



Meeting Date: 1 / 24 / 12

ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Info/Consent
<input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info/consent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Prepared By: Martin R. Erickson *MRE* Agenda Item No. I-1

Reviewed By: City Manager *[Signature]* City Attorney *[Signature]* Finance *[Signature]* Other \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: January 13, 2012

TO: City Council

FROM: Martin R. Erickson  
Special Assistant to the City Manager  
City Manager's Office *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Resolution Supporting the Federal Clean Air Act

**RECOMMENDATION**

That City Council adopt a resolution in support of reducing greenhouse gas pollution through enforcement of the federal Clean Air Act.

**DISCUSSION**

With passage of the Clean Air Act in 1970, air quality in the United States has improved significantly. President Nixon signed the Clean Air Act into law in 1970. 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 by between 47 percent and 93 percent. Since its inception, the Clean Air Act has generally enjoyed bi-partisan support. Recently in Congress, however, the Clean Air Act has been subject to criticism from some who wish to modify the Act.

California chose to adopt air quality standards that exceed the Clean Air Act, enforcing these measures through the California Air Resources Board. In Ventura County, the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) works with business and government agencies to ensure air quality standards are met. The attached resolution for City Council’s consideration seeks to convey the City of Oxnard’s strong support of preserving the federal Clean Air Act.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is no financial impact involved in this recommendation.

Attachment #1 - Draft resolution supporting the federal Clean Air Act

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD

RESOLUTION NO.

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 CO<sup>2</sup> 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 CO<sup>2</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of January 2012 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

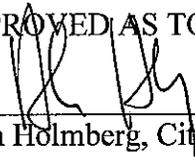
ABSENT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Thomas E. Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Martinez, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Holmberg, City Attorney