To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Community Environmental Advisory Commission
Submitted by: Ben Gould, Chairperson, Community Environmental Advisory Commission
Subject: Calling for State Action on Parking Enforcement Vehicle Emissions

RECOMMENDATION
Refer to the City Manager to send the attached letter, calling for the State of California to require 100% all-electric parking enforcement vehicles by 2030 or earlier, to Berkeley’s elected State-level representatives and the Chair of the California Air Resources Board.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION
Negligible time and costs to send letters.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS
Berkeley’s Strategic Plan sets the goal of being a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment. However, Berkeley simultaneously needs to ensure effectiveness of service delivery and use of taxpayer funds.

Currently, Berkeley operates and purchases gasoline-powered parking enforcement vehicles in order to ensure effective service delivery, but has discussed switching to electric options. However, the two all-electric vehicles the City owns have had technical difficulties, and the City lacks adequate charging infrastructure for expanding its electric fleet.


BACKGROUND
At the May 14th City Council meeting, Berkeley City Council encountered a dilemma in balancing these two goals when approving the purchase of new parking enforcement vehicles. Most parking enforcement vehicles today are gasoline-powered, and while all-electric options exist, Berkeley has experienced technical difficulties when using them,
and cities lack the infrastructure to support them. In order to ensure effective service delivery, Council approved the purchase of new gas-powered parking enforcement vehicles, but the challenge of needing better all-electric alternatives will persist unless action is taken to support the market.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
Encouraging the State to take action in encouraging electric parking enforcement vehicles will have an indirect positive impact on environmental sustainability.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION
The technology exists and creating a market will drive competition, improving reliability, cost, and performance. The IPCC recommends aggressive action by 2030.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED
None.

CITY MANAGER
The City Manager concurs with the content and recommendations of the Commission’s Report.

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

Attachments:
1: Letter to State Officials
[Date MM DD, YYYY]

To: Governor Gavin Newsom, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, and California Air Resources Board Chair Mary Nichols

From: Berkeley City Council

RE: Electrification Requirements for Parking Enforcement Vehicles

Dear XX,

The City of Berkeley is calling for action on driving forward the market for all-electric parking enforcement vehicles.

Throughout the State of California, public safety officers use specialized light-duty parking enforcement vehicles to ensure compliance with local parking laws. These vehicles regularly operate in a low-speed, stop-and-go urban environment – a prime setting for electric or hybrid vehicles. However, the existing electric vehicles available on the market have not been found to adequately meet many cities’ needs, and cities have not planned or built the infrastructure necessary to accommodate fleets of electric parking enforcement vehicles.

Setting statewide policies and directives around the use of electric parking enforcement vehicles will help cities and manufacturers plan and bring these vehicles into the mainstream, as we have seen from early successes with California’s requirement for all new buses to be all-electric by 2029.

The City of Berkeley asks for your support and leadership in executing a similar approach for parking enforcement vehicles, potentially by requiring 100% electric vehicles by 2030 or earlier. The City thanks you for your environmental leadership.

Respectfully,

The Berkeley City Council