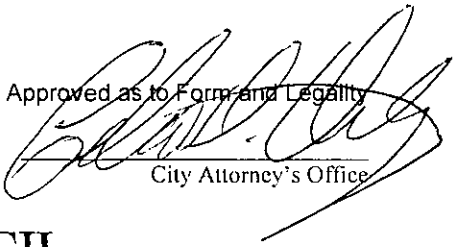


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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

13 MAY -9 PM 3: 52

Approved as to Form and Legality


City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER KALB

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REDUCING HEAT-TRAPPING GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT

WHEREAS, the decade from 2000 to 2010 was the warmest on record¹, 2005 and 2010 tied for the hottest years on record²; and January through September 2012 were the warmest first nine months of any year on record for the contiguous U.S.³; and

WHEREAS, the current level of CO₂ in the atmosphere is approximately 392 parts per million⁴ (ppm); and

WHEREAS, one of the world's leading climate scientists, Dr. James Hansen, stated in 2008, "If humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted, paleoclimate evidence and climate change suggest that CO₂ will need to be reduced from its current 385 ppm to at most 350 ppms;" and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency determined that current and future greenhouse gas concentrations endanger public healths, and according to the Global Humanitarian Forum climate change is already responsible every year for some 300,000 deaths, 325 million people seriously affected, and economic losses worldwide of U.S. \$125 billion⁷; and

WHEREAS, extreme weather events, most notably heat waves and precipitation extremes, are striking with increased frequency⁸, with deadly consequences for people and wildlife, and, in the United States in 2011 alone, a record 14 weather and climate disasters occurred, including droughts, heat waves, and floods, that cost at least \$1 billion each in damages and loss of human lives⁹; and

WHEREAS, climate change creates conditions that lead to more destructive storms like 2012's Superstorm Sandy¹⁰, by loading storms with more energy and more rainfall¹¹, raising sea levels and causing storm surge to ride on a higher sea surface so that more coastline floods¹², and warming the Arctic and melting sea ice, which causes changes in the jet stream that are bringing more extreme weather to the U.S.¹³; and

WHEREAS, climate change is affecting food security by reducing the growth and yields of important crops¹⁴; droughts, floods and changes in snowpack are altering water supplies¹⁵; as of October 2, 2012, 64.6 percent of the contiguous U.S. was experiencing moderate-to-exceptional drought¹⁶; and, in

2012, the U.S. Department of Agriculture designated more than half (50.3 percent) of all U.S. counties disaster areas, mainly due to drought¹⁷; and

WHEREAS, scientists have concluded that by 2100 as many as one in 10 species may be on the verge of extinction due to climate change¹⁸; and

WHEREAS, the world's land-based ice is rapidly melting, threatening water supplies in many regions and raising sea levels¹⁹, and Arctic summer sea ice extent has decreased to about half what it was several decades ago²⁰, and reached a record low in 2012²¹, with an accompanying drastic reduction in sea-ice thickness and volume²², which is severely jeopardizing ice-dependent animals²³; and

WHEREAS, global sea level is rising 60 percent faster than projected by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change²⁴, sea level rise is accelerating in pace²⁵, and sea level could rise by one to two meters in this century, threatening millions of Americans with severe flooding²⁶; and

WHEREAS, for four decades, the Clean Air Act has protected the air we breathe through a proven, comprehensive, successful system of pollution control that saves lives and creates economic benefits exceeding its costs by many times²⁷; and

WHEREAS, with the Clean Air Act, air quality in this country has improved significantly since 1970, despite major growth both in our economy and industrial production; and

WHEREAS, between 1970 and 1990, six pollutants covered by the Clean Air Act — particulate matter and ground-level ozone (both of which contribute to smog and asthma), carbon monoxide, lead, sulfur and nitrogen oxides (the pollutants that cause acid rain) — were reduced by between 47 percent and 93 percent, and airborne lead was virtually eliminated; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act has produced economic benefits valued at \$2 trillion or 30 times the cost of regulation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Massachusetts vs. EPA* (2007) that greenhouse gases are "air pollutants" as defined by the Clean Air Act and the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to regulate them; and

WHEREAS, at the Organizing for Action "Founders Summit" on March 13, 2013, President Barack Obama urged participants to give vulnerable lawmakers the political support needed to back aggressive action on climate change²⁸ and the enforcement activity and implementing regulations of the Clean Air Act leave room for improvement, such as applying rules regarding new stationary sources of greenhouse gas pollution to *existing* power plants rather than only to *future* power plants²⁹ and appropriately budgeting the Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, the American Lung Association's State of the Air 2013 report card for California³⁰ graded Alameda County's air quality with an 'F' in High Ozone Days category and a 'D' in Particle Pollution category and the health dangers of polluted air remain a significant concern for the residents of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, The City Council of Oakland adopted the Oakland Energy and Climate Action Plan on December 4, 2012 in order to identify and prioritize actions that Oakland can take to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Biological Diversity is spearheading an effort calling on U.S. cities to pass a resolution urging the Environmental Protection Agency and President Obama to use the Clean Air Act to curb climate change and, as May 2013, more than 50 cities have passed resolutions in support of the Clean Air Cities campaign, including Berkeley, Los Angeles, Richmond, San Francisco, San Leandro, and Santa Cruz; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, The Oakland City Council, on behalf of the residents of Oakland, do hereby urge the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and President Barack Obama to move swiftly to fully employ and enforce the Clean Air Act to do our part to reduce carbon in our atmosphere to no more than 350 parts per million; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and President Barack Obama.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, REID,
SCHAAF, AND PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN

NOES -
ABSENT -
ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of
the City of Oakland, California

ENDNOTES

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