

MEETING DATE: 10/22/2012

AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of a Resolution in Support of Reducing
Greenhouse Gas Pollution Under the Clean Air Act.

ATTACHMENTS

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1 billion each in damages and loss of human lives⁸; and

2 WHEREAS, climate change is affecting food security by negatively impacting
3 the growth and yields of important crops⁹, and droughts, floods and changes in snowpack
4 are altering water supplies¹⁰; and

5 WHEREAS, scientists have concluded that by 2100 as many as one in 10
6 species may be on the verge of extinction due to climate change¹¹; and

7 WHEREAS, the world's land-based ice is rapidly melting, threatening water
8 supplies in many regions and raising sea levels¹², and Arctic summer sea ice extent has
9 decreased to about half what it was several decades ago¹³, with an accompanying drastic
10 reduction in sea-ice thickness and volume¹⁴, which is severely jeopardizing ice-dependent
11 animals¹⁵; and

12 WHEREAS, sea level is rising faster along the U.S. East Coast than it has for
13 at least 2,000 years¹⁶, is accelerating in pace¹⁷, and could rise by one to two meters in this
14 century, threatening millions of Americans with severe flooding¹⁸; and

15 WHEREAS, for four decades, the Clean Air Act has protected the air we
16 breathe through a proven, comprehensive, successful system of pollution control that
17 saves lives and creates economic benefits exceeding its costs by many times¹⁹; and

18 WHEREAS, with the Clean Air Act, air quality in this country has improved
19 significantly since 1970, despite major growth both in our economy and industrial
20 production; and

21 WHEREAS, between 1970 and 1990, the six main pollutants covered by the
22 Clean Air Act — particulate matter and ground-level ozone (both of which contribute to
23 smog and asthma), carbon monoxide, lead, sulfur and nitrogen oxides (the pollutants that
24 cause acid rain) — were reduced by between 47 percent and 93 percent, and airborne
25

1 lead was virtually eliminated; and

2 WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act has produced economic benefits valued at \$2
3 trillion or 30 times the cost of regulation; and

4 WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Massachusetts vs. EPA* (2007)
5 that greenhouse gases are “air pollutants” as defined by the Clean Air Act and the
6 Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to regulate them; and

7
8 WHEREAS, The City of Culver City prides itself on being a leader in the fight
9 against climate change and for clean air, and has taken steps such as signing the U.S.
10 Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, undertaking energy efficiency
11 projects, and converting much of the City’s fleet to alternative fuels, to demonstrate this
12 commitment.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Culver City, DOES
14 HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

15
16 1. Climate change is not an abstract problem for the future or one that
17 will only affect far-distant places but rather climate change is happening now, we are
18 causing it, and the longer we wait to act, the more we lose and the more difficult the
19 problem will be to solve.

20
21 2. We, the Culver City City Council, on behalf of the residents of the City
22 of Culver City, do hereby urge the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency,
23 Lisa P. Jackson, and President Barack Obama to move swiftly to fully employ and enforce
24 the Clean Air Act to do our part to reduce carbon in our atmosphere to no more than 350
25 parts per million.

26 3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized to certify the adoption of this
27 Resolution and forward a copy of this Resolution to Lisa P. Jackson of the Environmental
28

Protection Agency and President Barack Obama.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this ____ day of _____ 2012.

ANDREW WEISSMAN, MAYOR
City of Culver City, California

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MARTIN R. COLE, City Clerk

CAROL A. SCHWAB, City Attorney

A12-00881

¹ Press Release, National Aeronautic Space Association, *NASA Research Finds Last Decade was Warmest on Record, 2009 One of the Warmest Years* (Jan. 21, 2010), www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2010/jan/HQ_10-017_Warmest_temps.html.

² National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA: 2010 *Tied for Warmest Year on Record*, www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110112_globalstats.html (last visited on 3/30/12).

³ Co2now.org, *What the World Needs to Watch*, <http://co2now.org> (last visited on 3/30/12); Earth System Research Laboratory of NOAA, *Trends in Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide*, www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends/ (last visited on 4/2/12).

⁴ J. Hansen et al., *Target atmospheric CO₂: Where should humanity aim?*, *Open Atmos. Sci.* 2, 217 (2008), <http://pubs.giss.nasa.gov/abs/ha00410c.html>.

