


REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: May 14, 2015

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 15-0002-S47
Assignment No: 15-05-0382

SUBJECT: Resolution (Blumenfield - Bonin) to SUPPORT SB 32 (Pavley) Greenhouse Gas Emissions Limit

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Blumenfield - Bonin) to include in the City's 2015-2016 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 32 (Pavley) to require the California Air Resources Board to approve a statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit that is equivalent to 80% below the 1990 level to be achieved by 2050 in order to ensure effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

SUMMARY:

Resolution (Blumenfield - Bonin), introduced on May 6, 2015, states that the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG). Under the Act, CARB is required to adopt a statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit equivalent to the statewide greenhouse gas emissions level in 1990 to be achieved by 2020.

The Resolution follows that SB 32 (Pavley), introduced on December 1, 2014, seeks to require CARB to approve a statewide GHG limit that is equivalent to 80% below the 1990 level to be achieved by 2050. SB 32 would also authorize CARB to adopt interim GHG emissions level targets to be achieved by 2030 and 2040.

The implementation of SB 32 should lead to statewide job growth, local economic benefits and public health benefits - particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Resolution also states that SB 32 seeks to foster innovation in technology including energy, water, and resource management practices.

The adoption of SB 32 would ultimately provide regional and international collaboration to implement similar GHG emissions reduction policies and objectives. Therefore, the Resolution requests that the City support SB 32.

BACKGROUND:

General scientific consensus shows that global GHG emission increases are leading to higher air and water temperatures, including rising sea levels. Higher temperatures are expected to result in more rain and less snow, diminishing the reserves of water in the state's Sierra Nevada snowpack. Further, the frequency of extreme weather events could increase the risk of dangerous flooding, high winds and concentrations of unhealthy air.

In addition, recent studies show that there are significant public health risks associated with climate change. Warmer average temperatures will likely lead to hotter days and increases in heat-related illnesses and deaths.

In an effort to mitigate the effects of climate change, the state has implemented key policies and related actions to reduce GHGs.

AB 32

In 2006, the state approved AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which established a statewide GHG emissions limit by 2020 and requires CARB to develop regulations and market mechanisms to achieve this objective - representing a 25% reduction in GHG statewide.

The measure also required CARB to prepare and implement a Scoping Plan to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reduction of GHG emissions by 2020, to be updated every five years.

The latest Scoping Plan Update, approved by CARB in May 2014, indicates that the state is on track to meet the near-term 2020 GHG limit and is positioned to maintain and continue reductions beyond 2020. It stresses that certain actions and strategies in the energy, transportation, fuels, agriculture and waste sectors are needed to continue emissions reductions in each of these areas.

The Scoping Plan Update also emphasized the need for the state to establish a mid-term statewide emission reduction target to frame the additional regulations, planning efforts, and clean technology investments that are needed to continue to reduce emissions and adequately protect health and safety.

The proposed measure, SB 32, intends to provide this target by establishing the GHG reduction limit of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; including interim targets at 2030 and 2040. SB 32 ultimately seeks to amend the existing AB 32 framework without any major operational changes to the regulatory implementation process.

City's RPS Program

Under the City's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Program, conducted by the Department of Water and Power (DWP), the City met a 20% renewable energy objective in 2010. The City is currently on pace to reach a renewable objective of 35% by 2020.

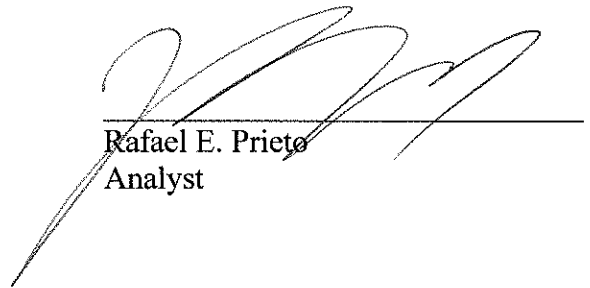
The City's program consists of a variety of renewable resources such as photovoltaic fuel cells, solar thermal, geothermal, wind, biomass, digester gas and others.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Department of Water and Power

BILL STATUS

5/5/15 Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee



Rafael E. Prieto
Analyst

Attachment: 1. Resolution (Blumenfield - Bonin)

RESOLUTION RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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 government 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, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, CARB is required to adopt a statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit equivalent to the statewide greenhouse gas emissions level in 1990 to be achieved by 2020; and

WHEREAS, SB 32 (Pavley), introduced on December 1, 2014, seeks to require CARB to approve a statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit that is equivalent to 80% below the 1990 level to be achieved by 2050; and

WHEREAS, SB 32 would also authorize CARB to adopt interim greenhouse gas emissions level targets to be achieved by 2030 and 2040; and

WHEREAS, the measure identifies various goals associated with implementation of SB 32 such as job growth and local economic benefits throughout the state; and


WHEREAS, SB 32's greenhouse gas emission reduction objectives seek to ensure public health benefits, particularly in disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, SB 32 also seeks to foster innovation in technology including energy, water, and resource management practices; and


WHEREAS, the adoption of SB 32 would ultimately provide regional and international collaboration to implement similar greenhouse gas emissions reduction policies and objectives;

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 2015-2016 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 32 (Pavley) to require the California Air Resources Board to approve a statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit that is equivalent to 80% below the 1990 level to be achieved by 2050 in order to ensure effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

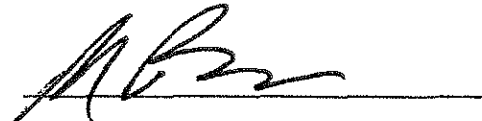
MAY 6 2015



PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3RD District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL