

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, California is in the midst of an unprecedented drought, aggravated by climate change, and, as of this writing, twelve thousand firefighters are battling fourteen active wildfires, which put the state on track to have one of its worst fire seasons ever; and

WHEREAS, the State is the 12th largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world; and

WHEREAS, existing state law [SB 2-1X chapter 1 Statutes of 2011], signed by Governor Brown, establishes the California Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) Program, which is codified in the Public Utilities Act and expresses the intent of the Legislature in that Act, with the target to increase the amount of electricity generated per year from eligible renewable energy resources to an amount that equals at least 33% of the total electricity sold to retail customers in California per year by December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, currently, most energy utilities have bought or have built enough energy resources to meet the 33% RPS before the target year; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB)-350 (Senators De Leon and Leno) seeks to reduce petroleum use in the transportation sector by 50% by the year 2030. In a CA Air Resources Board analysis, one pathway towards this goal could include reducing growth in vehicle-miles traveled to 4%; increasing on-road fuel efficiency of cars and light trucks to at least 35 mpg; improving the efficiency of heavy-duty vehicles; and at least doubling the use of alternative fuels such as biofuels, electricity, and hydrogen; and

WHEREAS, SB-350 calls for increasing energy efficiency in buildings by 50% and would require the CA Energy Commission, by January 1, 2017, and at least once every 3 years thereafter, to adopt an update to the program in furtherance of achieving a doubling of energy efficiency in buildings by January 1, 2030 and the bill would require the Energy Commission to adopt, implement, and enforce certain policy regarding ratepayer-funded energy efficiency programs; and

WHEREAS, the requirements in SB 350 closely mirror the goals set by Governor Brown in his January 2015 inaugural address; and

WHEREAS, provisions in this bill fully correspond to the goals and targets set forth in Mayor Garcetti's Sustainable City pLAN; and

WHEREAS, provisions in this bill correspond to the City's Mandatory Green Building standards for private development projects; and

WHEREAS, clean energy affects the demand for and supply of conventional energy and can result in positive effects on the energy system, the environment, and the economy as well as improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gasses emitted and consequently decrease the impacts of global warming; and

WHEREAS, the City will be most impacted by the climate change by increasing temperatures, more extreme wildfires, reduced rainfall, and, because of its proximity to the ocean, sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, LA County has the largest number of residents in the state who will be exposed to the expected extreme heat, which will severely impact the City's most vulnerable and lower-income communities, including through dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and can aggravate existing medical conditions such as diabetes, respiratory disease, kidney disease, and heart disease; and

WHEREAS, according to numerous studies, California's RPS standard has created hundreds of thousands of new jobs, millions of new investment and tax dollars, and significant clean air and climate benefits and;

WHEREAS, SB-350 proposes to increase the amount of renewables in California to 50% by 2030; and

WHEREAS, allowing all forms of solar power, including distributed generation, to count toward the 50% RPS goal is the solution that will create the greatest number of new jobs, and result in the greatest private sector investment; and

WHEREAS, the City strives to be a leader in progressive climate policy and its Department of Water and Power has chosen an Integrated Resources Plan that emphasizes electrification over fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the fossil fuel "natural gas" has significant environmental problems in the extraction process, including contamination of groundwater and substantial methane leaks. Methane has 20 times the global warming potency of carbon dioxide, which means it contributes significantly in the short-term to climate change. The inclusion of natural gas in SB-350 without attention to its perilous downside risks would therefore be counter to the bill's intent of providing climate leadership "to achieve ambient air quality standards and the state's climate goals;"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that upon the adoption of this Resolution, the Los Angeles City Council hereby includes in its 2015-2016 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 350 (De Leon and Leno) IF AMENDED to allow all forms of solar power to count without limitation as Bucket 1 towards the 50% RPS by 2030 obligation laid out by SB-350.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Koretz
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: Michelle O'Connell
Michelle O'Connell
for
Mike
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