⁵ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act*, 74 Federal Register 66496-66546 (Dec. 15, 2009) (to be codified at 40 C.F.R. ch. 1), <http://epa.gov/climatechange/endangerment.html> (last visited 4/2/12).

⁶ Global Humanitarian Forum, *The Anatomy of a Silent Crisis* (2009), www.eird.org/publicaciones/humanimpactreport.pdf, p.1 of pdf.

⁷ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), *Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation* (SREX) (2012), <http://ipcc-wg2.gov/SREX/>; U.S. Global Change Research Program, *Global Climate Change Impacts in the US: Global Climate Change* (2009), <http://www.globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts/full-report/global-climate-change>; D. Coumou and S. Rahmstorf, *A decade of weather extremes*, *Nature Climate Change* (2012), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/NCLIMATE1452>.

⁸ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, *Extreme Weather 2011*, <http://www.noaa.gov/extreme2011/> (last visited April 2, 2012); Press Release, World Meteorological Organization, 2011: *world's 10th warmest year, warmest year with La Niña on record, second-lowest Arctic sea ice extent* (2012), www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/gcs_2011_en.html.

⁹ D.B. Lobell et al., *Climate Trends and Global Crop Production Since 1980*, *Science* 333, 616 (July 29, 2011), www.sciencemag.org/content/early/2011/05/04/science.1204531.abstract; U.S. Global Change Research Program, *Global Climate Change Impacts in the US: Agriculture* (2009), www.globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts/full-report/climate-change-impacts-by-sector/agriculture.

- ¹⁰ U.S. Global Change Research Program, *Global Climate Change Impacts in the US: Water Resources* (2009), www.globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts/full-report/climate-change-impacts-by-sector/water-resources.
- ¹¹ I.M.D. Maclean and R.J. Wilson, *Recent ecological responses to climate change support predictions of high extinction risk*, PNAS 108, 12337 (2011), <http://www.pnas.org/content/108/30/12337>, summary at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/07/110711151457.htm>.
- ¹² Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), *Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report* (2007), http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/publications_ipcc_fourth_assessment_report_synthesis_report.htm, pp. 30, 49 of pdf.
- ¹³ J. Stroeve et al., *Arctic Sea Ice Extent Plummets in 2007*, EOS 89, 2 (January 8, 2008), <http://www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2008/2008EO020001.shtml>, p. 13 of pdf.
- ¹⁴ Polar Science Center, *Arctic Sea Ice Volume Anomaly*, version 2, <http://psc.apl.washington.edu/wordpress/research/projects/arctic-sea-ice-volume-anomaly/> (last visited April 3, 2012); R. Kwok and D.A. Rothrock, *Decline in Arctic sea ice thickness from submarine and ICESat records: 1958-2008*, *Geophysical Research Letters* 36, L15501 (2009), <http://www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2009/2009GL039035.shtml>.
- ¹⁵ Center for Biological Diversity and Care for the Wild International, *Extinction: It's Not Just for Polar Bears* (2010), http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/climate_law_institute/the_arctic_meltdown/arctic_extinction_report.html.
- ¹⁶ A.C. Kemp et al., *Climate related sea-level variations over the past two millennia*, PNAS 108, 11017 (2011), <http://www.pnas.org/content/108/27/11017>, summary at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/06/110620183242.htm>.
- ¹⁷ M.A. Merrifield et al., *An Anomalous Recent Acceleration of Global Sea Level Rise*, *Journal of Climate* 22, 5772 (2008), <http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/abs/10.1175/2009JCLI2985.1>.
- ¹⁸ B.H. Strauss, *Tidally adjusted estimates of topographic vulnerability to sea level rise and flooding for the contiguous United States*, *Environmental Research Letters* 7 (2012), <http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/7/1/014033>, summary at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/03/120314111738.htm>.
- ¹⁹ For Clean Air Act facts, see Center for Biological Diversity, *The Clean Air Act Works* (2011), http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/climate_law_institute/global_warming_litigation/clean_air_act/pdfs/CleanAirActWorks_032011.pdf; and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act, 1970 to 1990* (1997), <http://www.epa.gov/air/sect812/>; and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act, 1990 to 2010* (1999), <http://www.epa.gov/air/sect812/>.