</sup> The Greenlining Institute 2019

<sup>17</sup> National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health 2013

<sup>18</sup> The Greenlining Institute 2019

below have helped to inform this analysis of the current Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program through an equity lens, and may be further leveraged in the development of the Equity Pilot.

### 1 | Community-Driven Engagement

Engaging communities is a critical part of developing equitable programs, however in order to be effective involving community members must be done in an authentic, strategic manner. Staff may use the following Continuum of Community Engagement as a way to strengthen its approach to creating a collaborative planning process (see Figure 2). Developed by the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, this continuum demonstrates increasing levels of engagement and partnership from left to right. The USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity as well as The Greenlining Institute – organizations committed to racial and economic justice – advocate for program development that creates “authentic partnerships that center the perspectives of vulnerable communities, support community-based participation and power, and result in shared decision-making”.<sup>19</sup> The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) recently leveraged principles of joint decision-making in its San Joaquin Valley Disadvantaged Communities Pilot Project, which brings clean, affordable energy options to frontline communities. The project aims to empower communities who rely on propane or wood-burning appliances for heating and cooking to choose an energy solution that worked best for

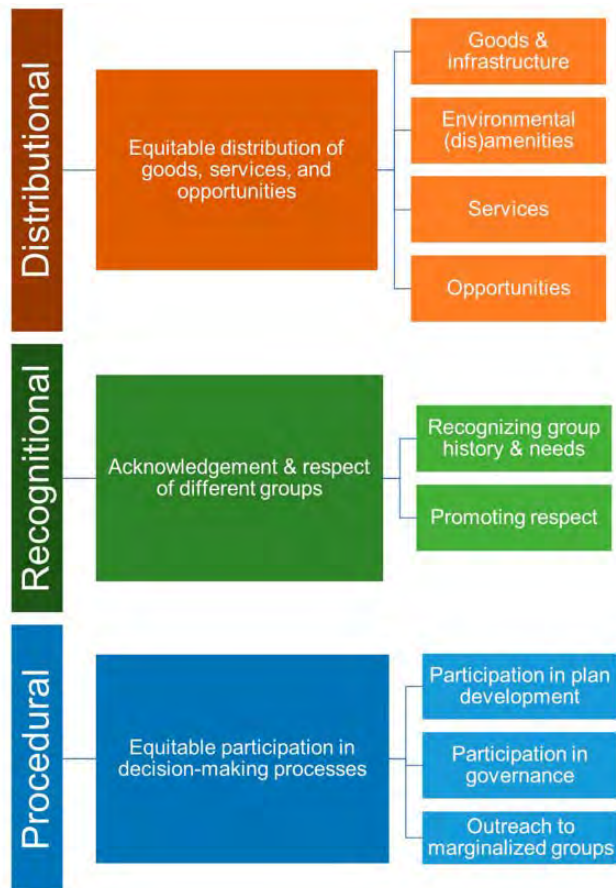
Figure 2: Continuum of Community Engagement

Inform	Consult	Involve	Shared Leadership	Community-Driven
Local government initiates an effort, coordinates with departments, and uses a variety of channels to inform the community to take action	Local government gathers information from the community to inform local government-led interventions	Local government engages community members to shape government priorities and plans	Community and local government share in decision-making to co-create solutions together	Community initiates and directs strategy and action with participation and technical assistance from local government
Characteristics of Engagement				
- Primarily one-way channel of communication - One interaction - Term-limited to project - Addresses immediate need of local government	- Primarily one-way channel of communication - One to multiple interactions - Short to medium-term - Shapes and informs local government programs	- Two-way channel of communication - Multiple interactions - Medium to long-term - Advancement of solutions to complex problems	- Two-way channel of communication - Multiple interactions - Medium to long-term - Advancement of solutions to complex problems	- Two-way channel of communication - Multiple interactions - Medium to long-term - Advancement of solutions to complex problems
Strategies				
Media releases, brochures, pamphlets, outreach to population groups, translated information, new and social media	Focus groups, interviews, community surveys, public hearings, public comment periods	Forums, advisory boards, stakeholder involvement, coalitions, policy development and advocacy, including legislative briefings, and testimony, workshops, community-wide events	Co-led community meetings, advisory boards, coalitions, and partnerships, policy development and advocacy, including legislative briefings and testimony	Community-led planning efforts, community-hosted forums, collaborative partnerships, coalitions, policy development and advocacy including legislative briefings and testimony

Source: Urban Sustainability Directors Network 2017 (Adapted from King County, Washington and IAP2)

<sup>19</sup> The Greenlining Institute 2019

Figure 3: Tripartite approach to equity in resilience planning



Source: Meerow et al. 2019

32 cities selected by the Rockefeller Foundation to participate in 100 Resilient Cities (100RC), an initiative aimed at building community resilience to face social, economic, and physical challenges.<sup>23</sup> Last year, researchers at Arizona State University and the University of Toronto released a study analyzing the goals, priorities, and strategies of the 100RC initiative, and developed a tripartite framework of equity that includes distributional, recognitional, and procedural dimensions (see Figure 3). In their analysis, researchers found that many cities that participated in the 100RC program emphasized the distributional aspect of equity, but focused less on the recognitional and procedural dimensions. They go on to advocate for resilience strategies that “explicitly consider resilience for whom, while at the same time promoting the equitable distribution of social and material goods, meaningful participation and engagement in decision-making processes, and acknowledgment of social, cultural, and political differences.”<sup>24</sup>

them. Ten out of the 11 pilot communities will receive cleaner energy through electrification, and one community will implement a joint gas and electrification approach.<sup>20</sup> This project demonstrates “community members can decide the best ways to overcome the challenges they see”.<sup>21</sup> and serves as a model for community decision-making.

## 2 | Targeted Universalism

Targeted Universalism, a framework developed by the Othering & Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley, promotes establishing a universal goal with corresponding, specific strategies that target different groups to achieve that goal. This approach focuses on advancing all people toward the same goal through diverse implementation strategies that account for how different groups “are situated within structures, culture, and across geographies.”<sup>22</sup> The City is incorporating a Targeted Universalism approach in its Pathway to Clean Energy Buildings work to ensure that proposed programs and policies benefit all communities.

## 3 | Tripartite Approach to Equity

In 2014 the City of Berkeley was one of the first

<sup>20</sup> The Greenlining Institute 2019

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Powell et al. 2019

<sup>23</sup> City of Berkeley Agenda Item 1, June 6 2015

<sup>24</sup> Meerow et al. 2019

#### 4 | GARE Racial Equity Toolkit

The GARE (Government Alliance on Race & Equity), a national network of governments working to achieve racial equity, developed the Racial Equity Toolkit in 2015. The toolkit presents a multi-layered approach to integrating racial equity into city decisions and processes, and is incorporated into the City of Berkeley’s Resilience Strategy as well as the 2018-2019 Strategic Plan. As described in the toolkit, when “racial equity is not explicitly brought into operations and decision-making, racial inequities are likely to be perpetuated.”<sup>25</sup> Questions in the toolkit, such as – Who will benefit from or be burdened by your proposal? What are your strategies for advancing racial equity or mitigating unintended consequences? – help decision-makers place racial equity at the center of every strategy and make more thoughtful, informed decisions.

#### 5 | City of Berkeley Racial Equity Lens Toolkit

As part of its Adeline Corridor Specific Plan process, the City of Berkeley developed its own Racial Equity Lens Toolkit to assess city policies, plans, programs, and budgets in order to identify biases and help ensure equitable access to opportunities for all community members. This Toolkit, which was adapted from the City of Madison’s racial equity work and builds on principles outlined in the GARE toolkit, was created not only to inform work on the Adeline Corridor, but to enable City staff to integrate equity considerations into all operations and services. Through a series of questions, the Toolkit is designed to help users think about the interaction between race and place, and design successful neighborhood change efforts with a focus on underserved populations.<sup>26</sup> A few of the guiding questions include:

- How can our approaches to increasing affordable housing, health, wealth, and equitable development become more effective – particularly for the most racially, socially, and economically vulnerable?
- How do we know if we are being successful without ensuring that success is measured through an equity lens?
- How do we get neighborhood transformation right?

The Toolkit offers a number of tactics to help users get neighborhood transformation right, such as engaging communities in the design and development process, building the capacity of local community members, and analyzing data not only to understand the story that it tells but also to consider what stories may be missing. The Toolkit also provides guidance on how to determine the appropriate language for target communities by working toward mutually agreed upon language that is both clear and works to reduce power imbalances.

Developing a Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program as a parallel program to the City’s Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program presents a perfect opportunity to operationalize this Toolkit and use the tactics, as well as other equity principles mentioned above, to enable a more equity-centered approach to increasing the City’s resilience. Furthermore, this approach can serve as a valuable example of how to

---

<sup>25</sup> GARE 2016

<sup>26</sup> City of Berkeley Racial Equity Lens Toolkit 2019 (adapted from City of Madison, Race Forward)



incorporate equity into a City program, and learnings can help the City scale use of the Toolkit to other activities and operations – enabling the City to further its goal of championing social and racial equity.

## IV. Berkeley’s Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program

In response to the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the City took multiple steps to improve the seismic safety of buildings. One of those measures included the Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program, which allows up to 1/3 of the base 1.5 percent City Transfer Tax to be refunded on a dollar-for-dollar basis for voluntary seismic upgrades to residential property within one year of purchase.<sup>27</sup> Examples of qualifying seismic retrofits include: work to repair or replace substandard foundations, securing chimneys, and anchoring existing water heaters. The Program has been extremely successful at increasing seismic safety, and has contributed to roughly 75 percent of Berkeley’s homes becoming more seismically safe over a 20-year period.<sup>28</sup> Since July 2002, more than 3,000 rebates have been processed resulting in over \$12 million to property owners.<sup>29</sup> With fewer homes needing seismic retrofits, the Program has seen a decline in program participation in recent years (see Figure 3). Between 2014 and 2019, the number of rebates decreased by 63 percent. As a result of this trend, as well as a desire to make progress on the City’s broader goals around electrification and GHG emission reduction targets, Council is considering expansion of the Program to include rebates for other sustainability-related improvements.

Figure 4: Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate

Fiscal Year	# Residential Transfers	Total # Seismic Transfer Tax Rebates	Total Seismic Rebate Amount Spent (\$)	Eligible Residential Rebate Amount	% Seismic Rebate Uptake (#)	% Seismic Rebate Amount Spent
2014	945	171	\$823,352	\$4,111,341	18%	20%
2015	886	140	\$781,447	\$4,158,022	16%	19%
2016	874	142	\$826,993	\$4,505,354	16%	18%
2017	710	77	\$518,057	\$4,470,106	11%	12%
2018	793	94	\$676,042	\$4,837,272	12%	14%
2019	863	63	\$427,581	\$5,859,070	7%	7%
Average 2014–2019	845	114	\$675,579	\$4,656,861	13%	15%

Source: City of Berkeley Finance Department

## V. Applying an Equity Lens to the Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program

Expanding the Program to include specific sustainability upgrades is a strong strategy to increase program participation and to accelerate progress toward the City’s broader resilience and sustainability goals. However, the Program only benefits those who can afford to purchase a home in Berkeley.

