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Tom Gilmore, *Chairman*

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DEPUTY

To Honorable Members of the City Council of the City of Los Angeles

Attention: Holly Wolcott, City Clerk's Office

SUBJECT: Council File #14-0907 Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emission 80% of 1990 levels by 2050 and Request Sister Cities of Los Angeles

**SUMMARY:**

Councilmember Paul Koretz has introduced a motion, CF# 14-0907, dated June 27, 2014, which calls on the City to pursue a Citywide greenhouse gas emissions reductions target of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 and a Department of Water & Power greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 80% below 1990 levels by 2030.

The motion also requests that the Sister Cities of Los Angeles provide a report back to the City Council through the Trade Commerce and Tourism Committee and the Energy and Environment Committee on efforts to ask its member cities who have not already done so to adopt equally-aggressive or stronger greenhouse gas emission reduction policies and targets.

**BACKGROUND:**

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a Synthesis Report which distills and integrates the findings of the three working group contributions to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report – the most comprehensive assessment of climate change yet undertaken. The report states that “Human influence on the climate system is clear, and recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history. Recent climate changes have had widespread impacts on human and natural systems.” It goes on to state that “Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and since the 1950s, many of the observed changes are unprecedented over decades to millennia. The atmosphere and ocean have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, and sea level has risen.”

The IPCC report, “Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change,” defines climate change mitigation as “a human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.” “Mitigation, together with adaptation to climate change, contributes to the objective expressed in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):

“The ultimate objective of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties (COP) may adopt is to achieve...stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not



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threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.”

A World Bank report released on November 8, 2015, found that rising global temperatures stand to push more than 100 million people into extreme poverty in the next 15 years, with sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia most at risk. A number of the Sister Cities lie within these regions, including Lusaka, Zambia; Guangzhou, China; Taipei, Taiwan; Makati, Philippines; Jakarta, Indonesia; and Mumbai, India. Additionally, the report finds that Mumbai and Jakarta are among those cities most vulnerable to flooding.

**CONCLUSION:**

Especially on behalf of its most vulnerable sister cities, the Sister Cities of Los Angeles stands prepared to encourage its member cities to join or exceed Los Angeles in its goal to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 80% of 1990 levels by 2050, as well as its power system 80% below 1990 levels by 2030.

The Sister Cities will also establish an open channel for sharing best greenhouse gas mitigation practices among the Sister Cities in how to achieve those goals.

Best regards,

Tom Gilmore  
Chairman  
Sister Cities of Los Angeles