

# REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

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DATE: March 4, 2019

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

FROM: Sharon M. Tso   
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No.: 19-0002-S16  
Assignment No.: 19-02-0181

SUBJECT: Support for electric vehicles.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Koretz - Blumenfield) to include in the City's 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT or SPONSORSHIP for legislation that would: increase incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles and electric vehicle chargers; removal of building code barriers for the installation of electric vehicle chargers; increase incentives for electric panel upgrades and modernizations; and implement measures to expand the number of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to encourage the use of electric vehicles and carpools.

## SUMMARY

While reducing gasoline powered vehicle usage should be a long-term goal, the quickest approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions is to increase the number of vehicles powered by electricity. Among the solutions to address global warming include local and state commitments to renewable energy, local and state incentives for solar power, greater energy conservation and efficiency, and zero-emission vehicles.

Electric vehicles account for ten percent of California car sales. Numerous automobile manufacturers have announced plans to increase their electric vehicle production, which will help make electric vehicles more affordable. Previous State legislative and administrative actions to reduce the amount of direct rebates to purchase electric vehicles and restrict the type of clean vehicles that are allowed free access to carpool lanes have made the purchase of electric vehicles less attractive. Although purchase prices of electric vehicles has declined over the years, they remain more expensive than ordinary cars. Only through extensive use and the expansion of electric vehicle support infrastructure, such as public and private charging stations, will these vehicles be an economical option for everyone.

The 2019-20 legislative session was convened on December 3, 2018 and the following bills related to electric vehicles were introduced by the February 22, 2019 deadline:

- AB 1424 (Berman) - requires electric vehicle charging stations to accept several methods of payment.
- AB 1100 (Kamlager-Dove) - counts electric vehicle parking spaces toward local minimum parking requirements.
- SB 638 (Allen) - removes the current monetary amount required in general liability insurance for residential electric vehicle chargers.
- SB 676 (Bradford) - states the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that accelerates electric vehicle grid integration to minimize the cost impacts of electric vehicles on ratepayers.
- AB 1238 (Cunningham) - states the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to encourage

business owners to build onsite electric vehicle charging stations.

- AB 684 (Levine) - requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to review the standards for the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure every four years and update the standards as needed.
- AB 1046 (Ting) - sets as a goal the placement in service of at least five million zero-emission vehicles by January 1, 2030; requires the forecast for the Clean Vehicle Rebate Project to include, among other things, the total state rebate investment necessary to facilitate reaching the 2030 goal and recommendation on changes to the project structure and rebate levels; require the annual update of the forecast until January 1, 2030; and would require the adoption of criteria and other requirements to ensure that rebate levels can be phased down in increments based on cumulative sales levels.
- SB 662 (Archuleta) - requires various actions relative to the use of green electrolytic hydrogen.
- SB 400 (Umberg) - expands the Clean Cars 4 All Program to include bike sharing and electric bicycles.

As each bill is considered by its legislative committees, this Office will monitor the language and make recommendations as appropriate.

#### BACKGROUND

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. The IPCC was created to provide policymakers with regular scientific assessments on climate change, its implications and potential future risks, as well as to put forward adaptation and mitigation options. The IPCC reports that nations have less than twelve years to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avert catastrophic global warming.

Governor Newsom is supporting former-Governor Brown's initiative to eliminate the State's greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. In order to meet the State's ambitious goal of economic carbon-neutrality by 2045, California will need to put 1.5 million electric cars on its roads by 2025, and five million by 2030, which is fourteen times more than are there today. Mayor Garcetti has repeatedly reaffirmed Los Angeles' commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and has pledged to make the City carbon neutral by 2050.



Maria Souza-Rountree  
Analyst

Attachment:

1. Resolution (Koretz - Blumenfield)

SMT:msr

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, the International Panel on Climate Change reports that nations have less than 12 years to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avert catastrophic global warming; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector generates the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions, which is nearly 30% in the United States; and

WHEREAS, residents of the City suffer serious health impacts from living in close proximity to freeways due to the air pollution emitted from fossil fuel-powered vehicles; and

WHEREAS, automobile manufacturers such as General Motors, Audi, Volvo, Land Rover, and BMW have all announced plans to greatly increase their electric vehicle production, which will make electric vehicles more affordable; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, the State of California has been reducing incentives that have been important in encouraging the purchase of electric vehicles; and

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 into its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT or SPONSORSHIP of legislation that would: increase incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles and electric vehicle chargers; removal of building code barriers for the installation of electric vehicle chargers; increase incentives for electric panel upgrades and modernizations; and implement measures to expand the number of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to encourage the use of electric vehicles and carpools.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, 5<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



msr

JAN 25 2013



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