<sup>27</sup> The Program applies to structures that are used exclusively for residential purposes, or any mixed-use structure that contains two or more dwelling units.

<sup>28</sup> Bohland et al. 2018

<sup>29</sup> City of Berkeley Local Hazard Mitigation Plan 2019

When assessing the Program in the context of the City’s Racial Equity Lens Toolkit, it becomes clear that the Program has failed on a number of fronts:

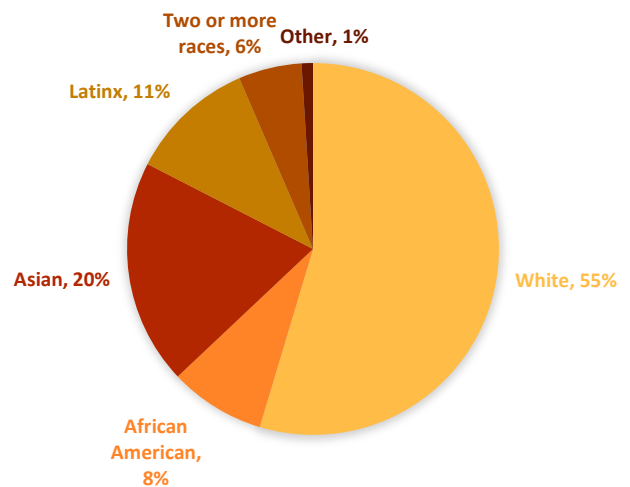
- Success is not measured through an equity lens: Program metrics focus on number of rebates and total funding issued, and data related to race/ethnicity, age, ability, gender, or other social factors are unavailable.
- It does not consider how access to the rebate may be limited for certain groups: barriers likely prevent individuals in certain racial/ethnic or socioeconomic groups from benefitting from this program, as it primarily benefits homeowners.<sup>30</sup>

Although Program data is limited, current homeownership trends and other information related to income, segregation, and displacement helps to illustrate how the current Program excludes frontline communities. Exclusion not only keeps resilience out of reach for these communities, but it perpetuates social and racial inequality in the City.

### 1 | Current Homeownership

The City is nearly equally split among homeowners and renters, with homeowners representing 46 percent of the population.<sup>31</sup> Homeownership rates are not distributed evenly, however, among Berkeley residents: while white residents make up 55 percent of Berkeley’s population they represent 75 percent of the City’s homeowners (see Figure 5 and 6).<sup>32</sup> The current median sale price for a single-family home in Berkeley is over \$1.2 million, which requires an annual household income of approximately \$200,000.<sup>33</sup> Income disparities in the region demonstrate one barrier people of color face to purchase a home in Berkeley (see Figure 7). In addition, since the rebate is only available for one year after purchasing a property, long-time Berkeley homeowners do not qualify for the Program. These residents may struggle to find the capital needed to make home improvements – making them more susceptible to unsafe living conditions and/or displacement.

Figure 5: There are significantly more white homeowners in Berkeley compared to any other racial group



Source: ACS 2017 5-Year Estimates; Table DP05, Universe: Total Population, N=120,179

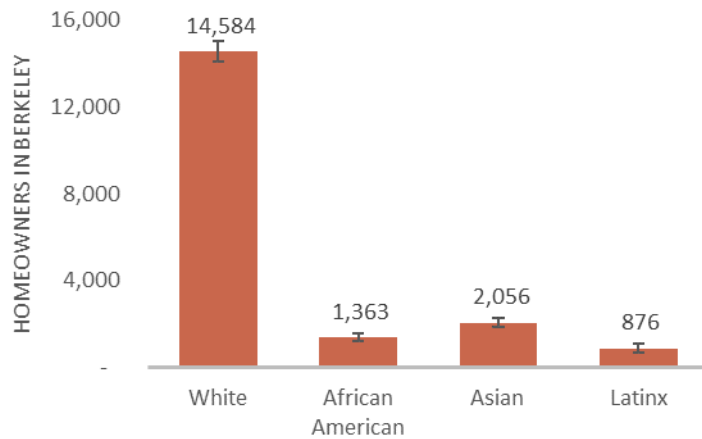
<sup>30</sup> Buyers of multifamily properties are eligible for the rebate, which in some situations may benefit low-income renters; however, the rebate is primarily used by single-family residential properties.

<sup>31</sup> American Community Survey (ACS) 2017 5-Year Estimates; Table B25033; Universe: Total Population in Occupied Housing Units; N = 107,408

<sup>32</sup> ACS 2017 5-Year Estimates; Table DP05, Universe: Total Population; and Table B25003H, Universe: Occupied housing units with a householder who is White alone, not Hispanic or Latino.

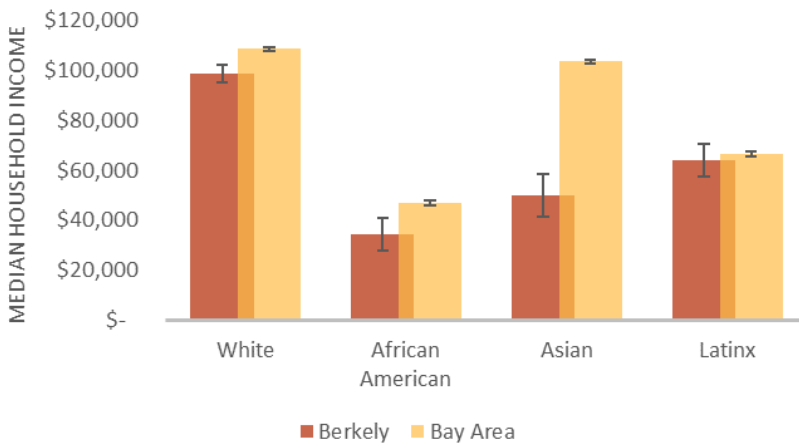
<sup>33</sup> Data from Zillow 2019, expects 20 percent down payment.

**Figure 6: There are significantly more white homeowners in Berkeley compared to any other racial group**



Source: ACS 2017 5-Year Estimates; Tables B25003B, B25003D, B25003H, B25003I; Universe: Occupied housing units; Note: Figure 4 does not include the race & ethnicity categories for American Indian & Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, Some Other Race, or Two or More Races; Margins of Error expressed at 90 percent confidence level

**Figure 7: On average, white households in Berkeley make almost three times more than African American households**



Source: ACS 2017 5-Year Estimates; Tables B19013B, B19013D, B19013H, B19013I; Universe: Households; Note: 'Bay Area' consists of San Francisco, Alameda, Marin, Contra Costa, and San Mateo counties; Margins of Error expressed at 90 percent confidence level

## 2 | Segregation and Displacement

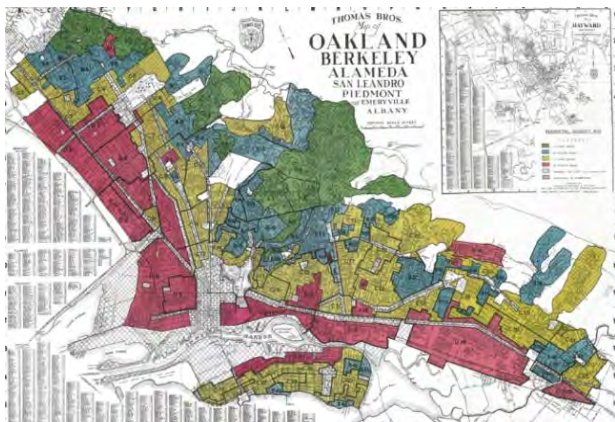
Institutional and structural racism has and continues to contribute to unequal outcomes, not only in homeownership and income, as described above, but also in terms of segregation and displacement. These issues are interrelated, and a result of racist and discriminatory practices such as slavery, Jim Crow laws, racially restrictive covenants, and redlining. Although these policies have been banned, they have resulted in severe and lasting impacts on communities of color.

The history of redlining is particularly important for understanding how segregation and displacement affect the Berkeley community still today, and helps shed light on how programs aimed at recent homebuyers – such as the Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program – support racial exclusion. The Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC), a federal agency

created in 1933 as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal legislation, was designed to provide relief for homeowners that were in default or at risk of foreclosure by refinancing mortgages; indeed, it successfully refinanced over one million mortgages, saving 80 percent of homes for the original owner.<sup>34</sup>

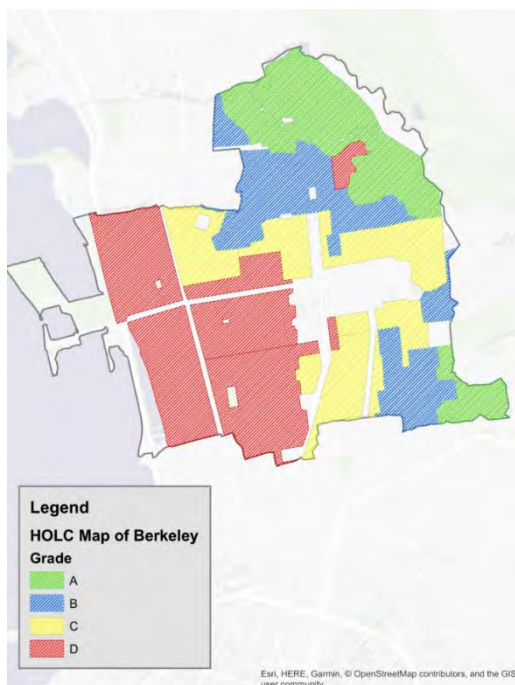
<sup>34</sup> TIME 1951

**Figure 8: A 1937 San Francisco “residential security map” created by the Home Owners’ Loan Corporation**



Source: Green 2016

**Figure 9: Redlining in Berkeley**



Source: Barber 2018

However, access to these government-backed, low-interest mortgages was not equal.<sup>35</sup> HOLC developed and relied on ‘residential security maps’ to evaluate mortgage lending risk in large American cities. Neighborhoods were classified as Best (green), Desirable (blue), Declining (yellow), or Hazardous (red) based on criteria such as: age and condition of housing stock, as well as economic class, employment status, and racial and ethnic composition of residents.<sup>36</sup> Potential borrowers in neighborhoods classified as Hazardous were often “redlined,” or denied access to credit based on the location of their property in minority or economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. As a result of limited access to traditional loans, many potential borrowers in these neighborhoods could not purchase property or fell victim to high-interest loans or other discriminatory practices. Because access to credit is a critical part of economic inclusion and purchasing a home can lead to building wealth within families over generations, we can see a lasting effect of redlining through racial disparities in poverty. On a national level, the median net worth of white families is nearly 10 times the size of black families, and nearly 1 in 5 black families have zero or negative net worth – twice the rate of white families.<sup>37</sup> In Berkeley today, “the proportion of families living in poverty is 8 times higher among African American families, 5 times higher among Latin[x] families, and 3 times higher among Asian families, compared to White families.”<sup>38</sup>

Although redlining was prohibited under the Fair Housing Act of 1968, its enduring effect is still evident across the US, including in Berkeley – not only in poverty rates, homeownership, and income, but also in segregation and displacement. According to the Urban Displacement Project, 83 percent of today’s

<sup>35</sup> Mitchell & Franco 2018

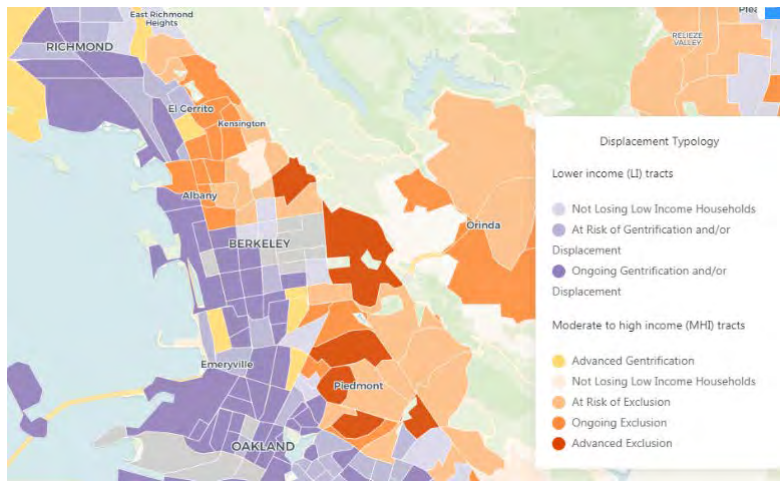
<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Jan 2017

<sup>38</sup> City of Berkeley Health Status Report 2018

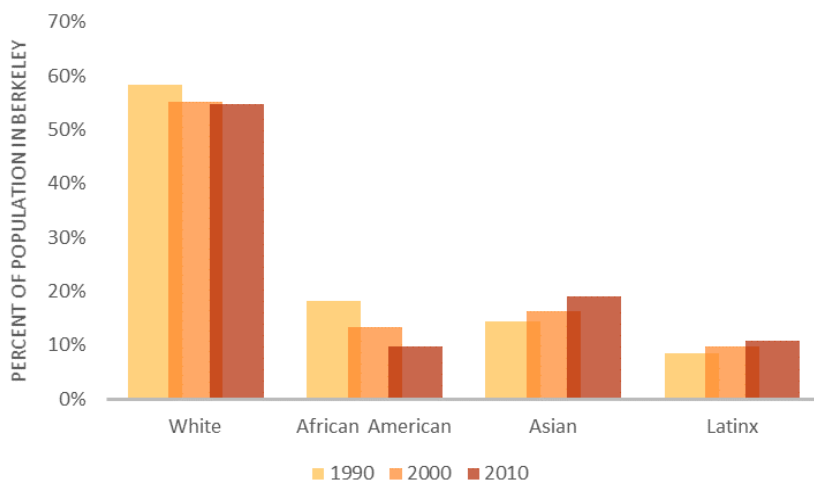
gentrifying areas in the East Bay were rated as hazardous (red) or declining (yellow) by HOLC, and 75 percent of today’s exclusionary areas were rated as best (green) or desirable (blue).<sup>39</sup> Redlining led to racial and economic segregation in cities, and South and West Berkeley – historically redlined communities – still contain more of Berkeley’s low-income communities and communities of color.<sup>40</sup> In addition, as the cost of living increases along with increased urbanization, these communities are also facing the greatest risk of gentrification and displacement (see Figure 10). As a result, Berkeley is losing its communities of color and low-income communities. For example, the African American population across Berkeley fell from 13.3 percent in 2000 to 9.7 percent in 2010 (see Figure 11). The change is even more pronounced in South and West Berkeley: between 2000 and 2017 the number of African American residents declined by 40 percent (see Figure 12). This trend is not only impacting the diversity of Berkeley, but also highlights the continual disenfranchisement of people of color.

Figure 10: Formerly redlined communities are experiencing higher rates of gentrification and displacement



Source: Urban Displacement Project

Figure 11: Berkeley is losing its African American population



Source: Decennial Census 1990, 2000, 2010; Table DP-1 and Table P004; Universe: Total Population; Note: 1990 N=102,724, 2000 N=102,743, and 2010 N=112,580

<sup>39</sup> Urban Displacement Project

<sup>40</sup> City of Berkeley Agenda Item 22, April 30 2019

**Figure 12: West Berkeley and South Berkeley have experienced the highest rate of decline in the African American population**



Source: Decennial Census 2000 & 2010; Table DP-1; and ACS 2017 5-Year Estimates; Table B03002; Universe: Total Population; Note: Margins of Error expressed at 90 percent confidence level. Census tracts for West Berkeley include 4220, 4221, 4232, and South Berkeley include 4232, 4235, 4239.01, 4240.01

## VI. Recommendations

The City of Berkeley has committed to creating institutional change on racial equity,<sup>41</sup> and the Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program is a perfect opportunity for the City to further its commitment. The City has already invested in creating a Racial Equity Lens Toolkit, which can be used to guide program expansion in a manner that reduces racial disparities and increases social resilience. As a result, this paper recommends Berkeley City Council take the following actions to build both physical and social resilience:

- 1. Approve the development of a Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program that leverages the City's Racial Equity Lens Toolkit in collaboration with community organizations and stakeholders.**
- 2. Confirm a commitment to dedicate additional future funding to implement the Equity Pilot, with the exact annual amount to be determined during the program design phase.**

If these requests are approved by Council, staff will work with community-based organizations to determine a target group for the Equity Pilot and co-create it with community members. Using the City Toolkit as a guide, staff should also focus on creating an evaluation framework for the Equity Pilot that measures success through an equity lens, including program metrics that reflect data related to race/ethnicity, age, ability, gender, or other social factors when available.

<sup>41</sup> City of Berkeley Resilience Strategy 2016

At a high level, the Equity Pilot may enable underserved households to make seismic, sustainability, electrification and resilience upgrades through subsidies or other mechanisms leading to safer, healthier, and more sustainable living environments. More research is required to determine the most appropriate mechanism, but rebates (like the existing Program structure) will likely not be an effective method for low-income groups because they require households to have cash upfront to make costly improvements. More work is also required to determine the Pilot's specific target group. The Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program, as it is currently designed, reinforces economic inequality by benefitting recent homebuyers who are already economically advantaged.<sup>42</sup> To enable more equitable outcomes, the Equity Pilot should focus on reaching frontline communities, including communities of color, low-income communities, and long-term homeowners with limited incomes. More specifically, the Equity Pilot may target benefitting renters, residents with disabilities or elderly residents, and others who are not able to access the Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program.

### Potential Target Groups

One group the Pilot may target is renters. Renters are generally less secure financially<sup>43</sup> and more vulnerable to displacement,<sup>44</sup> and could benefit greatly from home improvements that they (or their landlords) could otherwise not afford. In California, 70 percent of low-income households are renters and 47 percent live in multifamily housing.<sup>45</sup> In Berkeley, 83 percent of households earning less than \$50,000 in annual income are renters.<sup>46</sup> Focusing on renters may also mean impacting more communities of color: 67 percent of Berkeley's African American households are renters<sup>47</sup> and 74 percent of Latinx households are renters.<sup>48</sup>

Other potential target groups for the Pilot include priority populations that are homeowners, such as differently abled residents, seniors, and communities of color. Differently abled homeowners have more complex energy reliability needs, and often need more support preparing for and after a disaster. Because senior homeowners often have fixed incomes, they may struggle with housing maintenance costs.<sup>49</sup> Additionally, research shows that seniors may be more vulnerable to displacement.<sup>50</sup> With the number of residents 65-years and older expected to more than double by 2030 in Berkeley,<sup>51</sup> the need for services or additional support may also increase. Another important trend is the change in Berkeley's diversity: between 2000 and 2010 the largest change to Berkeley's ethnic diversity was the decline in its African American population.<sup>52</sup> – and this trend has continued in recent years. Instituting

---

<sup>42</sup> Recent buyers in Berkeley can be considered economically advantaged because they have the resources and capital to purchase a property in a highly-competitive housing market. However, we recognize there is a range of home prices in the City, and not all buyers can afford a million-dollar home. We believe the Program offers real value for buyers in the lower range of home prices and who may not have the disposable income to spend on important safety or sustainability upgrades.

<sup>43</sup> Scally 2018

<sup>44</sup> Florida 2017

<sup>45</sup> Scavo 2016

<sup>46</sup> ACS 2017 5-Year Estimates; Table B25118; Universe: Occupied Housing Units

<sup>47</sup> ACS 2017 5-Year Estimates; Table B25003B; Universe: Occupied housing units with a householder who is Black or African American alone

<sup>48</sup> ACS 2017 5-Year Estimates; Table B25003I; Universe: Occupied housing units with a householder who is Hispanic or Latino

<sup>49</sup> City of Berkeley Housing Element 2015

<sup>50</sup> Nyden et al. 2006

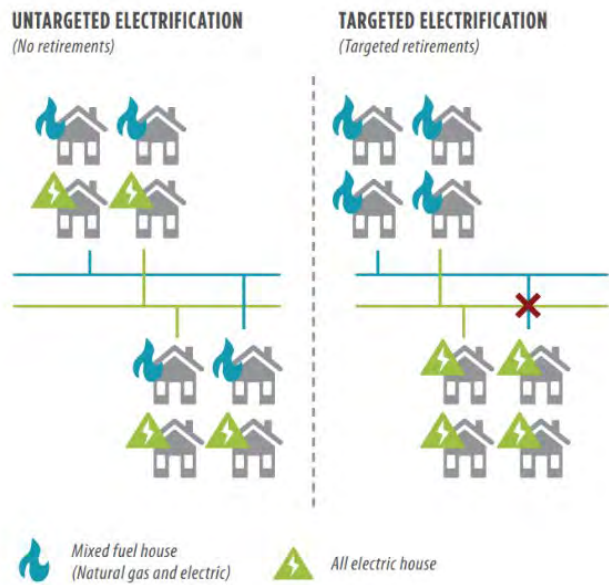
<sup>51</sup> Age-Friendly Berkeley Action Plan 2018

<sup>52</sup> City of Berkeley Housing Element 2015

additional anti-displacement measures, such as a Resilient Homes Equity Pilot, can slow this trend and enable more long-term members of the community to stay in their homes. Enabling homeowners to make important repairs is an effective strategy for preventing displacement.<sup>53, 54</sup>

Another way staff may choose to focus the Pilot is based on location of existing natural gas infrastructure. Targeting a group of underserved households that rely on the same segment of the gas distribution system, and helping them transition to all-electric, could lead to that entire gas line segment becoming decommissioned (see Figure 13). Strategic decommissioning of gas lines can help the overall system maintain sufficient pressure and reliable service, and may even lead to savings on maintenance costs.<sup>55</sup> Electrification of these homes would also provide health and safety benefits to the residents, as discussed in more detail below.

