



Office of the Mayor

CONSENT CALENDAR
March 10, 2020

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín, and Councilmembers Ben Bartlett, Kate Harrison, and Susan Wengraf

Subject: Support of AB 1839 – California Green New Deal

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 1839, which would create the California Green New Deal Council with specified membership appointed by the Governor. The bill would require the California Green New Deal Council to submit a report to the Legislature no later than Jan 1, 2022.

Send a copy of the Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom, State Senator Nancy Skinner, and Assemblymembers Buffy Wicks and Rob Bonta.

BACKGROUND

A report published in October from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that there is a twelve-year window for global warming to be kept to a maximum threshold of 1.5C increase above pre-industrial levels. This report emphasizes the scale and speed of transformation required at all levels of the economy and society to prevent cataclysmic climate change. “The report finds that limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require “rapid and far-reaching” transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities. Global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) would need to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching ‘net zero’ around 2050. This means that any remaining emissions would need to be balanced by removing CO₂ from the air.¹”

AB 1839, Introduced by Assembly Members Bonta, Chiu, Reyes and Weber, would create the California Green New Deal Council with a specified membership appointed by the governor. The Council membership will include the Secretaries of the Natural Resources Agency, Environmental Protection, Transportation, Health and Human Services, Business, Consumer Services and Housing, and Labor and Workforce Development, as well as the Director of the Office of Planning and Research.

¹<https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

AB 1839 directs this body of state leaders to submit a report by January 1, 2022 that makes recommendations on appropriate policies to achieve the following goals:

- a) Enacting measures to ensure a just transition in California for workers impacted by the phasing out of fossil fuels.
- b) Ensuring that the jobs created or maintained by climate policy are good, family-supporting jobs with career ladders, benefits and protections for workers' rights to organize, and that pipelines into these jobs are created for workers from historically disadvantaged communities, in accord with the recommendations of the climate labor report mandated in Chapter 135 of the Statutes of 2017 (Assembly Bill 398).
- c) Significantly increasing measures to assist those impacted by the effects of climate change, including, but not limited to, floods, fires, heatwaves, sea level rise, droughts, and disease.
- d) Significantly reducing disparate standard of living indices for historically impacted communities of color, including income inequality, educational achievement gaps, health care access gaps, and environmental burdens by 2030.
- e) Increasing affordable housing and public transportation by double their current availability by 2030, maximizing safe, complete streets for walking and biking, and replacing remaining gas vehicles with electric vehicles.
- f) Accelerating reductions of air pollution to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change.

AB 1839 also makes important findings and declarations on the rights of all residents in the state in line with human rights, principles of environmental justice, and a just transition.

Berkeley has a strong history of leadership on climate change. Voters overwhelmingly approved Measure G in 2006, and the Berkeley Climate Action Plan was adopted in 2009 - setting the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 33% of 2000 levels by 2020, and 80% by 2050. Building on this plan, the award-winning Resiliency Strategy was developed in 2016, in part to ensure that Berkeley is "resilient and prepared for the impacts of global warming." In June 2018, the Berkeley City Council unanimously declared a climate emergency.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Supporting a plan for a Green New Deal will further the goals set forward in the Climate Action Plan and Resiliency Strategy by developing state policies and funding opportunities to support our city, region, state and nation's efforts responding to climate change impacts and actualizing a more resilient city.

