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COUNCIL MEETING OF:

JUN 12 2018

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY OF BERKELEY

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 12, 2018

Councilmember Cheryl Davila
District 2

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Cheryl Davila, Mayor Jesse Arreguin and
Councilmembers Kate Harrison and Sophie Hahn
Subject: Fossil Fuel Free Berkeley

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the Energy Commission and Transportation Commission consideration of the proposed resolution or similar action to further implementation of the Climate Action Plan and establish the goal of becoming a Fossil Fuel Free Berkeley, and further consider:

- Establishing a date by which we are committed to being a Fossil Fuel Free City.
- ~~Oppose~~ Opposing further transportation of oil, gas, and coal.
- ~~Strengthen~~ Fully implementing Berkeley Deep Green Building, raising the citywide LEED certification requirement above the current LEED Silver, and applying the same requirements to green building requirements for newly constructed city facilities, and major renovations, including the potential for Zero Net Energy and further integration of considering climate impacts in capital planning projects. Current requirements are LEED Silver, which are far below what we require for new buildings in the Downtown.
- Requiring ~~a~~ All future City government procurements of vehicles ~~should to~~ minimize emissions, and ~~set~~ establishing a goal and plan for ~~of~~ transitioning the city's vehicle fleet to all electric vehicles
- Establishing a goal and plan for ~~of~~ transitioning to 100% renewable energy for municipal operations and a community wide goal of 100% reductions by 2030.
- Formally ~~oppose~~ opposing the recent expansion of offshore drilling by the Trump Administration.
- Calling for region-wide solutions to carbon emissions, including rapid adoption of renewable energy sources, affordable densification of cities and low-emissions public transportation infrastructure.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Unknown

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Establishing the goal of achieving a Fossil Free City, and strengthening green building, city vehicle procurement, and renewable energy initiatives will further implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

BACKGROUND

On June 1, 2017, the 45th president and administration announced its intention to pull the United States out of the Paris Agreement, reached by 194 countries at the United Nations Conference of Parties 21 meeting in November, 2015. This action undercuts commitments the United States has made to our global partners and to United States citizens to combat climate change and reduce our GHG emissions. The 45th Administration has removed "global warming" and "climate change" content from many Federal agency websites and has proposed to cut funding for Federal research on clean energy, energy efficiency, clean fuels and clean transportation.

The Interior Department recently proposed opening Federal waters to new leases for oil and gas drilling, including off the coast of California. These and other reckless climate denial actions by the current federal Administration create tremendous risk and instability to the world's efforts to forestall climate catastrophe now and for future generations. It is now critical that cities double our climate commitments and actions. Cities must say no to new or expanded fossil fuel projects/use and move more rapidly to 100% clean energy. The City of Berkeley must accelerate and expand our leadership on issues laid out in our Climate Action Plan. This resolution is modeled after a resolution passed in Portland, Oregon and is part of the Fossil Fuel Free campaign by 350.org.

CONTACT PERSONS

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

ESTABLISHING A GOAL OF ACHIEVING A FOSSIL FREE CITY

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley Climate Action Plan has commendable goals of 33% reduction in greenhouse gases compared to 2000 by 2020 and 80% reduction by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the December 7, 2017 report from City staff shows only a 12% reduction as of 2015, indicating that the City is well behind in achieving both its 2020 and 2050 goals; and

WHEREAS, global temperatures are rising at an accelerating rate, averaging 0.9°C above 1950 - 1981 temperatures in 2017 according to NASA, and could reach the UN limit of 1.5°C as early as 2032 at the current rate of increase; and

WHEREAS, the current warming is already leading to an increase in heat waves, wildfires, floods, droughts, stronger hurricanes, extreme weather, and rising oceans, climate refugees, and

WHEREAS, the State of California has a goal to reduce greenhouse gases by 40% by 2030 but is also making insufficient progress towards achieving that goal, and

WHEREAS, this resolution is intended to substantially further both the City of Berkeley and the State goals, and

WHEREAS most of the greenhouse gases that have accumulated in the atmosphere can be attributed to the consumption of fossil fuels that companies such as Chevron, Exxon, BP, Shell, ConocoPhillips extracted, refined, transported, and sold; and