Figure 13: Approaches to neighborhood-level electrification



Source: Gridworks 2019

## VII. Potential Impact

An equity-centered Pilot offers several potential benefits for Berkeley residents. As previously mentioned, the Equity Pilot is a great opportunity to operationalize the City’s existing Equity Toolkit – and can provide valuable learnings for how to integrate the Toolkit across other City programs. In addition, while the specifics of the Pilot need to be developed in partnership with community members and various stakeholders, several high-level impacts can be inferred based on a preliminary understanding of what the Pilot might include. Enabling underserved residents to improve their living space not only benefits them as individuals, but the community as a whole can benefit from a safer, healthier, more sustainable, and more inclusive environment.

### 1 | Increased Safety

It is estimated that in the event of a major earthquake over 600 housing units in Berkeley would be destroyed and 20,000 would be damaged, with low-income housing units experiencing the highest rate of damage.<sup>56</sup> Extending the Program to low-income residents (or landlords with low-income tenants) can enable them to make the necessary seismic improvements to better protect themselves and their homes during an earthquake. Improving the stability of buildings to withstand a major earthquake not

<sup>53</sup> *The Housing Development Consortium of Seattle-King County 2019*

<sup>54</sup> *Alameda County 2018 The Housing Development Consortium of Seattle-King County 2019*

<sup>55</sup> *Gridworks 2019*

<sup>56</sup> *City of Berkeley Resilience Strategy 2016*



Figure 14: Berkeley Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program Flier



Source: City of Berkeley

quality, which can have dramatic effects on health.<sup>61</sup> Gas stoves release nitrogen dioxide and other particulates while burning, and prolonged exposure to these can lead to asthma or other respiratory illnesses – especially among children and seniors.<sup>62</sup> One study found that children living in a home with a gas stove have a 42 percent increased risk of asthma and have a 24 percent increased risk of asthma over their lifetime.<sup>63</sup> Electric stoves do not emit particulates and, since electric stoves do not rely on combustion, there is also no risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. In addition, the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning can be reduced by replacing gas furnaces with electric heat pumps. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), approximately 50,000 people in the U.S. visit the emergency room each year as a result of accidental carbon monoxide poisoning and at least 430 people die from accidental exposure.<sup>64</sup> Electric heat pumps, which provide both heating and cooling, can also provide critical temperature control during heat waves. In 2017, 14 people died in the Bay Area as a result of extreme heat.<sup>65</sup> It is predicted that by 2100, Berkeley will have 6-10 additional heat waves each year,

only reduces an individual’s risk of displacement, loss of property or loss of life, but better positions the city as a whole to recover more rapidly after an earthquake.<sup>57</sup> The Berkeley Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program flier says it best: “Get Involved. Get Ready. No One’s Prepared Until Everyone’s Prepared” (see Figure 14).

Offering qualifying electrification upgrades as part of the Equity Pilot can also significantly reduce the risk of gas leaks following an earthquake. Gas leaks in general pose a safety risk, as can be seen in the Porter Ranch incident.<sup>58</sup> and San Bruno gas explosion,<sup>59</sup> thus lessening the City’s reliance on natural gas can improve public safety. In addition, because repairing electric infrastructure post-disaster can happen faster than repairing gas lines, increasing electrification can position the city to recover more quickly post-disaster.<sup>60</sup>

## 2 | Improved Health Outcomes

Many aspects of the physical environment can directly affect people’s health. Enabling more households to switch to electric appliances can improve indoor air

<sup>57</sup> FEMA 2016

<sup>58</sup> Siders 2016

<sup>59</sup> Bowe et al. 2015

<sup>60</sup> City of Berkeley Adopt an Ordinance, Item 21, July 9, 2019

<sup>61</sup> Barron 2017

<sup>62</sup> The Greenlining Institute 2019

<sup>63</sup> Lin et al. 2013

<sup>64</sup> CDC 2020

<sup>65</sup> Peterson 2018

which will disproportionately impact seniors, children under five, and low-income community members.<sup>66</sup> As heat waves grow more frequent and more severe due to climate change, enabling low-income and underserved communities to access clean cooling technology can be an important public health strategy.<sup>67</sup>

By prioritizing communities of color, the Equity Pilot can also contribute to reducing health disparities. People of color in Berkeley are more likely than white people to experience a wide variety of health problems throughout their lives and die prematurely.<sup>68</sup> Asthma hospitalization rates for African American children under five is 10 times higher than the rate among white children, and for Latinx children it is 2.8 times higher.<sup>69</sup> A key piece to improving health outcomes is ensuring access to environments that support health,<sup>70</sup> and a program that enables low-income and communities of color to improve their living environment and have access to clean technology can support better health and lead to better health outcomes.

### 3 | Reduction in GHG Emissions

Berkeley has been a longtime leader in climate change mitigation. In 2006, Berkeley voters overwhelmingly endorsed a ballot measure to reduce the community's GHG emissions by 80 percent below 2000 levels by 2050,<sup>71</sup> and three years later the City adopted a Climate Action Plan that included a vision to achieve zero net energy consumption for all new and existing buildings by 2050.<sup>72</sup> In 2018, the City Council declared a Climate Emergency and established a goal of becoming a Fossil Fuel Free City. That same year, Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin set a goal to reach 100 percent renewable electricity by 2035 and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by the year 2050. Because energy use in homes and commercial buildings is the second largest contributor of greenhouse gases in Berkeley (making up almost 40 percent of overall GHG emissions),<sup>73</sup> electrification of buildings is essential to reducing emissions and energy usage. Roughly 72 percent of Berkeley residents rely on gas for heating their homes, thus strategies aimed at accelerating the electrification of buildings could contribute significantly to the City's goal of achieving Fossil Fuel Free status (see Figure 15).

The City has made progress toward these goals and is leading the state and nation in pursuing stricter green building standards through the adoption of a natural gas ban in new residential buildings as well as through stretch and reach codes (codes beyond the minimum imposed by the state).<sup>74</sup> However, more action is needed if the City intends to meet its goals.<sup>75</sup> Council has identified building retrofits as a key strategy, and recommended staff consider offering financial incentives to subsidize the transition toward sustainable buildings, including expanding the existing transfer tax subsidy.<sup>76</sup> The Equity Pilot

<sup>66</sup> *City of Berkeley Local Hazard Mitigation Plan 2014*

<sup>67</sup> *E3 2019*

<sup>68</sup> *City of Berkeley Health Status Report 2018*

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>71</sup> *City of Berkeley Electric Mobility Roadmap 2019*

<sup>72</sup> *Arreguin 2018*

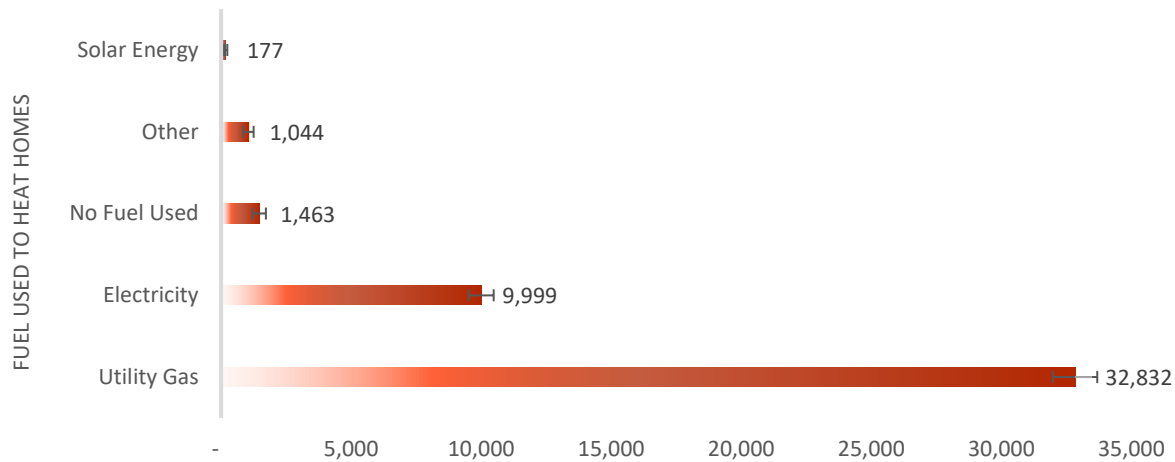
<sup>73</sup> *City of Berkeley Pathway to Clean Energy Building Report RFP March 20, 2019*

<sup>74</sup> *City of Berkeley Short-Term Referral Item 24, Nov. 27, 2018*

<sup>75</sup> *According to the 2016 GHG emissions inventory, the City has achieved 15 percent reductions below 2000 levels.*

<sup>76</sup> *City of Berkeley Short-Term Referral Item 24, Nov. 27, 2018*

Figure 15: Roughly 72 percent of Berkeley households rely on natural gas for heating



Source: ACS 2017 5-Year Estimates; Table B25040; Universe: Occupied Housing Units;  
 Note: Margins of Error expressed at 90 percent confidence level

builds on this strategy of encouraging fuel switching to clean energy, and helps prevent low-income households from being left behind. All residents, regardless of their income or whether they own or rent their home, should have the opportunity to benefit from clean energy and contribute to Berkeley’s climate action goals.

#### 4 | Enables a Just Transition

Accelerating progress towards the City’s Fossil Fuel Free goal is an important part of Berkeley’s fight against climate change; however, efforts to achieve this goal must be carried out in a manner that reduces (not perpetuates) harmful inequalities. Council urged staff to consider “the framework for a just and equitable transition,” and the Equity Pilot helps to enable a just transition. More specifically, it can address three critical elements:

- Transitioning buildings away from fossil fuels to cleaner electricity is a key strategy for Berkeley; however, high upfront costs can make this transition difficult for low-income homeowners. For example, electrical panel upgrades range between \$2,000-\$4,000.<sup>77</sup> and heat pump water heaters are currently more expensive than traditional gas water heaters. Subsidies or similar mechanisms can help households cover the higher upfront cost of such technologies, enabling households to benefit from cleaner, more efficient appliances.
- As more buildings transition away from natural gas, the cost of gas will inevitably rise: the gas distribution system is expensive to maintain, and as the number of ratepayers decreases the costs will be distributed across fewer ratepayers – leading to higher bills for those who are still using it.<sup>78</sup> The cost today for natural gas is roughly \$1.50 per therm, and estimates place the cost as high as \$19 per therm by 2050.<sup>79</sup> The last customers relying on the gas system could experience unreasonably high rates; and these customers “may well be those among us who

<sup>77</sup> E3 2019

<sup>78</sup> Gridworks 2019

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.

are least able to afford high rates and least able to finance the new appliances needed to convert to electricity.”<sup>80</sup> It is therefore critical to develop strategies that enable more low-income communities to transition to all-electric and not be left to pay for an expensive, aging gas system. The City is in the process of developing an Existing Building Electrification Strategy, which will identify and assess the potential pathways to phasing out fossil fuels across all existing buildings in Berkeley as soon as possible and will incorporate an emphasis on a just transition.

- Because many low-income households are renters, strategies must consider how to incentivize landlords to invest in clean technology in a way that does not lead to higher rents (and prevents the cost of upgrades being passed through to tenants). Furthermore, tenants should benefit from the bill savings of more energy efficient appliances.

## VIII. Conclusion

Berkeley’s Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program has no doubt contributed to making the City more resilient to earthquakes and expanding the Program to include sustainability and energy efficiency upgrades will further build the City’s resilience to natural disasters and climate change. However, the current Program fails to reach underserved members of the community despite the fact that low-income and minority communities are more vulnerable to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change.<sup>81</sup> Exclusion not only keeps resilience out of reach for frontline communities, but it perpetuates social and racial inequality in the City. Establishing a new, equity-centered program that incorporates key strategies from the City’s Racial Equity Lens Toolkit can enable all residents to contribute to and benefit from building Berkeley’s resilience – especially those most in need and historically underserved. With Council’s support, a Resilient Homes Equity Pilot Program can help the City further its commitment to social and racial equity and secure its position as a leader in climate change, while also building a safer, healthier, more inclusive and more resilient community.

---

***A Resilient Homes Equity Pilot can help Berkeley further its commitment to social and racial equity and secure its position as a leader in climate change, while also building a safer, healthier, more inclusive and more resilient community.***

---

## IX. References

Age-Friendly Berkeley Action Plan. City of Berkeley, Dec. 2018, <https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/livable-communities/livable-documents/documents-2018/action-plans/berkeley-california-action-plan-2018.pdf>.

Alameda County Housing + Community Development. Measure A1 Home Preservation Loan Program Implementation-Level Policies. 11 June 2018,

---

<sup>80</sup> Gridworks 2019

<sup>81</sup> City of Berkeley Resilience Strategy 2016

[http://www.acgov.org/board/bos\\_calendar/documents/DocsAgendaReg\\_6\\_11\\_18/HEALTH%20CARE%20SERVICES/Regular%20Calendar/Item\\_1\\_3\\_Measure\\_A1\\_HPLP\\_Policies\\_6\\_11\\_18.pdf](http://www.acgov.org/board/bos_calendar/documents/DocsAgendaReg_6_11_18/HEALTH%20CARE%20SERVICES/Regular%20Calendar/Item_1_3_Measure_A1_HPLP_Policies_6_11_18.pdf).

Anguelovski, Isabelle, et al. "Equity Impacts of Urban Land Use Planning for Climate Adaptation: Critical Perspectives from the Global North and South." *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, vol. 36, no. 3, Sept. 2016, pp. 333–48. SAGE Journals, doi:10.1177/0739456X16645166.

Arreguin, Jesse. At Global Summit, Berkeley Commits to Ambitious New Climate Goals. Sept. 2018, <https://www.jessearreguin.com/press-releases/2018/9/13/at-global-summit-city-commits-to-ambitious-new-climate-goals>.

Barber, Jesse. "Redlining: The History of Berkeley's Segregated Neighborhoods." *Berkeleyside*, 20 Sept. 2018, <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2018/09/20/redlining-the-history-of-berkeleys-segregated-neighborhoods>.

Barron, Manuel, and Maximo Torero. "Household electrification and indoor air pollution." *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 2017, <https://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~manuelb/Research/IAP/IAP-Jul2017.pdf>.

"Berkeley CA Home Prices & Home Values." Zillow, <https://www.zillow.com:443/berkeley-ca/home-values/>. Accessed March 9, 2020.

Bohland, James, et al. *The Disaster Resiliency Challenge: Transforming Theory to Action*. Charles C Thomas Publisher LTD., 2018.

Bowe, Rebecca, and Lisa Pickoff-White. "Five Years After Deadly San Bruno Explosion: Are We Safer?" *KQED News*, Sept. 2015, <https://www.kqed.org/news/10667274/five-years-after-deadly-sanbruno-explosion-are-we-safer>.

California's Gas System In Transition: Equitable, Affordable, Decarbonized and Smaller. *Gridworks*, 2019, <https://gridworks.org/initiatives/cagas-system-transition/>.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "Carbon Monoxide." 20 Jan. 2020, <https://www.cdc.gov/features/copoisoning/index.html>.

City of Berkeley 2015-2023 Housing Element. Apr. 2015, <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/housingelement/>.

City of Berkeley 2018-2019 Strategic Plan: An Overview of Strategic Long-Term Goals with Short-Term Priorities to Guide City Government Operations within the 2-Year Fiscal Cycle. Jan. 2018, [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/City\\_Manager/Level\\_3\\_-\\_General/berkeley-2018-strategic-plan.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/City_Manager/Level_3_-_General/berkeley-2018-strategic-plan.pdf).

City of Berkeley Adopt an Ordinance Adding a New Chapter 12.80 to the Berkeley Municipal Code Prohibiting Natural Gas Infrastructure in New Buildings. Item 21, 9 July 2019, [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2019/07\\_Jul/Documents/2019-07-09\\_Item\\_21\\_Adopt\\_an\\_Ordinance\\_adding\\_a\\_new.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2019/07_Jul/Documents/2019-07-09_Item_21_Adopt_an_Ordinance_adding_a_new.aspx).

City of Berkeley Electric Mobility Roadmap. 2019, [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning\\_and\\_Development/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Energy\\_and\\_Sustainable\\_Development/Berkeley%20Electric%20Mobility%20Roadmap%20Public%20Review%20Draft%2010.14.19.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_and_Development/Level_3_-_Energy_and_Sustainable_Development/Berkeley%20Electric%20Mobility%20Roadmap%20Public%20Review%20Draft%2010.14.19.pdf).

City of Berkeley Health Status Report. 2018, [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Health\\_Human\\_Services/Public\\_Health/Public\\_Health\\_Reports.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Health_Human_Services/Public_Health/Public_Health_Reports.aspx).

City of Berkeley Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. 2014, <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Mitigation/>.

City of Berkeley Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. 2019, <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Mitigation/>.

City of Berkeley Pathway to Clean Energy Building Report RFP. March 20, 2019, [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Finance/Level\\_3\\_-\\_General/19-11256-C%20-%20Final%20-RFP%20Pathway%20to%20Clean%20Energy%20Building%20Report%20\(Re-Issued\).pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Finance/Level_3_-_General/19-11256-C%20-%20Final%20-RFP%20Pathway%20to%20Clean%20Energy%20Building%20Report%20(Re-Issued).pdf).

City of Berkeley Racial Equity Lens Toolkit. Sep. 2019.

City of Berkeley Refer to the Planning Commission and Housing Advisory Commission to Research and Recommend Policies to Prevent Displacement and Gentrification of Berkeley Residents of Color and African Americans. Item 22, 30 Apr. 2019, [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2019/04\\_Apr/Documents/2019-04-30\\_Supp\\_3\\_Reports\\_Item\\_22\\_Rev\\_Davila\\_pdf.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2019/04_Apr/Documents/2019-04-30_Supp_3_Reports_Item_22_Rev_Davila_pdf.aspx).

City of Berkeley Resilience Strategy: A Plan to Advance Preparedness and Equity in Berkeley, a Community Known for Inclusiveness and Innovation. Apr. 2016, <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/resilience>.

City of Berkeley Short-Term Referral to City Manager and Office of Energy and Sustainable Development to Draft Ordinance Amending Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 7.52, Reducing Tax Imposed for Qualifying Electrification, Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation Retrofits. Item 24, 27 Nov. 2018, [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2018/11\\_Nov/Documents/2018-11-27\\_Item\\_24\\_Short-Term\\_Referral\\_to\\_City\\_Manager.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2018/11_Nov/Documents/2018-11-27_Item_24_Short-Term_Referral_to_City_Manager.aspx).

City of Berkeley Seismic Transfer Tax Rebate Program Flier. [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning\\_\(new\\_site\\_map\\_walk-through\)/Level\\_3\\_-\\_General/FlierTaxRebateV4b.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_(new_site_map_walk-through)/Level_3_-_General/FlierTaxRebateV4b.pdf).

City of Berkeley Update and Next Steps on Berkeley's Participation in 100 Resilient Cities. Item 1, 9 June 6, 2015, [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2017/07\\_Jul/Documents/2017-07-18\\_WS\\_Item\\_03\\_Update\\_and\\_Next\\_Steps.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2017/07_Jul/Documents/2017-07-18_WS_Item_03_Update_and_Next_Steps.aspx).

Florida, Richard. "Gentrification Is Twice As Likely to Displace Renters As Homeowners." CityLab, <http://www.citylab.com/housing/2017/01/gentrification-hurts-renters-more-than-homeowners/510074/>. Accessed 23 Feb. 2020.

"GOVERNMENT: End of HOLC." Time, June 1951. content.time.com, <http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,858135,00.html>.

Green, Matthew. "How Government Redlining Maps Pushed Segregation in California Cities [Interactive]." KQED, Apr. 2016. (Courtesy of University of Maryland's T-Races project), <https://www.kqed.org/lowdown/18486/redlining>.

Jan, Tracy. "White Families Have Nearly 10 Times the Net Worth of Black Families. And the Gap Is Growing." The Washington Post, 28 Sept. 2017, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/09/28/black-and-hispanic-families-are-making-more-money-but-they-still-lag-far-behind-whites/>.

Lin, Weiwei, et al. "Meta-Analysis of the Effects of Indoor Nitrogen Dioxide and Gas Cooking on Asthma and Wheeze in Children." International Journal of Epidemiology, no. 42:1724–1737, 2013, <https://academic.oup.com/ije/article-abstract/42/6/1724/737113>.

Meerow, Sara, et al. "Social Equity in Urban Resilience Planning." Local Environment, vol. 24, no. 9, Sept. 2019, pp. 793–808. Taylor and Francis+NEJM, doi:10.1080/13549839.2019.1645103.

Mitchell, Bruce, and Juan Franco. HOLC "Redlining" Maps: The Persistent Structure of Segregation and Economic Inequality. National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), May 2018, <https://ncrc.org/holc/>.

Moffatt, Hannah, et al. Let's Talk Populations and the Power of Language. National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health at St. Francis Xavier University, 2013.

Mohnot, Sona, et al. Making Equity Real in Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience Policies and Programs: A Guidebook. The Greenlining Institute, Aug. 2019.

The Housing Development Consortium of Seattle-King County. Anti-Displacement Strategies. May 2019, <https://www.housingconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Anti-Displacement.pdf>.

Nelson, Julie, and Lisa Brooks. Racial Equity Toolkit: An Opportunity to Operationalize Equity. Government Alliance on Race & Equity (GARE), Dec. 2016, <https://www.racialequityalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/GARE-Racial-Equity-Toolkit.pdf>.

Nyden, Philip, et al. The Differential Impact of Gentrification on Communities in Chicago. Loyola University Chicago Center for Urban Research and Learning, Jan. 2006.

Peterson, Molly. Extreme Heat Killed 14 People in the Bay Area Last Year. 11 Takeaways From Our Investigation. KQED, 17 Oct. 2018, <https://www.kqed.org/science/1932903/extreme-heat-killed-14-people-in-the-bay-area-last-year-10-takeaways-from-our-investigation>.

Powell, John A., et al. Targeted Universalism: Policy & Practice. Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society, May 2019, <https://belonging.berkeley.edu/targeteduniversalism>.

