

MAY 01 2012

12-0002-543

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the Clean Air Act has improved air quality significantly since 1970, reducing pollutants such as particulate matter, ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide, lead, sulfur, and nitrogen oxides between 47 and 93 percent; and

WHEREAS, this reduction in pollution has coincided with a major growth both in our economy and industrial production, and it is estimated that the Clean Air Act's implementation has produced economic benefits valued at \$2 trillion, over 30 times the cost of the regulation; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, amendments were made to the Clean Air Act to direct the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reduce mercury pollution and another 188 toxic air pollutants, and the US Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit unanimously ruled that the EPA must meet its obligation to require deep reductions in mercury pollution; and

WHEREAS, coal-fired power plants are the largest source of unregulated mercury pollution in the country, and mercury pollution threatens the health of between one in six and one in twelve women in Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, in December 2011 the EPA finalized national standards to reduce mercury and other toxic air pollution from coal and oil-fired power plants, allowing up to four years to clean up such plants; and

WHEREAS, by 2016 the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard proposed by the EPA will avoid as many as 11,000 premature deaths, 130,000 cases of aggravated asthma, 540,000 missed days of work, and save the country \$90 billion in public health costs; 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, in the same case, the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that the EPA has the authority to regulate these air pollutants. In their regulatory efforts, the EPA has taken initial steps toward curbing greenhouse pollution under the Clean Air Act by issuing a formal finding that greenhouse pollution endangers public health and welfare and is moving to limit emissions from passenger cars and trucks; and

WHEREAS, the decade from 2000 to 2010 was the warmest on record, and 2005 and 2010 tied for the hottest years on record, and extreme weather events are striking with increased frequency with deadly consequences for people and wildlife; and


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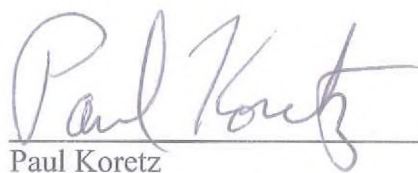
WHEREAS, according to the Global Humanitarian Forum climate change is already annually responsible some 300,000 deaths, 325 million people seriously affected, and economic losses worldwide of \$125 billion; and

WHEREAS, The City of Los Angeles has been a leader in the fight against climate change and consistently fought to improve air quality in the Los Angeles basin, and as home to the largest publicly owned utility in the nation has committed to replacing the 39% of its power that comes from coal-fired power with cleaner sources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2012-13 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for any administrative action which would fully implement and enforce the Clean Air Act on the timeline promulgated by EPA, in order to reduce mercury and other toxins in the air and carbon in the atmosphere, including actions that place nationally applicable limits on mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants, reduce industrial carbon pollution, reduce emissions from passenger cars and trucks, and/or require major new or modified stationary sources of greenhouse pollution to obtain permits and controls for their emissions before beginning construction.

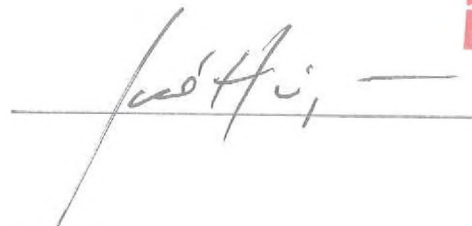
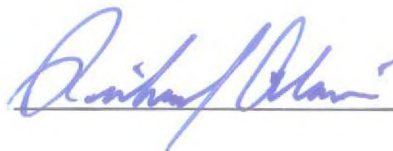
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City opposes all efforts by American Public Power Association or others to block or delay these critically important efforts by the Environmental Protection Agency.

PRESENTED BY:



Paul Koretz
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL