14-0907

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

MOTION

TRADE, COMMERCE & TOURISM

Severe weather events, including drought, likely caused by a heating global climate, have afflicted people and cities around the world – costing hundreds of thousands of human lives and hundreds of billions of dollars annually. The Obama administration recently released the Third National Climate Assessment, which states that the warming of the planet, with human consumption of fossil fuels, will have severe consequences for every region of the United States.

"Risky Business," a report on the climate change threats to the U.S. economy released by former U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, ex-New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and hedge-fund billionaire Tom Steyer, states that climate impacts could cost businesses billions of dollars.

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Fifth Assessment Report (2014) which addressed worldwide impacts of and vulnerabilities to climate change. According to *The New York Times,* the IPCC found that "decades of foot-dragging by political leaders had propelled humanity into a critical situation, with greenhouse emissions rising faster than ever," and that, "Though it remains technically possible to keep planetary warming to a tolerable level, only an intensive push over the next 15 years to bring those emissions under control can achieve the goal."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency states that "in low income communities, [climate] impacts have already been distressing, including heat-related illness and death; respiratory ailments; increases in the proliferation of infectious diseases; unaffordable rises in energy costs; loss of farm land, and crushing natural disasters." Disproportionately, the burden of dirty energy is born by low-income communities and communities of color. Yet, an equitable expansion of clean energy presents the potential for an unprecedented investment in these same communities.

UCLA and the City's climate change report series, "Mid-Century Warming" and "Mid- and End-of-Century Snowfall in the Los Angeles Region," shows a tripling and quadrupling of extreme heat days in the City and that the region's mountains may see a reduction in snowfall of up to 42% below annual averages, if greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase. If immediate efforts are made to substantially reduce emissions, mid-century loss of snow will be limited to 31%. If emissions are not curbed, the mountains will lose 66% of their snowfall by the end of the century, compared with present day. In response, UCLA has enacted a university-wide Grand Challenge target of 100% renewable energy in the Los Angeles region by 2050.

A target for reducing all greenhouse gases 80% below a 1990 baseline by the year 2050 is the scientifically-accepted minimum necessary to avoid the most dangerous climate change scenarios. Unfortunately, most countries are off track from meeting the intermediate 2020 goals, which stresses a need for immediate and decisive action. A number of States, including California and New York, and Cities, including New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Portland and Minneapolis, have pledged to cut their emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

In 2007, the City established an outline for initial reductions of greenhouse gas emissions 35% below 1990 levels by 2030. City departments have taken steps accordingly, including concerted efforts by two proprietary departments whose operations make up the largest shares of emissions.

In 2010, the City's Department of Water & Power (DWP) met its Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goal of 20% and is on its way to reaching 33% by 2020. With its announced exit from coal power, DWP is well on track to reduce its emissions by at least 58% below 1990 levels by 2030.

The Port of Los Angeles adopted a Clean Air Action Plan which cut its diesel and smog forming pollution by half. A commensurate effort on greenhouse gases is desirable and appropriate.

The City is a worldwide leader, with a network of 25 Sister Cities and 3 friendship cities on 6 continents, and its policies can substantially influence policy-making elsewhere. Adoption of an aggressive policy addressing climate change could significantly and positively shift the world's current status on climate policy and deliver tangible improvements to the lives of Angelenos.

Reductions in fossil fuel burning will have a measurable impact on the nearly 47,000 asthma-induced emergency room visits across Los Angeles County every year, while the transition to clean energy across California has already spurred 47,000 jobs in the solar industry. DWP's 150 MW feed-in-tariff is on track to create 4,500 green jobs and generate $500 million in economic development, while its energy efficiency programs are expected to create 11,000 jobs by 2020. Additionally, due to its large numbers of at-risk climate communities, the City could be eligible to receive elevated levels of support from the State's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Proposition 39, and other state and federal funding sources. Climate adaptation and resiliency can stimulate new technologies and industries, attract capital, produce jobs, and generally forge a cleaner, more sustainable future for our children.

Many organizations throughout the region are already engaged in climate mitigation activities which the City has or could adopt, including, energy efficiency retrofits and educational campaigns; deployment of rooftop solar PV and solar water heating; transportation fuel conservation and switching to cleaner renewable fuels; reduction of wastes, especially organic materials, to landfills; waste conversion technologies; "cool roof" technologies; increasing plant and tree coverage; conversion of hardscapes that create "heat island" effects to permeable materials or plant-based surfaces; and, as the import of water uses great amounts of energy, water conservation, capture and reuse.

Given the above, the City should pursue a Citywide greenhouse gas emissions reduction 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.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council direct the Los Angeles World Airports, L.A. Sanitation, Port of Los Angeles, Bureau of Street Services, Department of Transportation and General

Services Department to report back to the Council in 90 days on actions they can take to reduce the City's carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions, both stationary and mobile, to at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; including the implementation of a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 as a Citywide objective and ways to incentivize City departments to meet and exceed these targets.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council direct the Department of Water and Power to report back to the Council in 90 days on actions they can take to reduce their carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions to at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2030.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council direct DWP, L.A. Sanitation and the Department of Transportation to work with all City departments as well as coordinating with UCLA's Grand Challenge, its Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, its Luskin Center for Innovation, and other relevant business, environmental and environmental justice organizations, to do a carbon risk assessment of currently-anticipated climate change, a greenhouse gas inventory of the City, and produce a Climate Action Plan for the City as a whole in order to identify affordable pathways and highest priority near-term and long-term actions needed to actively reduce the City's carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions, by the end of 2014.

I FURTHER MOVE that, in the spirit of worldwide cooperation, the Council request that the Sister Cities of Los Angeles ask its member cities who have not already done so to adopt equally-aggressive or stronger greenhouse gas emission reduction policies and targets.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council direct the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to engage the 96 neighborhood councils of Los Angeles to assist in outreach for this effort.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council direct the City Administrative Officer to report back to Council in 90 days on potential financial impacts to the City from possible worst case climate change scenarios: including, continued business-as-usual scenarios where global average temperature rises to 3 degrees C, 4.5 degrees C and 6 degrees C; and mitigated climate change scenarios where global emissions are held at 1990 levels, or reduced 80% below 1990 levels.

PRESENTED BY: _____
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: _____

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ORIGINAL