



Kate Harrison
Councilmember District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR
April 23rd, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

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

Subject: Support for Zero Emission Bills

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt a resolution of support for two bills that will move California towards eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector: AB 40, which calls for all cars sold in California to be zero-emission by 2040, and AB 1418, which calls for all public school buses in California to be zero-emission by 2030.
2. Send letter of support to Senator Skinner and Assemblymember Wicks.

BACKGROUND

Both AB 40 and AB 1481 are California state bills that aim to eliminate fossil fuels in our transportation sector. AB 40 (Ting and Kalra) would require the state to develop a comprehensive strategy to ensure that the sales of all new motor vehicles in California are zero-emission vehicles by 2040. AB 1418 (Chiu) would require, starting in 2020, each public utility to create comprehensive reports to the California Energy Commission on their efforts to convert all vehicles and infrastructure to be zero-emission. Included in the bill is an ambitious plan to specifically convert school districts and school buses to be zero-emission.

In America, the transportation sector represents roughly 28% of all greenhouse gas emissions. In California, the percentage is even higher at 40%. Zero emission vehicles are increasingly common and an easy way to decrease carbon footprints on an individual and collective scale. AB 40 will make individual purchase of electric cars far easier across the state, and AB 1418 will compel all government agencies in California to decarbonize their infrastructure and transportation and make public investments in green technology.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Every year, Californians emit millions of tons of greenhouse gases as a result of cars and other vehicles that combust petroleum-based products such as gasoline. Transitioning to all electric vehicles will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

CONTACT PERSON

Kate Harrison, Berkeley City Councilmember, (510) 981-7140

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution
- 2: Letter of Support for AB 40 (Ting)
- 3: Letter of Support for AB 1418 (Chiu)

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

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLE COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY (AB 40) AND THE CLEAN BUS BILL (AB 1418)

WHEREAS, the acceleration in global average temperature is leading to the climate changing at incredibly rapid pace; and

WHEREAS, human actions such as burning fossil fuels contribute to the greenhouse gases within the atmosphere, thus increasing the scope of climate change and negatively impacting human and environmental health through pollution; and

WHEREAS, a UN climate report found that net carbon emissions must be reduced to zero by 2050. All greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by 2030 in order to keep the overall global temperature below a 2 degree Celsius increase tipping point; and

WHEREAS, devastating effects like rising sea levels, increased natural disasters, increased extreme weather events, and overall decreased habitability of the world will occur without rapid changes. This will lead to widespread human health effects like heatstroke, hypothermia, death from natural disaster, mass displacement, and mass loss of life and property will occur¹; and

WHEREAS, the United States ranks second in the world in total carbon emissions and third in per capita emissions²; and

WHEREAS, the United States accounts for over 17% of global carbon emissions³ and California accounts for over 6.6% of the United States' carbon emissions⁴; and

¹ Freeman, David. "We're Falling Short on Efforts to Stop Global Warming. Here's How We Can Get on Track." *NBCNews.com*, NBCUniversal News Group, 9 Oct. 2018, www.nbcnews.com/mach/science/new-climate-report-shows-efforts-end-global-warming-are-falling-ncna918121.

² "Each Country's Share of CO2 Emissions." *Union of Concerned Scientists*, UCS, 11 Oct. 2018, www.ucsusa.org/global-warming/science-and-impacts/science/each-countrys-share-of-co2.html.

³ "Each Country's Share of CO2 Emissions." *Union of Concerned Scientists*, UCS, 11 Oct. 2018, www.ucsusa.org/global-warming/science-and-impacts/science/each-countrys-share-of-co2.html.

⁴ "U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - Independent Statistics and Analysis." *State-Level Energy-Related Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 2005-2016*, US Energy Information Administration, 27 Feb. 2019, www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/state/analysis/.

WHEREAS, 40% of carbon emissions in California come from the transportation sector⁵ so to address climate change the number of fossil fuels burned by cars in California must be cut down

WHEREAS, a climate emergency has been declared in Berkeley⁶; and

WHEREAS, two bills recently introduced address the problem of climate change. AB 40 calls for all new cars sold in California to be run off clean energy by the year 2040 and AB 1418 calls for public school buses in California to be replaced with electric school buses by the year 2030;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Berkeley hereby supports Assembly Bill 40 and Assembly Bill 1418.

⁵ “State CO2 Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion, 1990-2016.” *Energy Resources for State and Local Governments*, US Environmental Protection Agency, 2016, www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-09/documents/co2ffc_2015.pdf.

⁶ “Resolution No. 68,486 - N. S.: Endorsing the Declaration of a Climate Emergency.” *Berkeley City Council Resolution*, 12 June 2018, www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Council_2/Level_3_-_General/Climate%20Emergency%20Declaration%20-%20Adopted%2012%20June%202018%20-%20BCC.pdf.

April 23rd, 2019

The Honorable Phil Ting
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: Support from Berkeley City Council for AB 40 (Ting) – Zero Emission Vehicles

Dear Assemblymember Ting,

Berkeley City Council writes in support of AB 40, a comprehensive strategy to ensure that all sales of motor vehicles have transitioned to zero-emission vehicles by 2040.

In California, 40% of all carbon emissions are derived from our transportation sector. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommends that we aggressively reduce all emissions by 2030, or we risk reaching the 2 degree Celsius tipping point that may cause increased natural disasters and inhabitable climate event.

AB 40 will make the sales of electric vehicles across California far easier and will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our state.

Thank you for your leadership on climate issues.

Respectfully,
Berkeley City Council

CC: Assemblymember Buffy Wicks
Senator Nancy Skinner

April 23rd, 2019

The Honorable David Chiu
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: Support from Berkeley City Council for AB 1418 (Chiu) – Transportation electrification: Electric Schoolbuses

Dear Assemblymember Chiu,

Berkeley City Council writes in support of AB 1418, which would require each public utility and school district to create comprehensive reports to the California Energy Commission on their efforts to convert all vehicles and infrastructure to be zero-emission.

In California, 40% of all carbon emissions are derived from our transportation sector. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommends that we aggressively reduce all emissions by 2030, or we risk reaching the 2 degree Celsius tipping point that may cause increased natural disasters and inhabitable climate event.

AB 1418 is an ambitious investment in renewable infrastructure and zero-emission vehicles from our state, and will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our state.

Thank you for your leadership on climate issues.

Respectfully,
Berkeley City Council

CC: Assemblymember Buffy Wicks
Senator Nancy Skinner