



Berkeley City Council

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 27, 2017

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín, Councilmembers Sophie Hahn, Linda Maio, and Susan Wengraf

Subject: Reaffirming Support for the Paris Climate Agreement and Other Efforts to Combat Climate Change

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt a Resolution reaffirming the City of Berkeley's commitment to combatting climate change and upholding the Paris Agreement, in conjunction with the Climate Mayors Agenda; and supporting the United States Climate Alliance formed by Governors Brown, Inslee, and Cuomo.
2. Send a copy of the resolution to Governors Brown, Cuomo, and Inslee, representatives of the Climate Mayors group, President Donald Trump, and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.

BACKGROUND

Climate change is a scientifically proven fact that threatens not just Berkeley, but all corners of the world. Adopted on December 12, 2015, the Paris Agreement was signed by all countries except for Nicaragua and Syria, and represented a global commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2C (3.6F) above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5C (2.7F) above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change." The scientific community is in agreement that a 2C rise in global temperatures would cause the effects of climate change to accelerate and become irreversible. It is estimated that business as usual would result in a 4.2C increase in global temperatures by 2100.

During the buildup to the Paris Climate Change Conference, the United Nations launched the Compact of Mayors. The goal of the Compact is to make cities more transparent in their goals to reduce greenhouse emissions and to become more resilient to the impacts of climate change. Currently, 651 cities worldwide representing almost 490 million people, including 134 cities in the United States are taking part in the Compact. Berkeley signed onto this in November 2015.

Despite our country being the second-largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the world, on June 1, 2017, President Donald Trump announced that the United

States will be withdrawing from the Paris Agreement. This is the latest act of the current administration to effectively deny the existence and impacts of global warming, reverse progress in addressing climate change and damage our country's reputation as a leader in environmental action. In response to this alarming step backwards, a number of coalitions across the country have pledged to continue pursuing the ambitious goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. The Climate Mayors Agenda, which Berkeley is a part of, released a statement of support for the Paris Agreement. As of June 5, 2017, 211 mayors representing 54 million Americans, including Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin, have signed onto the statement. This Resolution will ratify Berkeley's position and commitment to the Paris Agreement.

Additionally, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, California Governor Jerry Brown and Washington State Governor Jay Inslee announced the formation of the United States Climate Alliance. This coalition will convene states that are committed to upholding the Paris Climate Agreement and taking aggressive action on climate change. These three states represent over one-fifth of US GDP, nearly 68 million people, and account for at least 10% of the country's greenhouse gas emissions. The City of Berkeley applauds Governor Brown's commitment to addressing climate change and his leadership in forming the US Climate Alliance, and hereby expresses its support for the United States Climate Alliance.

Without the federal government's leadership on climate change, it is now up to local jurisdictions to take on the mantle. The City of Berkeley has been on the forefront of environmental leadership, including its Climate Action Plan, Resiliency Strategy and Zero Waste Goals. In May 2017, the City Council also voted to sign a letter from the National League of Cities sent to the President on the need to protect the environment and uphold our end of international agreements. Berkeley will continue to aggressively speak out and pursue the achievement of these and other climate, sustainability and resilience goals.

More information:

<http://governor.wa.gov/news-media/inslee-new-york-governor-cuomo-and-california-governor-brown-announce-formation-united>

<https://medium.com/@ClimateMayors/climate-mayors-commit-to-adopt-honor-and-uphold-paris-climate-agreement-goals-ba566e260097>

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Affirming the Paris Agreement ensures our Climate Action Plan is realized and will reduce the impacts of climate change.

Paris Agreement

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CONTACT PERSON

Mayor Jesse Arreguín 510-981-7100

Attachments:

1: Resolution Reaffirming Support for the Paris Agreement and Other Efforts to Combat Climate Change

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND OTHER EFFORTS
TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, climate change is a scientifically proven fact that threatens not just Berkeley, but all corners of the world; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Agreement, signed on December 12, 2015 by all countries except Nicaragua and Syria, aims to limit global increase in temperatures by 1.5C (2.7F) of pre-industrial levels; and

WHEREAS, the consensus of the scientific community believes that a 2C (3.6F) increase in global temperatures would accelerate the effects of climate change and make it irreversible; and

WHEREAS, without the goals set forward by the Paris Agreement, global temperatures are expected to rise 4.2C by 2100; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley is one of 651 cities worldwide representing almost 490 million people that is a part of the Compact of Mayors; and

WHEREAS, the Compact of Mayors, launched by the United Nations just before the Paris Climate Change Conference, aims to make cities more transparent in their goals to reduce greenhouse emissions and to become more resilient to the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2017, President Donald Trump announced that the United States will be pulling out of the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Mayors Agenda, which Berkeley is a part of, released a statement in response to the decision to pull out of the Paris Agreement by reiterating its support for the Paris Agreement and the importance of local jurisdictions to take on the role of addressing climate change;

WHEREAS, as of June 5, 2017, 211 mayors representing 54 million Americans, including Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin, have signed onto the statement committing to adopt, honor and uphold the Paris Climate Agreement goals; and

WHEREAS, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, California Governor Jerry Brown, and Washington State Governor Jay Inslee announced the formation of the United States Climate Alliance, in order to continue the pursuit of the Paris Climate Agreement goals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has been on the forefront of environmental leadership, including creating bold climate action goals outlined in the Climate Action Plan to the recent Resiliency Strategy; and

WHEREAS, in May 2017, the City Council voted to sign a letter from the National League of Cities to the President on the need to protect the environment and uphold our end of international agreements; and

WHEREAS, without the federal government's leadership on climate change, it is now up to local jurisdictions to take on the mantle of climate change; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley will continue to aggressively speak out and pursue the achievement of these and other climate, sustainability and resilience goals.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City of Berkeley is committed to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement at a local level

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley is in full support of Mayor Arreguin's signing of the Climate Mayors' Agenda statement, applauds Governor Brown's commitment to addressing climate change and his leadership in forming the US Climate Alliance, and hereby expresses its support for the United States Climate Alliance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley remains committed to its Climate Action Plan, Resilience Plan, and Zero Waste Goals, as well as to the rigorous pursuit of scientific inquiry and fact-based policy creation and analysis.