WHEREAS the processes by which Chevron, Exxon, BP, Shell, ConocoPhillips extract, refine, transport, market and/or sell fossil fuels in California generally and in Berkeley specifically create pollution that causes severe environmental harms that also constitute grave environmental injustices, and threaten catastrophic harms in Berkeley such as sea level rise, drought, and wildfires; and

WHEREAS fossil fuel companies have systematically distorted climate science, lied about climate change, and misled the public about the dangers of fossil fuels in order to impede any transition from fossil fuels to clean energy in California generally and in Berkeley specifically; and

WHEREAS, transportation of coal using open top rail cars results in significant volumes of materials escaping during transit, exposing local communities to toxic heavy metals in coal dust and particulates at levels potentially harmful to adjacent communities, workers, wildlife and nature; and

WHEREAS, investments in clean energy solutions create more jobs than fossil fuels and spur innovation and growth of the U.S. clean energy economy; and

WHEREAS, local, regional and global economies are transitioning to low-carbon energy sources, and businesses are leaders in providing renewable energy and energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, dozens of American communities have passed resolutions addressing fossil fuel industry expansion, and hundreds of public officials, including governors, state and federal agencies, tribes, health organizations, religious leaders and other community leaders, have recognized the harms presented by fossil fuels to our environment and our communities; and

WHEREAS the Federal government is the nation's largest emitter of greenhouse gas and is currently governed by an administration committed both to fossil fuels and to climate denial; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley's first preference for meeting energy needs is energy efficiency, and the City remains committed to acquiring at a minimum all cost-effective energy efficiency available with a particular focus on achieving energy efficiency in low-income housing; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector accounts for 56 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the City of Berkeley, and significant reductions in emissions from transportation are essential to achieving our climate-protection goals; and

WHEREAS, electrifying car, truck, and bus fleets will bring environmental and economic benefits to local residents, including lower cost transportation options for low income households; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley will actively oppose the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, including but not limited to those owned and/or operated by Chevron, Exxon, BP, Shell, ConocoPhillips, the primary purpose of which is to extract, refine, transport or store fossil fuels in or through city limits or adjacent waterways, including offshore drilling and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Berkeley shall commit to a goal of 100% clean, carbon-free energy and a 100% reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions, including from transportation and buildings, as soon as possible and no later than 2030.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all future government procurements of vehicles should minimize emissions and phase-out the internal combustion engine as soon as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley opposes the rollback of climate policy at the federal level and affirms its ongoing commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the City's responsibility to meet its proportionate greenhouse gas reductions for the United States under the Paris Climate Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley will establish a goal of supplying 100 percent of electricity for City operations from renewable energy by 2022 through a combination of on-site renewable electricity generation, utility-supplied renewables, dedicated off-site renewable resources, and renewable energy credit (REC) purchases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley will prioritize renewable resources over the purchase of RECs with the intention of reducing reliance on RECs during the transition to 100% renewable resources over time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley will prioritize community-based development of renewable energy infrastructure and should make investments in community based organizations to build capacity to lead such development to meet 100% renewable community-wide energy needs including transportation, heating, and electricity via such infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley will partner with labor unions, and others to develop training and retraining programs to serve workers who would be displaced by this transition or workers who would otherwise be working in the energy field so that they are well-equipped for the "renewable energy" economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a renewable energy transition is an opportunity to redress historical inequities in our community and must be just. This means, in part, prioritizing the resources to train and hire people from within communities of color and women that have traditionally been underrepresented in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and the workforce needed to implement a successful renewable energy transition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City projects and procurements under this proposal will use proven policies to ensure the jobs created are high-quality, family-wage jobs that meet our high standards of workforce inclusion for women and communities of color; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley will partner with energy providers and to accelerate the transition to renewable energy and minimize dependence on fossil fuels, expressing the City's preferences for resources consistent with its renewable energy goals and opposition to any new fossil fuel power project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley urges utility companies to maximize energy efficiency, demand control technologies, energy storage, and renewable energy and avoid any new commitments to ownership of or long-term contracts from non-renewable sources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley will partner with energy providers and community-based organizations to adopt policies that reduce the cost-burden for low-income customers, and make incentives available to foster equality in energy burdens as a percent of household incomes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Berkeley urges the governor of California to adopt a 100% renewable energy goal that will continually update as new scientific findings are discovered that change our timeline and support SB 100.