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Date: October 11, 2018
To: City Council
From: Councilmembers Rebecca Kaplan and Dan Kalb, Mayor Libby Schaaf, and City Attorney Barbara Parker
Re: RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

Dear Colleagues on the City Council and Members of the Public,

The threat of climate change and urgent need to combat it is intensifying, as can be seen by the increase in wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather. A recent state report, *Rising Seas in California*, projects the possibility of up to 10 feet of sea level rise in the San Francisco Bay by 2100, a scenario consistent with rapid Antarctic ice sheet mass loss that would be catastrophic to Oakland and every other coastal community.

As a City, we recognize the importance of environmental health, and the importance of doing our part to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt climate change. For this reason, we are introducing this Resolution declaring a climate emergency, and requesting regional collaboration to restore a safe climate.

The Resolution calls on the City to act urgently to reduce citywide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible towards zero net emissions, immediately initiate an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere, and accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts. It calls for community education and participation, and commits to keeping of the outcomes to vulnerable communities central to all climate mobilization efforts. Finally, it calls for a regional, national, and worldwide effort to reverse global warming and move towards a sustainable economy.

We hope to have your support for this important Resolution, which will be heard at the October 23rd Public Works Committee, and October 30th City Council Meeting.

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City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER REBECCA KAPLAN AND DAN KALB,
MAYOR LIBBY SCHAAF, AND CITY ATTORNEY BARBARA PARKER

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep warming "well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels" and to "pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C"; and

WHEREAS, the death and destruction already caused by global warming of approximately 1°C demonstrates has increased and intensified wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, climate change and the global economy's conflict with ecological limits are contributing to mass extinction of species, which could devastate much of life on Earth for the next 10 million years; and

WHEREAS, a recent state report, Rising Seas in California, projects a conservative estimate of between 1 and 3.4 feet of sea level rise in the San Francisco Bay by 2100; and

WHEREAS, the range of projections in the state report includes the possibility of up to 10 feet of sea level rise in the San Francisco Bay by 2100, a scenario consistent with rapid Antarctic ice sheet mass loss that would be catastrophic to Oakland and every other coastal community; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has disproportionately contributed to the climate and ecological crises and has repeatedly obstructed global efforts to transition toward a sustainable economy, and thus bears an extraordinary responsibility to rapidly solve these crises; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires an emergency mobilization to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors, to rapidly and safely draw down or remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt climate change; and

WHEREAS, justice requires that frontline communities, which have historically borne the brunt of the extractive fossil-fuel economy, participate actively in the planning and implementation of this mobilization effort at all levels of government and that they benefit first from the transition to a renewable energy economy; and

WHEREAS, fairness demands a guarantee of high-paying, good-quality jobs with comprehensive benefits for all and many other tenets of a Green New Deal effort as the mobilization to restore a safe climate is launched; and

WHEREAS, the term “Just Transition” is a framework for a fair shift to an economy that is ecologically sustainable, equitable and just for all its members; and

WHEREAS, just transition strategies were first forged by a ‘blue-green’ alliance of labor unions and environmental justice groups who saw the need to phase out the industries that were harming workers, community health and the planet, while also providing just pathways for workers into new livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, just transition initiatives shift the economy from dirty energy to energy democracy, from funding highways to expanding public transit, from incinerators and landfills to zero waste, from industrial food systems to food sovereignty, from car-dependent sprawl and unbridled growth to smart urban development without displacement, and from rampant, destructive over-development to habitat and ecosystem restoration; and

WHEREAS, core to a just transition is equity, self-determination, culture, tradition, deep democracy, and the belief that people around the world have a fundamental human right to clean, healthy and adequate air, water, land, food, education and shelter; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland has begun a robust process to create a newly revised and expanded Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) to meet or exceed the Council-adopted GHG emission reduction target of 56% by the year 2030 and 83% by 2050 using the year 2005 as the baseline, while still implementing priority actions under the 2012-adopted Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland can act as a global leader by both converting to an ecologically, socially and economically regenerative economy, and by catalyzing a unified regional just transition and urgent climate mobilization effort; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland commits to a citywide just transition and urgent climate mobilization effort to reverse global warming, which, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from the County of Alameda and State and Federal authorities, reduces citywide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible towards zero net emissions, immediately initiates an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere, and accelerates adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland commits to educating our residents about the climate emergency and working to catalyze a just transition and urgent climate mobilization effort at the local, state, national, and global levels to provide maximum protection for our residents as well as all the people and species of the world; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland underscores the need for full community participation, inclusion, and support, and recognizes that the residents of Oakland, and community organizations, faith, youth, labor, business, academic institutions, homeowners’ associations and environmental, economic, science-based, racial, gender, family and disability justice and indigenous, immigrant and women’s rights organizations

and other such allies who will be integral to and in the leadership of the mobilization effort; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland commits to keeping of the outcomes to vulnerable communities central to all just transition and urgent climate mobilization effort planning processes and invites and encourages such communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland joins a nation-wide call for a regional just transition and urgent climate mobilization collaborative effort focused on transforming our region, enacting policies that dramatically reduce heat-trapping emissions, and rapidly catalyzing a mobilization at all levels of government to restore a safe climate; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland calls on the State of California, the United States of America, and all national and sub-national governments and peoples worldwide to initiate a just transition and urgent climate mobilization effort to reverse global warming by restoring near pre-industrial global average temperatures and greenhouse gas concentrations, that immediately halts the development of all new fossil fuel infrastructure, rapidly phases out all fossil fuels and the technologies which rely upon them, ends human-induced greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible, initiates an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere, transitions to regenerative agriculture, ends the potential for a sixth mass extinction, and creates high-quality, good-paying jobs with comprehensive benefits for those who will be impacted by this transition.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, GUILLÉN, KALB, KAPLAN, AND PRESIDENT REID

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

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

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