



RESOLUTION NO. 40509

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS BEALE
2 AND MELLO

3 A RESOLUTION relating to the reality of climate change, and declaring that these
4 threats, while long-term, require immediate actions to minimize harm to
5 current and future generations and therefore constitutes a public
6 emergency; and expressing the City Council's support of initiatives that
7 mitigate the impact.

8 WHEREAS, in 1984, the City was placed on the United States
9 Environmental Protection Agency's National Priority List of contaminated sites as
10 one of the nation's most polluted cities, and

11 WHEREAS the City recognized the clear threat posed to the community's
12 long-term health and economic vitality by this pollution, and so courageously
13 committed to cleaning up its highly polluted lands, waters, and air, and

14 WHEREAS, in 2008, the City recognized the threat of climate change and
15 created a Climate Action Plan to begin the long process of addressing the
16 consequences presented by global climate change, and

17 WHEREAS, in January 2015, the City committed, in the vision of the
18 Tacoma 2025 Strategic Plan, to a high quality of life for all of its residents now and
19 across future generations, described by access to healthy, affordable housing;
20 sustainable transportation; a vibrant economy with a robust green jobs sector; a
21 rich multicultural community; and thriving ecosystems and green spaces in an
22 urban system developed through smart growth, and

23 WHEREAS, in 2016, the City adopted an Environmental Action Plan
24 outlining 67 actions to be taken by City government and the local community over
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a five-year period, to become more environmentally sustainable and help respond to climate change and its many adverse impacts to the community and improve our overall environment, and

WHEREAS the Transportation Master Plan has adopted policies supporting electrification, mode shift, and, more explicitly, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the City Council adopted a new Comprehensive Plan, *One Tacoma*, which included new and strengthened goals and policies pertaining to the assessment of climate risks and pursuing measures to support adaptation, mitigation of climate causing greenhouse gas emissions, and the promotion of community resilience strategies, and

WHEREAS, despite the adopted policies of the City, additional actions are needed to advance the necessary progress regarding actions on climate change, and

WHEREAS, in April 2016, world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by adopting the Paris Agreement, and working to limit warming to no more than 1.5°C, and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ("IPCC") warned that it would not be possible to meet the 1.5°C goal unless global carbon levels were reduced 45 percent below 2010 levels by 2030, requiring an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 11 years, and



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WHEREAS, in 2017, the Tacoma City Council enacted interim regulations that temporarily prohibit new heavy industrial projects in the Port of Tacoma/ Tacoma Tide Flats subarea, and the temporary prohibition includes large fossil fuel projects such as refineries and large storage facilities, and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the City entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and the Port of Tacoma to develop new permanent regulations for the Port of Tacoma/Tacoma Tide Flats subarea, with one of the stated goals of this process being environmental remediation and protection, and consideration of limitations on new or expanded large fossil fuel projects will be part of that work, and

WHEREAS global temperatures having increased approximately 1.1°C above late 19th century levels, demonstrating that climate change is causing damage to the Earth as experienced by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, homelessness, species extinctions, food and potable water shortages, droughts, and extreme weather, and

WHEREAS unchecked climate change will bring evermore drastic decline to the health and prosperity of future generations, particularly for the most vulnerable communities, and

WHEREAS the longer we delay taking definitive action to reduce carbon pollution, the greater the threat posed by climate change to current and future generations and the more costly it will be to protect and maintain our community from the impacts of climate change, and



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WHEREAS the City cherishes its youth, who are the key to our community’s prosperity, and strives to engage them in decisions being made right now, including through the establishment of the Mayor’s Youth Commission, in an ultimate effort to empower them to follow their dreams and live prosperously, and

WHEREAS City leaders have seen, time and again, that seemingly impossible challenges can be met when the will of the community is mobilized, and

WHEREAS restoring a safe and stable climate requires “Climate Mobilization” across all of our society, including all levels of government and across all economic sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and energy production at a speed and scale not seen since World War II to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions, to rapidly and safely drawdown excess carbon from the atmosphere, and

WHEREAS building capacity and initiating dialogue with other organizations will be integral to the City’s goals related to greenhouse gas reduction, and

WHEREAS this Resolution is not intended to supplant any City purchasing policies, and

WHEREAS our community is blessed with Tacoma Power’s 98 percent carbon-neutral and affordable electricity to light and heat our buildings and power our economy and transportation, and provides us with leverage points to meet these extreme challenges, and

WHEREAS Tacoma Power is already committed to achieving the requirements in the Washington State Clean Energy Transformation Act (“CETA”),



1 including 100 percent carbon-neutral electricity by 2030 and 100 percent carbon-
2 free electricity by 2045, and

3 WHEREAS Tacoma Power is committed to achieving the low income and
4 vulnerable communities provisions required under CETA, and

5 WHEREAS the City's 2016 Greenhouse Gas inventory identifies our use of
6 fossil fuels for transportation such as commuting, commercial trucking, and other
7 freight transport as our largest component of carbon emissions, comprising over
8 70 percent of Tacoma's overall community greenhouse gas emissions, and

