

SOPHIE HAHN

Berkeley City Council, District 5
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CONSENT CALENDAR

May 16, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Sophie Hahn, Kate Harrison, Ben Bartlett, and Mayor Arreguin

Subject: Supporting Environment California's Statewide Goal of 100% Renewable Energy

RECOMMENDATION:

Send a letter to Environment California supporting the proposed Statewide Goal of 100% Renewable Energy California.

BACKGROUND:

Environment California is a statewide, citizen-based environmental advocacy organization. Their work involves conducting research on the challenges confronting California's environment and educating the public about environmental issues and sensible solutions.

California is already experiencing the effects of global warming. Swings in temperature and precipitation, record storms and rising sea levels have tremendous implications for the livability and resilience of communities across the State. Wider adoption of renewable and clean energy sources is a key factor to combating climate change and the negative effects of global warming. Promoting renewable energy is a realistic way for cities and states to take important steps toward transforming the way in which we produce and consume energy.

Environment California's *100% Renewable Energy* campaign calls for a nationwide commitment to 100% renewable energy. Massachusetts and Hawaii have already passed legislation to support moving toward 100% renewable energy.

As a city, Berkeley has already taken steps toward increasing the use of renewable energy through the adoption of an ambitious Climate Action Plan, a Resilience Strategy, and a recent Deep Green Building Initiative. Berkeley is also participating in the development and implementation of East Bay Community Energy, which will bring community-governed, renewable energy to homes and businesses in Alameda County. The City of Berkeley applauds Environment California's efforts to achieve the goal of 100% renewable energy, and will continue to support policies that expand energy

efficiency, wind, solar, and other clean energy technologies, and oppose policies that would expand the use of fossil fuels or slow the adoption of clean energy.

For more information about renewable energy visit:

<http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/programs/cae/100-renewable-energy>.

See attached letter.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Minimal.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Consistent with Berkeley's Environmental Sustainability Goals and no negative impact.

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Sophie Hahn

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Dear Environment California,

The City of Berkeley is pleased to support your commendable efforts in achieving 100% renewable energy in California.

California is already experiencing the effects of global warming. Swings in temperature and precipitation, record storms and rising sea levels have tremendous implications for the livability and resilience of communities across the State.

Wider adoption of renewable and clean energy sources is a key factor to combating climate change and the negative effects of global warming. Promoting renewable energy is a realistic way for cities and states to take important steps toward transforming the way in which we produce and consume energy. Solar power can provide twice as much electricity as we use each year, and offshore wind energy can produce more than 11 times our annual electricity use. New technologies in energy efficiency and heating and cooling can dramatically reduce energy usage in homes and businesses. And electric vehicles and other green transportation options will help us get where we need to go without using fossil fuels.

We have already made significant progress. California was among the first states in the nation to limit carbon pollution from power plants, adopt ambitious fuel efficiency standards for cars, and foster clean energy development. As a result, our global warming emissions are down while the state's clean energy sector is booming.

But we are still not doing enough to reduce our carbon pollution. As officials in other states and on the national level consider what to do about global warming, California must continue to lead the way.

We pledge our support for a goal of 100% clean, renewable energy for California. The City of Berkeley will continue to support policies that expand energy efficiency, wind, solar, and other clean energy technologies, and oppose policies that would expand the use of fossil fuels or slow the adoption of clean energy.

Sincerely,

The City of Berkeley

