

Shall the measure, advising the Mayor to engage citizens and experts in the development of Vision 2050, a 30-year plan to identify and guide implementation of climate-smart, technologically-advanced, integrated and efficient infrastructure to support a safe, vibrant and resilient future for Berkeley, be adopted?

Financial Implications: Unknown costs, plan dependent.

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

EXPRESSING THE PEOPLE’S GOAL OF ACHIEVING MORE RESILIENT AND CLIMATE-SMART INFRASTRUCTURE AND ADVISING THE MAYOR TO WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP VISION 2050, A 30-YEAR SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN FOR COUNCIL ADOPTION THAT IDENTIFIES AND GUIDES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CLIMATE-SMART, TECHNOLOGICALLY-ADVANCED, INTEGRATED AND EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, infrastructure comprises the physical assets and networks necessary to provide essential services including transportation, technology, energy, water, sewer, storm water, clean air, watersheds, and parks and waterfront; 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, despite efforts and achievements informed by these plans, much of our infrastructure – streets, roads, sidewalks, storm drains, parks, the marina and waterfront – that is foundational to these advancements were constructed more than 70 years ago during the Works Projects Administration; and

WHEREAS, many cities across the United States, including Berkeley, are faced with infrastructure that is approaching the end of its useful life and in need of repair or replacement; and

WHEREAS, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) released their Infrastructure Scorecard for 2017 and gave American infrastructure a grade of D+; and

WHEREAS, although the \$100 million-dollar Measure T1 General Obligation Bond was approved by voters on November 8, 2016, and will be used to repair, renovate, replace or reconstruct aging infrastructure and facilities, our restoration needs far exceed what this bond can fund; and

WHEREAS, we are faced with rapidly changing technologies and exponentially worsening predictions of climate change impacts; and

WHEREAS, by 2050, the California Natural Resources Council projects San Francisco Bay water levels will rise at least one foot; and

WHEREAS, the scientific consensus is the San Francisco Bay and its eastern shoreline, which includes Berkeley, can expect extensive changes to our built and natural environment, such as massive erosion, inundated freeway sections, and habitat destruction; and

WHEREAS, sea level rise coupled with new weather patterns, increased storm surges and intensity, and water table rise will create a greater total impact of climate induced flooding within much of our lowland community; and

WHEREAS, in the face of these challenges we need to have infrastructure that is more sustainable and resilient; and

WHEREAS, we also have technology that is rapidly changing and infrastructure systems must be flexible and adaptable to future needs. Emerging technologies are becoming available that will affect the way we build and use our future infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley needs integrated and long-lasting infrastructure to provide multiple benefits, and be environmentally and financially sustainable; and

WHEREAS, our community will benefit from having an integrated long-range plan that will provide a reliable and safe infrastructure system to ensure a healthy economy, public safety, and quality of life in Berkeley.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the People of the City of Berkeley hereby establish the goal of achieving more resilient and climate-smart infrastructure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor should work with the community to develop Vision 2050, a 30-year sustainable infrastructure plan for Council adoption that identifies and guides the implementation of climate-smart, technologically-advanced, integrated and efficient infrastructure to support a safe, vibrant and resilient future for Berkeley.

CITY ATTORNEY'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF ADVISORY MEASURE ___

This measure was placed on the ballot by the City Council.

The measure would express the voters' goal of establishing a 30-year plan, known as Vision 2050, to ensure that the City has a long-range plan to achieve a more resilient and sustainable infrastructure system. The plan would build upon Measure G and the Berkeley Climate Action Plan, which were adopted in 2006 and 2009, respectively, and which set the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 33% of 2000 levels by 2020, and 80% by 2050, and the Resilience Strategy, which is intended to ensure that Berkeley is "resilient and prepared for the impacts of global warming."

The measure states that much of Berkeley's infrastructure, such as streets, sidewalks, storm drains, parks, and the marina and waterfront, was built more than 70 years ago and is in need of repair and replacement. Climate change, including a rise in the level of the San Francisco Bay, is expected to cause significant changes to the City's infrastructure and natural environment, such as erosion, inundated freeway sections, and habitat destruction. The goal of the Vision 2050 plan is to ensure that Berkeley is prepared for climate change by identifying and guiding the implementation of a climate-smart, technologically advanced, integrated, and efficient infrastructure system.

The measure would direct the Mayor to work with the community to develop the plan and present it to the City Council for its consideration.

s/FARIMAH BROWN
Berkeley City Attorney

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE R

Support a safe, vibrant and resilient future for Berkeley. Vote YES on Measure R.

Much of Berkeley's infrastructure – streets, sewers, sidewalks, storm drains, parks and public buildings – were built more than 70-years ago and are approaching the end of their lifespan. Aging infrastructure is costly to operate and maintain, and the backlog of deferred maintenance coupled with record high construction costs only add to the challenge of keeping up with repair needs.

At the same time, we are faced with the potential for a major earthquake at any time, rapidly changing technologies, and exponentially worsening climate change predictions. Berkeley and the Bay Area are already experiencing unprecedented wildfires, and the threat of extreme weather conditions and sea level rise will only increase over time.

Simply restoring existing infrastructure as-is in perpetuity will not prepare our city for the many changes to come. That is why we need infrastructure that is resilient, adaptable and includes emerging technologies and materials. And we need to start planning now.

Our community must be protected from climate induced flooding, inundated roadways, erosion, unsafe buildings and fires. Technologies are also advancing, such as micro-grids, self-driving vehicles and permeable pavements that Berkeley can utilize. The city's infrastructure should withstand and recover from climatic, fire and seismic events, incorporate the latest technologies, and be environmentally and financially sustainable.

Measure R directs the Mayor to lead a community process to develop Vision 2050, a 30-year infrastructure plan, with the goal of creating climate-smart, technologically-advanced, integrated and efficient infrastructure that prepares our city for the future.

Let's build on our legacy of innovation and environmental stewardship, and together create a resilient city.

Please join a unanimous City Council, the Sierra Club and League of Women Voters in supporting Measure R.

/s/ Jesse Arreguin, Mayor of Berkeley

/s/ Susan Wengraf, Berkeley City Councilmember

/s/ Luis Amezcua, *Chair, Sierra Club Northern Alameda County Group*

/s/ Ray Yep, Chair, Public Works Commission

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CITY OF BERKELEY
CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT

/s/ Gordon Wozniak, former Berkeley City Councilmember, 2002-2014

Jesse Arreguin, author
Jesse Arreguin