9 WHEREAS Tacoma can be the catalyst and proving ground for widespread,
10 economy-wide transformation to a clean energy economy through investment and
11 development of clean, alternative fuel technology, and

12 WHEREAS transition to a climate-safe future requires the need for full
13 community participation, inclusion, and support, and recognizes that the residents
14 of Tacoma, particularly frontline communities and community organizations,
15 including communities of faith, youth, organized labor, business, academic
16 institutions, homeowners' associations, and environmental, economic, racial,
17 gender, family and disability justice, indigenous, immigrant, and women's rights
18 organizations and other such allies, will be integral to and in the leadership of the
19 mobilization effort, and

20 WHEREAS, on September 20, 2019, the City's youth and young adults
21 joined with their companions around the world to call for a global climate strike and
22 greater, more urgent climate leadership from their elected officials and public
23 institutions, and



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WHEREAS the Puyallup Tribe of Indians is also expected to declare a climate emergency, and this Resolution affirms our mutual interests to address a regionally comprehensive and coordinated effort to combat climate change, and

WHEREAS each generation has a duty to leave a sustainable and healthy planet for future generations; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That the City declares that our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity, and the natural world are experiencing a climate emergency, and the City Council hereby expresses its support for initiatives to foster a Citywide climate emergency mobilization effort to combat global warming that will result in the goal of a just transition to a carbon-neutral economy and accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts.

Section 2. That the City Manager will work with the Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (“OEPS”) to develop an updated Environmental Action Plan (“EAP”) by April 22, 2021. The EAP shall outline a pathway to reaching the City’s carbon reduction goals by 2050, and, at a minimum:

- Establish the feasibility, cost, timeline, performance targets, scope, strategy for implementation, and specific actions for reaching greenhouse gas (“GHG”) reduction goals, which also addresses the City’s transportation infrastructure. To demonstrate the City’s commitment to leading by example to the broader Tacoma community and addressing the emergency declaration as stated in this Resolution, the City Manager will conduct an organization-wide assessment of the City’s current GHG emissions and set ten-year reduction targets through the year 2050 with an aspirational aim toward making City operations carbon-neutral by 2050. Progress toward these targets shall be shared with the City Council as part of the EAP reporting process, along with information as to any barriers to achieving the ten-year targets and what action steps will be taken



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by the City Manager to address those barriers. The community goals include an 80 percent GHG reduction by 2050. These goals shall be published in the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan, including the Transportation Master Plan, which may include a new Climate element that incorporates these goals and key strategies;

- Include actions that support goals of the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan and other relevant planning and policy documents;
- Commit to equity and social justice playing an integral role in all phases of the EAP;
- Support and develop community environmental justice leaders by building capacity among youth and young adults and in marginalized communities to shape and implement climate change solutions;
- Create an Environmental Justice Leadership Workgroup that engages and collaborates with community members and those most burdened by environmental impacts to participate in the update of the City's EAP; and
- Include a green economy section that will define actions and targets to assist existing Tacoma businesses with sustainability actions, attract and retain carbon-neutral and climate friendly businesses, increase the number of living wage jobs, and provide a just transition for the workforce into the next generation of sustainable manufacturing and construction jobs.

Following completion of the updated EAP, the City Manager will work with OEPS to develop a plan for ongoing staff training on the latest climate science, the ten-year reduction targets, and other changes to the EAP as deemed appropriate by the City Manager.

Section 3. That the City Manager shall establish a method by which the quantity and type of fossil and bio-fuels produced, refined, stored in, and distributed through the City of Tacoma can be determined, and periodically reported. The City Manager should further establish a method to gather information on specific fossil fuel facilities in the City of Tacoma, including changes of ownership, mergers and acquisitions, investor presentations and reports, or any



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other public information that may indicate a facility's interest or intent to expand in the future, taking into account broader market trends in oil and gas refining and export in the Pacific Northwest. If this method does not require the consideration of additional City Council legislation, the method will be implemented and the data furnished to the City Council on a periodic basis, depending on the frequency of availability of data.

Section 4. That the City Manager will review the reporting structure of OEPS to better collaborate with all City departments and initiatives to address shared responsibilities, seriousness, and urgency for climate action, and report back to the City Council by March 31, 2020, with those recommendations.

Section 5. That the City Manager, in coordination with Tacoma Public Utilities, shall identify and propose to the City Council and Public Utility Board sustainable funding mechanisms for actions prescribed in the EAP which are determined practicable by the City Council, which may include, but are not limited to, smart growth strategies, building electrification, sustainable transportation systems, green jobs with living wages, community development strategies that uphold culture and equity, urban tree canopy, and Tacoma's air, water, and lands.

Section 6. That the City Manager is directed to coordinate with Tacoma Public Utilities to establish a training plan for all City department directors regarding climate science and equity to ensure awareness for how climate change impacts the delivery of services to the public and capital improvements by March 31, 2020. The training shall occur in the interim prior to completion of the updated EAP.



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Section 7. That the City Manager is directed to coordinate with the community and partners, including artists, students, and justice organizations who care for and protect the earth, to celebrate the most diverse global mobilization in defense of the environment in world history and in honor of Earth Day's 50th anniversary on April 22, 2020.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney