

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD

RESOLUTION NO. 14,137

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD IN SUPPORT OF REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION THROUGH ENFORCEMENT OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT

WHEREAS, the City of Oxnard is committed to policies that benefit the environment and promote sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the City expresses its commitment to the environment through a multitude of policies, laws, and programs that promote sustainability; and

WHEREAS, climate change poses an unprecedented risk to the environment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oxnard's 2030 General Plan includes a policy to develop a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan that implements requirements adopted by the California Air Resources and/or the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District; and

WHEREAS, as early as the 1850's, scientists began predicting that greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels would eventually lead to the warming of the earth's surface; and

WHEREAS, the decade from 2000 to 2010 was the warmest on record, and 2005 and 2010 tied for the hottest years on record; and

WHEREAS, the current level of CO² in the atmosphere is approximately 389 parts per million (ppm); and

WHEREAS, 97 percent of scientific experts are convinced that human activity is significantly contributing to climate change, and there is growing consensus among researchers that a reduction of the concentration of CO² in the atmosphere is necessary to prevent an average global temperature increase of more than 2 degrees in centigrade; and

WHEREAS, the oceans have become 30 percent more acidic since the industrial revolution due to their uptake of carbon dioxide, which is threatening ocean life from shellfish to corals; and

WHEREAS, the anthropogenic climate change may contribute to both the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as hurricane, blizzards, floods, droughts and heat waves, all of which threaten both life and economic stability; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act enforcement can curb greenhouse gas pollution either without new climate legislation or in conjunction with new climate legislation; and

WHEREAS, in December, 2009, EPA pursuant to the Endangerment Finding, concluded that GHG emissions from motor vehicles in the atmosphere threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, climate change is not an abstract problem for the future or one that will only affect far-distant places but rather climate change is happening here and now; human activity is significantly contributing to it; and the longer we wait to act, the more dangerous the problem will become.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD DOES
RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

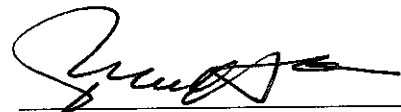
The City of Oxnard hereby urges the President of the United States and the Environmental Protection Agency to stand by the 2009 Endangerment Finding on GHG emissions and supports the United States Environmental Protection Agency's ongoing efforts to reduce GHG emissions from stationary and mobile sources through the federal Clean Air Act.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 24th day of January 2012 by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Holden, Pinkard, MacDonald, Flynn and Ramirez.

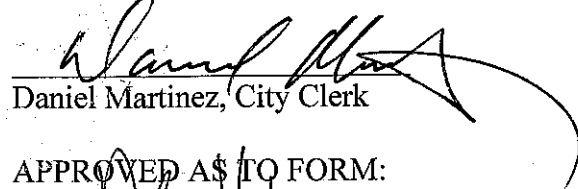
NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.



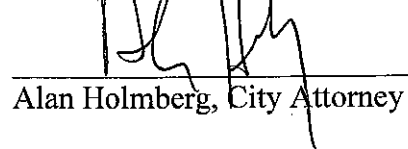
Dr. Thomas E. Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:



Daniel Martinez, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Alan Holmberg, City Attorney