

RESOLUTION NO. 62,783–N.S.

ENDORING THE KYOTO PROTOCOL CALLING FOR THE REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS AND URGING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO JOIN MOST OF THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO REDUCE EMISSIONS TO ADDRESS THE THREAT POSED BY GLOBAL WARMING

WHEREAS, the weight of scientific authority has concluded that greenhouse gases caused by human activity are increasingly altering the Earth's climate; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) created in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization states unequivocally that the consensus of scientific opinion is that Earth's climate is being affected by human activities; and

WHEREAS, the National Academy of Sciences report, *Climate Change Science: An Analysis of Some Key Questions*, states that "Greenhouse gases are accumulating in the Earth's atmosphere as a result of human activities, causing surface air temperatures and subsurface ocean temperatures to rise"; and

WHEREAS, the American Meteorological Society, the American Geophysical Union, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) all have issued statements in recent years concluding that the evidence for human modification of climate is compelling; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of State, issued its "US Climate Action Report" (<http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/content/ResourceCenterPublicationsUSClimateActionReport.html>) in May 2002, which concluded that "greenhouse gases are accumulating in the Earth's atmosphere as a result of human activities, causing global mean surface air temperature and subsurface ocean temperature to rise"; and

WHEREAS, the effects of global warming are having the greatest impact on some of the poorest nations of our global community; and

WHEREAS, the pollution that causes global warming often affects poor and minority communities disproportionately; and

WHEREAS, the solution to global warming will require a significant reduction in greenhouse gases by all nations of the Earth, particularly by those industrialized nations that are currently making the greatest contribution of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, after a five-year development process, the United Nations negotiated an agreement known as the Kyoto Protocol in which mandatory targets on greenhouse-gas emissions were established for the world's leading economies; and

WHEREAS, as of December 16, 2004, 132 states and regional economic integration organizations have ratified the Kyoto Protocol; and

WHEREAS, the Kyoto Protocol will now be implemented on February 16, 2005 after the Russian legislature ratified the Kyoto Protocol in November 2004; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America, responsible for the production of 25% of the world's greenhouse gases, has refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol; and

WHEREAS, US cities and States are undertaking efforts to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions without the support of the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has been striving to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions since it became a member of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Cities for Climate Protection Campaign in 1995 (<http://www.iclei.org/>); and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is charged with protecting the public's health and the environment and is aware of its responsibility to the larger global community; and

WHEREAS, the problem of global warming cannot be resolved without the help and support of all citizens and their institutions.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley officially endorses the Kyoto Protocol and will endeavor to continue to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions until it reaches a climate neutral or "net-zero" greenhouse gas contribution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Berkeley calls on private citizens, employers, businesses, the University of California, and all cities, towns, and municipalities, across America to join it in endorsing the Kyoto Protocol and to demonstrate a similar commitment to addressing the problem of global warming.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Berkeley City Council on January 18, 2005 by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Anderson, Capitelli, Maio, Moore, Olds, Spring, Worthington, Wozniak and Mayor Bates.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Attest: Sara T. Cox
Sara T. Cox, Acting City Clerk

Tom Bates
Tom Bates, Mayor