CONTACT PERSON

Mayor Jesse Arreguín 510-981-7100

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution
- 2: Text of AB 1839

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

IN SUPPORT OF AB 1839 CALIFORNIA GREEN NEW DEAL

WHEREAS, human activities have warmed the Earth enough to end the 12,000-year period of climate stability that allowed agriculture and human civilization to develop; and

WHEREAS, the world came together in December 2015 to address the end to this period of climate stability due to global warming, agreeing to keep warming to "well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels" and to "pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C";and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the global surface temperature was over 1°C warmer than the pre-industrial base period²;and

WHEREAS, global warming has already set in motion catastrophic changes to the Earth system, including accelerating ice mass loss from the Greenland and West Antarctic Ice Sheets and the thawing of the borders of the vast Arctic permafrost, which holds twice as much stored carbon as the entire atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, according to the latest climate projections, humanity is on track to warm the Earth a sustained average of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels as soon as 2026³;and

WHEREAS, the Greenland Ice Sheet, which is likely to completely collapse at 1.6°C warming, which NASA scientists have concluded would lead to 23 feet of sea-level rise, billions of climate refugees, and a "global-scale catastrophe"; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that sustained 1.5°C warming could cause a long-term, "continuous thaw" of the Arctic permafrost, which could turn the tundra from a carbon sink into source in the 2020s;and

WHEREAS, such tipping points must be avoided at all costs, as they will have positive feedback effects on the climate system, causing further and increasingly uncontrollable global warming;and

WHEREAS, failure to uphold the Paris goal of keeping warming "well below 2°C" would lead to the disappearance of island nations and "certain death" for Africa, Chief Negotiator for the G77 Lumumba Stanislaus Di-Aping warned in 2009;and

² Hansen, James, et al., Global Temperature in 2017 (18 January 2018).

³ See, inter alia, Henley, B. J., and A. D. King (2017), Trajectories toward the 1.5°C Paris target: Modulation by the Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 44, 4256–4262, doi: 10.1002/2017GL073480; Jacob, D., Kotova, L., Teichmann, C., Sobolowski, S. P., Vautard, R., Donnelly, C., Koutroulis, A. G., Grillakis, M. G., Tsanis, I. K., Damm, A., Saka Evi, A. and van Vliet, M. T. (2018), Climate Impacts in Europe Under +1.5°C Global Warming. *Earth's Future*, 6: 264-285. doi:10.1002/2017EF000710

WHEREAS, over 19,000 scientists have signed a Second Warning to Humanity proclaiming that "a great change in our stewardship of the Earth and the life on it is required, if vast human misery is to be avoided"; and

WHEREAS, climate-fueled droughts, famines, and diseases have already killed millions of people in the Global South, and displaced millions more; and

WHEREAS, indigenous and low-income communities and communities of color in the United States and abroad have suffered the gravest consequences of the extractive economy since its inception; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), in 2017, "the U.S. was impacted by 16 separate billion-dollar disaster events tying 2011 for the record number of billion-dollar disasters for an entire calendar year," with a cumulative cost of \$309.5 billion, shattering the previous U.S. annual record cost of \$219.2 billion in 2005 due to Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Rita and Wilma;⁴and

WHEREAS, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that there is a twelve-year window for global warming to be kept to a maximum threshold of 1.5C increase above pre-industrial levels; and

WHEREAS, we cannot wait for more devastating floods, heatwaves, fires, droughts, rising sea levels, and public health and humanitarian crises that threaten local residents, ecologies, businesses, and the broader Bay Area population to begin the necessary emergency response; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is deeply committed to sustainability and addressing climate change; and

WHEREAS, voters overwhelmingly approved Measure G in 2006, and the Berkeley Climate Action Plan was adopted in 2009 - setting the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 33% of 2000 levels by 2020, and 80% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the award-winning Resilience Strategy was developed in 2016, building upon one of the Climate Action Plan goals to ensure Berkeley is "resilient and prepared for the impacts of global warming"; and

WHEREAS, in declaring a Climate Emergency the City of Berkeley resolved to call on the United States of America to initiate a just national emergency mobilization effort to reverse global warming, which ends national greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and immediately initiates an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere; and

⁴ In fact, NCEI notes, "2017 arguably has more events than 2011 given that [its] analysis traditionally counts all U.S. billion-dollar wildfires, as regional-scale, seasonal events, not as multiple isolated events." NOAA NCEI U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters (2018).

