



Office of the Mayor

Consent Calendar
July 13, 2010

To: Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Tom Bates

Subject: Supporting California Air Resources Board's Leadership in the Development of Programs to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Pollution in California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution supporting the State of California and the California Air Resources Board leadership in developing and adopting expanded Low Emission Vehicle (LEV III) standards to reduce criteria air pollutants and greenhouse gases and to strengthen the state's zero emission vehicle program to protect the health of California's economy, environment and its people.

BACKGROUND:

We applaud the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for its leadership in the development of programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution in California. Our state's landmark global warming strategies provide a roadmap for transitioning to a robust, clean economy while also presenting opportunities for significant public health and environmental benefits.

CARB is currently reviewing its suite of vehicle emissions programs with the goal of updating and strengthening these clean cars programs to achieve increased emissions reductions from the transportation sector. These actions include expanding California's Low Emission Vehicle (LEV III) program to reduce criteria pollutants and greenhouse gas pollution from new vehicles, and strengthening California's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) program (please see enclosed fact sheet). CARB will vote on important updates to the clean cars program this fall.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

None

CONTACT PERSON:

Mayor Tom Bates 981-7100

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. California Clean Cars Program Fact Sheet

RESOLUTION NO.

SUPPORTING THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD'S LEADERSHIP IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES FOR MEETING CALIFORNIA'S GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION TARGETS, AND IN PROMOTING EMISSION REDUCTIONS FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

WHEREAS, California is experiencing a public health crisis due to poor air quality, with over 90% of Californians living in areas that exceed federal health-based ozone standards; and exposure to elevated levels of ozone and other pollutants such as particulate matter annually contributes to hundreds of thousands of asthma attacks and tens of thousands of hospitalizations and premature deaths due to heart and lung disease; and recent research conducted by the RAND Corporation found that hospital care related to elevated pollution levels in California cost nearly \$200 million from 2005 to 2007; and

WHEREAS, higher temperatures resulting from global warming can create conditions that are ideal for the formation of ground-level ozone, a pollutant that causes severe adverse health impacts, including asthma attacks, hospitalizations and even premature deaths; and without significant actions the State of California faces billions of dollars in public health damages; and

WHEREAS, California is expected to face more intense heat waves, more frequent droughts, flooding, agricultural losses, greater energy demand and the potential loss of trillions of dollars in real estate due to sea level rise, increased wildfires and rising temperatures associated with global warming; and

WHEREAS, the California Legislature enacted the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32: Nuñez/Pavley, 2006) to address global warming by reducing California's greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020; and the Governor issued Executive Order S-3-05 further directing the state to reduce emissions by 80 percent by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the pursuit of these climate goals has spawned innovative and progressive policies and programs to address climate change, air quality, energy independence, and sustainable development; and

WHEREAS, California's dependence on petroleum for 97 percent of its transportation needs and its reliance on imported oil leaves California susceptible to volatile pricing and supply disruptions; and

WHEREAS, California's Clean Cars (AB 1493: Pavley, 2002), Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) and Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) programs reduce petroleum consumption, support new jobs and investments in California's emerging green economy and spur innovation in low and zero emission vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the California Legislature enacted Senate Bill 375 (SB 375: Steinberg, 2008) to encourage integrated land use and transportation planning that supports air quality and public health goals and emphasizes reductions in vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions by promoting alternatives to driving, such as practical walking, biking and mass transit options; and

WHEREAS, California's history of national leadership is critical to protecting public health, creating a new green economy and spurring action on global warming pollution nationally.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley supports the State of California and the California Air Resources Board in its efforts to implement AB 32 policies and programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while also advancing public health, air quality, the environment and the green economy in California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley encourages the State of California and the California Air Resources Board to establish ambitious regional greenhouse gas reduction targets as envisioned by SB 375 and to work with local governments to incentivize integrated land use and transportation planning that supports air quality and public health goals and emphasizes reductions in vehicle miles traveled through alternatives to driving, such as practical walking, biking and mass transit options.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley urges the State of California and the California Air Resources Board to continue its national and international leadership role in promoting clean vehicle technologies by moving forward quickly to develop and adopt expanded Low Emission Vehicle (LEV III) standards to reduce criteria air pollutants and greenhouse gases and to strengthen the state's zero emission vehicle program to protect the health of California's economy, environment and its people.