Redlining and Gentrification | Urban Displacement Project. <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/redlining>. Accessed 23 Feb. 2020.

Residential Building Electrification in California: Consumer Economics, Greenhouse Gases and Grid Impacts. Energy + Environmental Economics (E3), Apr. 2019, [www.ethree.com](http://www.ethree.com).

“Resilient Cities, Resilient Lives: Learning from the 100RC Network.” 100 Resilient Cities, July 2019, <http://100resilientcities.org/capstone-report/>.

Scally, Corianne Payton, and Dulce Gonzalez. “Homeowner and Renter Experiences of Material Hardship: Implications for the Safety Net.” Urban Institute, Nov. 2018, [https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/99271/homeowner\\_and\\_renter\\_experiences\\_of\\_material\\_hardship\\_implications\\_for\\_the\\_safety\\_net\\_2.pdf](https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/99271/homeowner_and_renter_experiences_of_material_hardship_implications_for_the_safety_net_2.pdf).

Scavo, Jordan, et al. Low-Income Barriers Study, Part A: Overcoming Barriers to Energy Efficiency and Renewables for Low-Income Customers and Small Business Contracting Opportunities in Disadvantaged Communities. California Energy Commission, Dec. 2016, <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/getdocument.aspx?tn=214830>.

Siders, David. “Jerry Brown Declares Emergency around Southern California Gas Leak.” The Sacramento Bee, Jan. 2016, <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article53353615.html>.

The Greenlining Institute. Equitable Building Electrification: A Framework for Powering Resilient Communities, Sept. 2019, [https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn\\_guide\\_to\\_equitable\\_community-driven\\_climate\\_preparedness\\_high\\_res.pdf](https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn_guide_to_equitable_community-driven_climate_preparedness_high_res.pdf).

The Importance of Building Codes in Earthquake-Prone Communities Fact Sheet. FEMA, July 2016, [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1410554614185-e0da148255b25cd17a5510a80b0d9f48/Building\\_Code\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_Revised\\_August\\_2014.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1410554614185-e0da148255b25cd17a5510a80b0d9f48/Building_Code_Fact_Sheet_Revised_August_2014.pdf).

Visualizing Health Equity: One Size Does Not Fit All Infographic. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, June 2017, <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/infographics/visualizing-health-equity.html>.

Yuen, Tina, et al. A Guide to Equitable, Community-Driven Climate Preparedness Planning. Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN), May 2017, [https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn\\_guide\\_to\\_equitable\\_community-driven\\_climate\\_preparedness\\_high\\_res.pdf](https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn_guide_to_equitable_community-driven_climate_preparedness_high_res.pdf).

### Potential Qualifying Measures for Consideration

Below is a list of potential qualifying measures being considered for the expanded Resilience Transfer Tax Rebate Program. Measures are listed by color according to the type of resilience benefit they provide, and those with multiple benefits are shown with multiple colors.

The list of final qualifying measures will be specified in the Administrative Regulations.

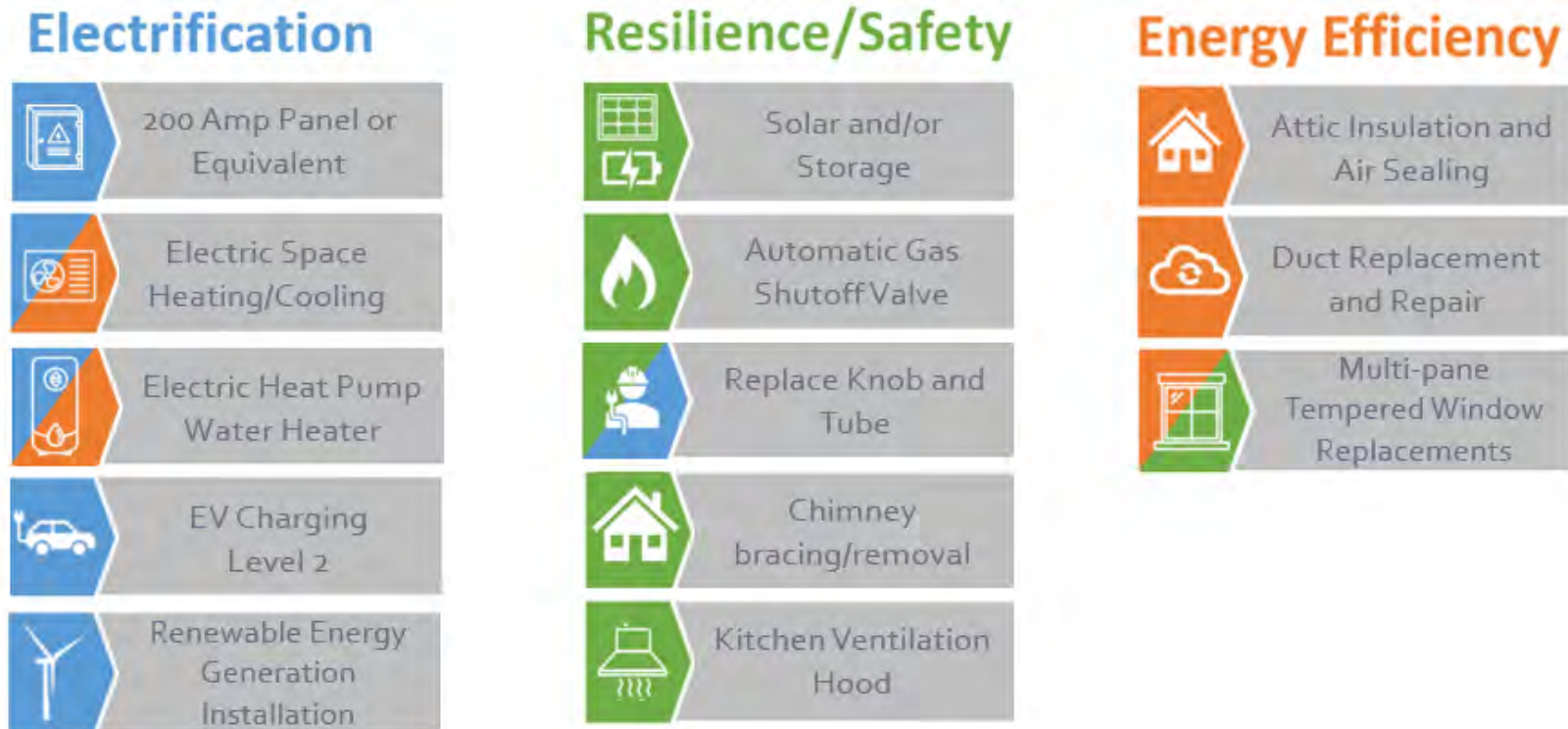
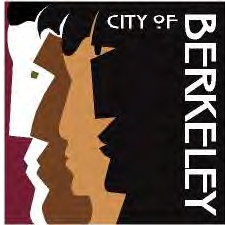


Figure A - Potential Qualifying Measures





Kate Harrison  
Councilmember, District 4

## **REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 2**

**Meeting Date:** November 27, 2018

**Item Number:** 24

**Item Description:** Short-Term Referral to City Manager and Office of Energy and Sustainable Development to Draft Ordinance Amending Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 7.52, Reducing Tax Imposed for Qualifying Electrification, Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation Retrofits

**Submitted by:** Councilmember Harrison

Added Councilmember Hahn as a cosponsor.



Kate Harrison  
Councilmember District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR  
November 27, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Harrison, ~~and Davila~~ and Hahn

Subject: Short-Term Referral to City Manager and Office of Energy and Sustainable Development to Draft Ordinance Amending Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 7.52, Reducing Tax Imposed for Qualifying Electrification, Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation Retrofits

RECOMMENDATION

Short-term referral to the City Manager and the Office of Energy and Sustainable Development to draft an ordinance amending Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) Chapter 7.52, reducing tax imposed for qualifying electrification, energy efficiency, and water conservation retrofits.

BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley faces climate change and water usage emergencies. A recent UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report highlighted the immediacy of the climate emergency, suggesting that in order to keep warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions would need to be cut 45% by 2030.<sup>1</sup> Though California is no longer in extreme drought, Berkeley is still categorized as abnormally dry, almost 50% of the state is in moderate drought or worse, and we can expect to face major droughts in the future.<sup>2</sup>

The City is already leading the state and nation in pursuing stricter green building standards through the adoption of stretch and reach codes (codes beyond the minimum imposed by the state) favoring sustainable buildings and time of sale energy audits, but progress is still hindered by a significant lack of financial incentives to encourage the replacing and phasing-out of energy inefficient, carbon and water-intensive infrastructure in new and existing buildings. For example, even though electric heat pump water heaters can prevent significant carbon emissions and save money on heating bills, the relatively higher purchase and installation costs associated with heat pumps as compared to gas-fired heaters remains a major disincentive.

---

<sup>1</sup> IPCC Press Release, Summary for Policymakers of IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C approved by Governments, 8 October 2018, [http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/session48/pr\\_181008\\_P48\\_spm\\_en.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/session48/pr_181008_P48_spm_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> National Integrated Drought Information System, Drought in California, <https://www.drought.gov/drought/states/california>.

The City has identified building retrofits as a key part of reducing emissions and energy and water usage. To achieve the ambitious sustainability goals set by the Council, the City cannot rely solely upon the market, state, federal and utility level incentives. It would do well to explore offering significant financial incentives to subsidize the transition towards sustainable building, including expanding the existing transfer tax subsidy for seismic retrofits to include qualifying sustainability retrofits.

Following the devastating 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the Council passed Ordinance 6072-NS in 1991 to reduce up to one-third of the transfer tax imposed on property owners who seismically retrofit any structure which is used exclusively for residential purposes, or any mixed use structure which contains two or more dwelling units. In passing the ordinance, forward-looking leaders acted independently of the state and federal government to subsidize critical building improvements in anticipation of relatively infrequent but exceedingly devastating earthquake emergencies. The seismic retrofit subsidy program offers a model for accelerating opportunities to address the major emergencies of our time.

This referral asks the City Manager and Office of Energy & Sustainable Development (OESD) to develop amendments to BMC Chapter 7.52 that expand the existing seismic retrofit subsidy in order to include appropriate reductions in transfer tax imposed on sales of property for qualifying electrification, energy efficiency, and water conservation retrofits. According to a 2018 City Manager report, 737 Berkeley residences were transferred in 2017.<sup>3</sup>

In drafting the ordinance, staff should consider existing City sustainability goals such as the 2009 Berkeley Climate Action Plan, and the framework for a just and equitable transition as set out in the Climate Emergency Declaration. Staff should tailor the subsidy to be commensurate with the emergency at hand and should design it to result in quantifiable reductions in emissions as well as energy and water waste.