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1839 introduced by Assembly Members Bonta, Chiu, Reyes and Weber would create the California Green New Deal Council with specified membership appointed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, The bill would require the California Green New Deal Council to submit a specified report to the Legislature no later than Jan 1. 2022

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1839 reflects Berkeley's climate and environmental commitments, as well as efforts to address affordable housing and homelessness; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it hereby supports Assembly Bill 1839.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to Governor Gavin Newsom, State Senator Nancy Skinner, and Assemblymembers Buffy Wicks and Rob Bonta;

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1839

**Introduced by Assembly Members Bonta, Chiu, Kalra, Reyes, and
Weber**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Berman, Bloom, Chu, Gloria,
McCarty, Robert Rivas, Mark Stone, and Wicks)**

January 6, 2020

An act to add Part 8 (commencing with Section 71440) to Division 34 of the Public Resources Code, relating to climate change.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1839, as introduced, Bonta. Climate change: California Green New Deal.

Existing law establishes various environmental and economic policies.

This bill would create the California Green New Deal Council with a specified membership appointed by the Governor. The bill would require the California Green New Deal Council to submit a specified report to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2022. The bill also would make various findings and declarations.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Part 8 (commencing with Section 71440) is added
- 2 to Division 34 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

PART 8. CALIFORNIA GREEN NEW DEAL

71440. (a) This part shall be known, and may be cited, as the California Green New Deal.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that the state adopt a policy framework to implement, through principles and goals, a commitment to reduce severe climate change impacts while protecting the public health and the environment, to overcome systemic racial injustice, and to ensure all California residents enjoy a 21st century standard of living without regard to their wealth or income.

(c) The Legislature finds and declares that all residents of the state have the right to do all of the following:

(1) Contribute to, and be sustainably compensated for, services or other meaningful work in advancement of the public good.

(2) Contribute to a sufficiently funded public sector, to which those who accumulate extraordinary wealth will provide a significantly greater contribution.

(3) Have access to clean, affordable, carbon-free, and reliable utilities, including energy and communications.

(4) Have access to justice and reconciliation for the communities most severely impacted by institutional racism, including environmental racism, from the birth of this nation to the present.

(5) Be able to have equality and the full inclusion of immigrant and refugee communities in a just society.

(6) Have access to affordable housing in a healthy and sustainable community.

(7) Have access and mobility within and between communities, including safe, affordable, reliable, healthy, and carbon-free transportation choices, including public transportation.

(8) Have clean air, clean drinking water, healthy food, access to nature and natural outdoor spaces, and live in a stable climate.

(9) Obtain protection from current and increasing climate change impacts.

(10) Have equal opportunity to influence the decisions that affect our communities and workplaces, regardless of wealth or status.

(11) Have access to debt-free and quality public education from preschool through college, including job training for those seeking to transition to new clean-economy jobs.

1 (12) Have comprehensive, affordable health care.
2 71441. The Legislature further finds and declares all of the
3 following:

4 (a) The state will continue to experience significant climate
5 change impacts by 2050 that include human mortality, coastal
6 degradation, extreme droughts, wildfires, flooding, and increased
7 air pollution. By 2100, if emissions of greenhouse gases continue
8 to rise at current rates, the increasing frequency of extreme weather
9 will have a dramatic impact on all facets of living in the state.
10 Wildfires will increase significantly, up 77 percent by the end of
11 the century based on recent moderate averages. Sea-level rise will
12 affect not only coastlines and beaches but also public and private
13 property, including airports and freeways. Drought periods will
14 be longer and more frequent than the state has experienced before,
15 which will impact the amount of water that the state will need to
16 supply resident needs, from showers to food crops. Diseases and
17 other public health risks will lead to an increased mortality rate,
18 particularly for the most vulnerable populations in the state.

19 (b) The state has committed to reducing emissions of greenhouse
20 gases to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 (Chapter 249 of
21 the Statutes of 2016 (Senate Bill 32)) with the goal of reaching
22 carbon neutrality by 2045. Furthermore, a majority of Californians
23 have said it is important for the state to be a leader on climate
24 change. The international body of scientists tracking climate change
25 has determined that temperatures are rising faster than anticipated
26 and climate impacts are accelerating sooner than expected. The
27 international community, including California, must reduce
28 emissions of greenhouse gases faster and more dramatically than
29 previously believed to avoid a climate catastrophe.

30 (c) The anticipated costs associated with the impacts of climate
31 change by 2050 in the state, from human health impacts to
32 infrastructure damage, are on the order of hundreds of billions of
33 dollars. Adaptation efforts and resources to prepare communities
34 and minimize climate impacts, particularly to disadvantaged
35 communities, are needed to ensure the resiliency of vulnerable
36 populations in the state.

37 (d) California was one of the first states in the nation to put
38 environmental justice considerations into law and defines
39 environmental justice as the fair treatment of people of all races,
40 cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption,

1 implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws,
2 regulations, and policies.

3 (e) The state has among the highest costs of living, one of the
4 highest rates of homelessness, and the highest level of childhood
5 poverty of any state in the nation. Income inequality is widening
6 throughout the state, and wage stagnation has continued for many
7 workers. Low-income populations are the most likely to suffer
8 from extreme weather, fires, and other impacts of climate change.

9 (f) The state's social compact of the 1950s and 1960s promised
10 that every child who studied hard would have access to an
11 affordable college education. It promised that no state resident
12 would be without shelter. It promised that all state residents would
13 share in bearing the costs of this compact in an equitable way
14 because all state residents and state business enterprises would
15 benefit. That compact was weakened in the 1970s, 1980s, and
16 1990s. In the 2000s, the Legislature has slowly begun to restore
17 the compact. Those efforts must accelerate to reduce the state's
18 poverty rate, increase equity, restore educational and job
19 opportunities, and protect public health and the environment.

20 71442. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Legislature
21 and state agencies consider all of the following goals:

22 (a) Enacting measures to ensure a just transition in California
23 for workers impacted by the phasing out of fossil fuels.

24 (b) Ensuring that the jobs created or maintained by climate
25 policy are good, family-supporting jobs with career ladders,
26 benefits and protections for workers' rights to organize, and that
27 pipelines into these jobs are created for workers from historically
28 disadvantaged communities, in accord with the recommendations
29 of the climate labor report mandated in Chapter 135 of the Statutes
30 of 2017 (Assembly Bill 398).

31 (c) Significantly increasing measures to assist those impacted
32 by the effects of climate change, including, but not limited to,
33 floods, fires, heatwaves, sea level rise, droughts, and disease.

34 (d) Significantly reducing disparate standard of living indices
35 for historically impacted communities of color, including income
36 inequality, educational achievement gaps, health care access gaps,
37 and environmental burdens by 2030.

38 (e) Increasing affordable housing and public transportation by
39 double their current availability by 2030, maximizing safe,

1 complete streets for walking and biking, and replacing remaining
2 gas vehicles with electric vehicles.

3 (f) Accelerating reductions of air pollution to avoid the most
4 catastrophic impacts of climate change.

5 71443. (a) The California Green New Deal Council is hereby
6 created in state government. The governor shall appoint to the
7 California Green New Deal Council all of the following:

8 (1) The Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency.

9 (2) The Secretary for Environmental Protection.

10 (3) The Secretary of Transportation.

11 (4) The Secretary of California Health and Human Services.

12 (5) The Secretary of Business, Consumer Services, and Housing.

13 (6) The Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development.

14 (7) The Director of the Office of Planning and Research.

15 (b) (1) Notwithstanding Section 10231.5 of the Government
16 Code, no later than January 1, 2022, the California Green New
17 Deal Council shall submit a report to the Legislature that makes
18 recommendations on appropriate policies to achieve the goals of
19 Section 71442.

20 (2) The report to be submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall
21 be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
22 Code.