OESD staff recently issued a request for proposals (RFP) for expert analysis identifying a set of measureable policies and programs to transition Berkeley's building stock to efficient and 100% clean energy.<sup>4</sup> The resulting analysis report should help inform staff in determining which types of greenhouse gas reduction measures transfer tax reductions could fund. Additionally, within the context of the City's sustainability goals

---

<sup>3</sup> Placing a Measure on the November 6, 2018 Ballot to Increase the Transfer Tax on Property Sales to Pay for General Municipal Services Including Funding Homeless Services, City Manager, July 31, 2018, [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2018/07\\_Jul/Documents/2018-07-31\\_Item\\_05\\_Placing\\_a\\_Measure\\_on\\_the\\_November\\_6.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2018/07_Jul/Documents/2018-07-31_Item_05_Placing_a_Measure_on_the_November_6.aspx)

<sup>4</sup> Request for Proposals (RFP) Specification No. 19-11256-C for Pathway to Clean Energy Buildings Report: Existing Building Program Evaluation and Recommendations, OESD, October, 10, 2018, [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Finance/Level\\_3\\_-\\_General/19-11256-C%20-%20RFP%20Pathway%20to%20Clean%20Energy%20Building%20Report\\_rev%201017.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Finance/Level_3_-_General/19-11256-C%20-%20RFP%20Pathway%20to%20Clean%20Energy%20Building%20Report_rev%201017.pdf).

and the RFP analysis, staff should specifically consider developing and codifying definitions of qualifying improvements, including but not limited to:

- Electric service panel upgrades for the purpose of transitioning to electric appliances
- Transitioning home appliances to efficient electric versions, e.g. replacing gas burning appliances and systems such as fossil fuel HVACs, cooktops and ovens, washers and dryers, and water heaters.
- Solar or other clean energy generation installations
- Electric vehicle charging stations
- Building weatherization upgrades in coordination with the Building Energy Saving Ordinance (BESO)
- Graywater recapture systems
- Water efficient fixtures and irrigation systems

The seismic retrofit program was limited to residential and mixed use buildings, but staff should consider the appropriateness and effectiveness of extending the subsidy program to commercial and/or industrial properties for the purpose of achieving city-wide sustainability goals. It should also review whether the existing requirement for completing seismic retrofits following property transfers is appropriate for the sustainability retrofits outlined in this referral.

Finally, staff should attempt to estimate the carbon, electrical, and water savings that are likely to result from adoption of their proposal, and determine whether alternatives exist which, at a similar cost the city, would result in greater reductions.

This referral is compatible with OESD's 2017 Climate Action Report update suggesting that the Council take bold steps to meet Berkeley's 2050 emission reduction goals. The report highlighted the urgency of identifying resources for incentivizing electrification measures, building efficiency, generation of renewable electricity, and transitioning buildings and vehicles away from fossil fuel.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> Berkeley Climate Action Plan Update, Office of Energy and Sustainable Development, December 7, 2017, [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning\\_and\\_Development/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Energy\\_and\\_Sustainable\\_Development/2017-12-07%20WS%20Item%2001%20Climate%20Action%20Plan%20Update.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_and_Development/Level_3_-_Energy_and_Sustainable_Development/2017-12-07%20WS%20Item%2001%20Climate%20Action%20Plan%20Update.pdf)

Short-Term Referral to City Manager and Office of Energy and Sustainable Development to Draft Ordinance Amending Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 7.52, Reducing Tax Imposed for Qualifying Electrification, Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation Retrofits

CONSENT CALENDAR  
November 27, 2018

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Possible reduction in tax revenue, the magnitude of which is dependent on which retrofits are found to be qualifying.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

Incentivizing electrification, energy efficiency, and water savings is directly in line with the City's climate and environmental goals.

**CONTACT PERSON**

Councilmember Kate Harrison, Council District 4, (510) 981-7140

**Attachments:**

1. BMC Section 7.52.060

**7.52.060 Exceptions.**

A. Any tax imposed pursuant to this chapter shall not apply to any instrument in writing given to secure a debt.

B. Any deed, instrument or writing to which the United States, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, any state or territory, or political subdivision thereof, is a party shall be exempt from any tax imposed pursuant to this chapter when the exempt agency is acquiring title.

C. Any tax imposed pursuant to this chapter shall not apply to the making, delivery, or filing of conveyances to make effective any plan of reorganization or adjustment:

1. Confirmed under the Federal Bankruptcy Act, as amended;
2. Approved in an equity receivership proceeding in a court involving a railroad corporation, as defined in subdivision (m) of Section 205 of Title 11 of the United States Code, as amended;
3. Approved in an equity receivership proceeding in a court involving a corporation, as defined in subdivision (3) of Section 506 of Title 11 of the United States Code, as amended; or
4. Whereby a mere change in identity, form or place of organization is effected.

Subdivisions 1 to 4, inclusive, of this section shall only apply if the making, delivering or filing of instruments of transfer of conveyance occurs within five years from the date of such confirmation, approval or change.

D. Any tax imposed pursuant to this chapter shall not apply to the making or delivering of conveyances to make effective any order of the Securities and Exchange Commission, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 1083 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954; but only if:

1. The order of the Securities and Exchange Commission in obedience to which such conveyance is made recites that such conveyance is necessary or appropriate to effectuate the provisions of Section 79k of Title 15 of the United States Code, relating to the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935;
2. Such order specifies the property which is ordered to be conveyed;
3. Such conveyance is made in obedience to such order.

E.

1. In the case of any realty held by a partnership, no levy shall be imposed pursuant to this chapter by reason of any transfer of an interest in a partnership or otherwise, if:

a. Such partnership (or another partnership) is considered a continuing partnership within the meaning of Section 708 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954; and

b. Such continuing partnership continues to hold the realty concerned.

2. If there is a termination of any partnership within the meaning of Section 708 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, for purposes of this chapter, such partnership shall be treated as having executed an instrument whereby there was conveyed, for fair market value (exclusive of the value of any lien or encumbrance remaining thereon), all realty held by such partnership at the time of such termination.

3. Not more than one tax shall be imposed pursuant to this chapter by reason of a termination described in subdivision 2, and any transfer pursuant thereto, with respect to the realty held by such partnership at the time of such termination.

F.

1. Any tax imposed pursuant to this chapter shall not apply to any transfer of property from one spouse or domestic partner to the other in order to create a joint tenancy or tenancy in common of their common residence.

2. Any tax imposed pursuant to this chapter shall not apply to any transfer of property from one spouse to the other in accordance with the terms of a decree of dissolution or in fulfillment of a property settlement incident thereto; provided, however, that such property was acquired by the husband and wife or husband or wife prior to the final decree of dissolution. Any tax imposed pursuant to this chapter also shall not apply to any transfer from one domestic partner, as that term is used in the City of Berkeley's policy establishing domestic partnership registration, to another, where (1) prior to such transfer an affidavit of domestic partnership has been filed with the City Clerk pursuant to Section IV of the City of Berkeley's policy establishing domestic partnership registration; (2) subsequent to the filing of such affidavit of domestic partnership, either or both domestic partner(s) files a statement of termination with the City Clerk pursuant to Section V of the domestic partnership policy; (3) such transfer of real property is made pursuant to a written agreement between the domestic partners upon the termination of their domestic partnership; and (4) the real property was acquired by either or both domestic partner(s) prior to the filing of the statement of termination.

G. Any tax imposed pursuant to this chapter shall not apply to transfers, conveyance, lease or sub-lease without consideration which confirm or correct a deed previously recorded or filed.

H. Any tax imposed pursuant to this chapter shall not apply to transfers recorded prior to the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter.

I. The tax imposed pursuant to this chapter shall not apply with respect to any deed, instrument, or writing to a beneficiary or mortgagee, which is taken from the mortgagor or trustor as a result of or in lieu of foreclosure; provided, that such tax shall apply to the extent that the consideration exceeds the unpaid debt, including accrued interest and cost foreclosure. Consideration, unpaid debt amount and identification of grantee as beneficiary or mortgagee shall be noted on said deed, instrument or writing or stated in an affidavit or declaration under penalty of perjury for tax purposes.

J. Reserved.

K.

1. Up to one-third of the tax imposed by this chapter shall be reduced, on a dollar for dollar basis, for all expenses incurred on or after October 17, 1989 to "seismically retrofit" either any structure which is used exclusively for residential purposes, or any mixed use structure which contains two or more dwelling units.

2. The term "seismically retrofit" within the meaning of this chapter means any of the following:

a. That work which is needed and directly related to make the structure capable of withstanding lateral loads equivalent to the force levels defined by Chapter 23 of the 1976 Uniform Building Code;

b. Replacement or repair of foundations; replacement or repair of rotted mud sills; bracing of basement or pony walls; bolting of mud sills to standard foundations; installation of shear walls; anchoring of water heaters; and/or securing of chimneys, stacks or water heaters;

c. Corrective work on buildings which fit the criteria in subsection K.1, which are listed on the City of Berkeley inventory of potentially hazardous, unreinforced masonry buildings when such work is necessary to meet City standards or requirements applicable to such buildings;

d. Any other work found by the building official to substantially increase the capability of those structures, specified in subsection K.1, to withstand destruction or damage in the event of an earthquake.

3. The work to seismically retrofit structures as provided herein shall be completed either prior to the transfer of property or as provided in subsection K.4.



4. If the work to seismically retrofit the structures provided for herein is to be performed after the transfer of property which is subject to the tax imposed by this chapter, upon completion of such work and certification by the building official as to the amount of the expenses of such work the City Manager or his/her designee may refund such expenses not to exceed one-third of the tax imposed to the parties to the sale in accordance with the terms of such sale. Any remaining tax shall be retained by the City.

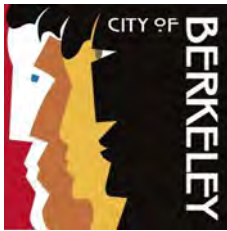
5. From the date of the recordation of the transfer document, the applicant shall have one year to complete all seismic retrofit work and submit a seismic retrofit verification application to the codes and inspection division of the City of Berkeley. If the work is not completed at the end of one year, that portion which has been completed may be credited to the applicant upon submission of a seismic retrofit verification application and substantiating documentation, as required by the codes and inspections division of the City of Berkeley, showing the dollar amount of work completed up to that date. All other monies remaining in escrow will be returned to the City of Berkeley upon written request by the Finance Department.

6. Within the one-year period established by paragraph 5, an applicant may request, and the City Manager may approve, an extension of up to one year. The City Manager or his/her designee may grant such an extension only for good cause. The decision of the City Manager or his/her designee shall be entirely within his or her discretion and shall be final.

a. "Good cause" includes (i) the inability of the applicant, after a prompt and diligent search to find and retain the services of an architect, engineer, contractor or other service provider whose services are necessary for the seismic retrofit work; (ii) unforeseen and unforeseeable circumstances such as a significant change in the scope of the seismic retrofit work due to circumstances in the field which could not reasonably have been known earlier; and (iii) serious illness or other extraordinary and unforeseeable circumstances that prevented the timely commencement or completion of the seismic retrofit work.

b. "Good cause" does not include (i) ignorance of the applicable City ordinances or regulations concerning the seismic retrofit rebate provided in this chapter or state or local laws relating to the standards with which seismic retrofit work must comply; or (ii) any delays which were within the control or responsibility of the applicant.





Councilmember Ben Bartlett  
City of Berkeley, District 3

**07**

CONSENT CALENDAR

October 13th, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Ben Bartlett and Sophie Hahn

Subject: Enforce Bi-Weekly (Once Every Two Weeks) Residential Cleaning Measures to Address Encampments and Promote Clean Streets in Berkeley

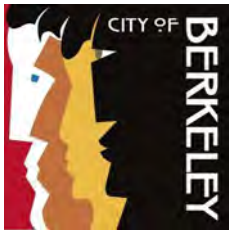
RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager to promote equitable street cleaning practices and require biweekly (once every two weeks), cleanings of populated encampment sites in Berkeley and adjacent residential neighborhoods. In order to determine where City Staff should prioritize residential cleaning services, the City Manager should establish a radius around the campsites. When encampments are on non-City owned property, such as Caltrans, the City should bill the appropriate agency for the cost of staff and materials.

BACKGROUND

Residential cleaning is a City service that beautifies our community by removing litter and debris from our streets. In doing so, it protects our environment by reducing pollutants that can clog storm drain systems and reach waterways. Clean sidewalks with little to no litter would also ensure access and safety for pedestrians and people with disabilities. Such residential cleaning would promote an aesthetically pleasing neighborhood for residential and commercial spheres.

The City of Berkeley currently mandates residential cleaning once a month and follows a sweeping schedule according to the street name. Residents are encouraged to rake their leaves for composting and avoid sweeping materials into streets or curbsides where debris could impede people's ability to safely travel along the sidewalks. While street cleaning is not required for some exceptions, such as holidays, streets are usually swept on a regular basis based on the schedule. However, our current sweeping schedule has not been sufficient in addressing issues of littering, illegally dumped materials, and encampments in certain areas throughout Berkeley, especially in the South Berkeley neighborhood. As a result, the City should promote equitable street cleaning practices by requiring biweekly (once every two weeks) residential cleanings of



Councilmember Ben Bartlett  
City of Berkeley, District 3

not only the camps themselves but also adjacent neighborhoods to these encampment sites.

### CURRENT SITUATION

According to the 2019 report conducted by the nonprofit EveryOneHome, the City of Berkeley has counted 1,108 homeless people, which is an 11 percent increase since 2017.<sup>1</sup> Due to the lack of affordable housing, encampments have increased on the Caltrans property under the Interstate 880 overpass at University Ave in Berkeley as well as in certain areas in South Berkeley<sup>2</sup>.

According to South Berkeley residents, their neighborhood has been littered with trash, which has become a safety and sanitary concern. Reports of discarded clothing and illegally dumped materials, such as couches and televisions, are common in South Berkeley, especially along the block of Martin Luther King Jr. Way in the corner between Alcatraz Avenue and 62nd Street. Other encampments, trash, and debris have also been located in the BART-owned area, and this resultant litter violates the 1971 agreement between the City of Berkeley and BART in which the City holds responsibility in maintaining and cleaning the sidewalks along the BART tracks in South Berkeley.

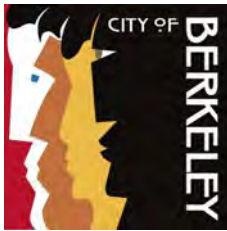
The littering issue has expanded to the “Here There” site that runs on the east side of Adeline Street, starting at Alcatraz Avenue and ending at 62nd Street below the BART overpass. While the “Here There” artwork has been intended to welcome visitors to the Berkeley community and commercial districts, encampments at this site populate the sidewalks. These sites have formed as a result of the BART fence, which prevents these encampments from moving onto the lawn around the sculpture and impedes the access and safety of the sidewalks due to the absence of an established clearance.

To promote health, safety, and cleanliness in Berkeley, the City should provide more frequent residential cleaning services for neighborhoods with a higher population of encampments, such as South Berkeley. In addition to the neighborhoods, the proposed biweekly cleaning services should help clean the camps as well. These neighborhoods should also include non-City owned property, such as Caltrans. However, in these

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Sanctioned-homeless-encampments-Oakland-and-15058546.php>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Sanctioned-homeless-encampments-Oakland-and-15058546.php>



Councilmember Ben Bartlett  
City of Berkeley, District 3

cases, the City should have the authority to bill the appropriate agency for the cost of staff and materials.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

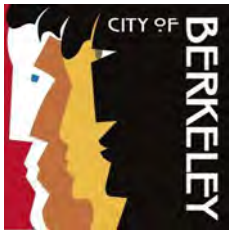
Debris has spread over the intersections, sidewalks, and yards throughout Berkeley, especially in District 3. Such debris contaminates the residential and commercial areas and poses a safety risk to pedestrians and motorists. In addition, dumping illegal trash along the sidewalks only attracts more littering. In effect, the trash exacerbates the safety, sanitary, and environmental issues of the community. To protect the safety and health of Berkeley residents, residential cleaning of the camps and the adjacent neighborhoods of the encampments in the city should be conducted at least once every two weeks.

The Public Works Department should determine the radius around the encampments in Berkeley so that City Staff can focus their efforts on areas that receive a considerable and frequent amount of litter due to the growing issue of encampments. The current schedule of one street cleaning per month is not satisfactory in eliminating waste and litter among the streets or in addressing the growing issue of encampments in Berkeley. Equitable residential cleaning services would ensure that Berkeley residents, especially those in South Berkeley, have safe and sanitary areas for residential and commercial purposes.

#### ACTIONS/ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The City could enforce fines on those who dispose of trash along the sidewalks or on residents whose property contains illegally discarded trash. However, fining residents in possession of illegally discarded trash is an inequitable practice because they may not have been the one who disposed of the trash, nor do they have the resources to properly dispose of the detriment. In addition, this could have the unwanted effect of criminalizing poverty and would be inefficient because it would require police, or another authority, to monitor and patrol the neighborhoods. This would increase police focus on non-criminal matters when their services are better used elsewhere.

An alternative is to set up a system where community organizations and members of the public can volunteer to dispose of the litter. Another option is the City could mandate more residential cleaning across all of Berkeley. However, this practice would ignore the fact that areas with more encampments require more attention and residential cleaning due to the ongoing aforementioned issues.



Councilmember Ben Bartlett  
City of Berkeley, District 3

### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Staff time. More resources would also be necessary to fund more frequent street cleaning services regarding the City staff who would sweep the Berkeley streets and clean the camps. For encampments on non-City owned property, the City would save on financial resources by billing the appropriate agency for the cost of staff and materials. With greater accessibility, safety, and sanitation, cleaner streets could attract more people in the commercial areas, supporting local businesses and boosting the economy.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Bi-weekly (once every two weeks) residential cleanings would remove the litter populating the camps and streets, which would reduce the risk of trash clogging storm drain systems or polluting the waterways. Litter can also carry unsanitary germs and thus, increase the ability to contract diseases. These issues must be prevented and mitigated, especially during a time when people are vulnerable to becoming infected with coronavirus.

### CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Ben Bartlett  
Katie Ly

510-981-7130  
[kly@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:kly@cityofberkeley.info)



Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

**08**

CONSENT CALENDAR  
October 27, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Cheryl Davila

Subject: Recognize the Rights of Nature

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution to recognize that the natural living world has a right to exist, thrive, regenerate and evolve its life cycles; to protect the ecosystems upon which our own vitality depends; and to transform our human relationship with nature from a property-based to a legal rights-bearing entity.

BACKGROUND

Currently, the legal systems are doing very little to protect our ecosystems from the destruction by economically driven industrialization. In fact, not only is there no regard to the impacts this will have on future generations, but the degradation of our natural world is often encouraged. Currently, our laws view nature as human-owned property, confirming human authority over all of nature. The natural world has no legal standing in a court of law. There needs to be a legal shift in the way we view our human relationship with the natural world. It is our responsibility to live respectfully within the natural order of life. We must redraw the boundaries of the economy taking into consideration the ecological and planetary limits. All rights, including human rights depend on the health and vitality of Earth's living systems. Therefore, the needs of nature must be elevated and protected by legal rights and maintained through life-sustaining systems of exchange and reciprocity.

Five countries and dozens of US communities have recognized the rights of nature and are resolving to provide adequate protection for the health of local ecosystems. It is our responsibility to recognize and respect the rights of the natural world so that we may sustain and protect our environment, and help secure the well-being of future generations.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

From the impacts of climate change, to the tar sands of Alberta to mountaintop removal for coal extraction, to fracking and the destruction of vast tropical rainforests, we have witnessed the horrifying damage these negligent practices are imposing on our environment. This resolution will help provide environmental protection and sustainability.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no limit on the value of the Rights of Nature.

References:

Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature

<https://therightsofnature.org/what-is-rights-of-nature/#:~:text=Rights%20of%20Nature%20is%20the%20recognition%20and%20honoring%20that%20Nature%20has%20rights.&text=Rather%20than%20treating%20nature%20as,and%20regenerate%20its%20vital%20cycles.>

CONTACT PERSONS

Cheryl Davila

Councilmember District 2

510.981.7120

[cdavila@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:cdavila@cityofberkeley.info)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution



RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, RECOGNIZING THAT THE NATURAL LIVING WORLD HAS A RIGHT TO EXIST, THRIVE, REGENERATE AND EVOLVE ITS LIFE CYCLES; TO PROTECT THE ECOSYSTEMS UPON WHICH OUR OWN VITALITY DEPENDS

WHEREAS, the natural living world has a right to exist, thrive, regenerate and evolve its life cycles; and

WHEREAS, all rights, including human rights, depend on the health and vitality of Earth's living systems; and

WHEREAS, our current laws view nature as human-owned property, confirming human authority over all of nature; and

WHEREAS, the natural world has no legal standing in a court of law; and

WHEREAS, the current legal systems are doing very little to protect our ecosystems from the destruction by economically driven industrialization; and

WHEREAS, from the impacts of climate change, to the tar sands of Alberta to mountaintop removal for coal extraction, to fracking and the destruction of vast tropical rainforests, we have witnessed the horrifying damage these negligent practices are imposing on our environment; and

WHEREAS, not only is there no regard to the impacts this will have on future generations, but the degradation of our natural world is often encouraged; and

WHEREAS, we must redraw the boundaries of the economy taking into consideration the ecological and planetary limits; and

WHEREAS, there needs to be a legal shift in the way we view our human relationship with the natural world; and

WHEREAS, we must transform our human relationship with nature from a property-based to a legal rights-bearing entity; and

WHEREAS, the needs of nature must be elevated and protected by legal rights, and maintained through life-sustaining systems of exchange and reciprocity; and

WHEREAS, five countries and dozens of US communities have recognized the rights of nature and are dedicated to providing adequate protection for the health of the local ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, it is our responsibility to recognize and respect the rights of the natural world so that we may sustain and protect our environment, and help secure the well-being of future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Berkeley recognizes the Rights of our local ecosystem to exist, flourish, and regenerate its natural capacities.

Recognizing these rights places obligations on residents to live within, not above, the natural world, of which we are only one part, and to protect and replenish the ecosystems upon which our mutual well being depends. In essence, it is necessary to transform our human relationship with nature from property-based to a legal rights-bearing entity.