

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELL GARDENS, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY, COMMITTING TO POLICIES OPPOSING FOSSIL FUEL EXPANSION AND ACCELERATING THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION AS PART OF THE SAFE CITIES MOVEMENT, COMMITTING TO POLICIES THAT WILL REDUCE BOTH NEW AND EXISTING LEAD CONTAMINATION, AND ENDORSING A CALL FOR A GLOBAL FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

WHEREAS, California has taken decisive steps in climate leadership, pledging a determined commitment to address the escalating impacts of climate change;

WHEREAS, climate change exacerbates prolonged drought punctuated by unpredictable atmospheric river behavior and flooding, more frequent extreme heat events, wildfires, stronger Santa Ana winds, and warmer water temperatures that can result in increased circulation of lead in local environments;

WHEREAS, within the City of Bell Gardens ("City"), various communities grapple with health and safety risks stemming from fossil fuels, climate change, limited access to safe spaces, lead exposure, and other environmental toxins;

WHEREAS, these risks disproportionately affect youth, elders, Indigenous people, individuals of color, those with low incomes, migrant communities, people facing mental and physical disabilities, individuals experiencing homelessness, and those with health conditions already burdened by environmental injustice, socioeconomic disparities, and health inequities;

WHEREAS, the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and an increased reliance on fossil fuels expose communities to substantial local and global health and safety risks;

WHEREAS, residents of the City, consequently, endure adverse health impacts of the City's proximity to the I-710 freeway and links to various health issues, impacting children and adults with neurological challenges, cardiovascular problems, renal issues, osteoporosis, and cognitive deficiencies;

WHEREAS, according to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) the City consistently ranks in the 98th percentile for pollution burden and over the 90th percentile for toxic releases;

WHEREAS, unmitigated urban development lacking consideration for climate and health impacts, has exposed the City's residents to increased traffic and emissions, potentially exacerbating the heat island effect, and raised temperatures, and threats such as health disparities like asthma, obesity, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke;

WHEREAS, mitigation measures such as, but not limited to, trees, canopy covers, open space, and energy efficient infrastructure are essential to combating climate change effects and play a crucial role in enhancing psychological and social health, fostering community well-being, and addressing health concerns;

WHEREAS, economic and job opportunities presented by a clean energy transition to decarbonize the local economy far outweigh those associated with expanding fossil fuel use;

WHEREAS, the City acknowledges the authority granted to adopt land use controls to provide for the regulation of land uses consistent with applicable law within the City;

WHEREAS, since climate change effects are occurring sooner than expected and are disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable among us in disadvantaged communities the City Council has determined that it will use Caltrans grant funds for the development and deployment of a climate action plan (CAP) to address reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, adopt resilience strategies, and identify clean energy targets as well as economic and social goals;

WHEREAS, the City's CAP is necessary to foster permanent, long-term solutions that uplift frontline communities and signifies dedication to an equitable energy transition that aims to reduce lead exposure and environmental toxins while making ambitious investments in green infrastructure and industries to create jobs, decarbonize the economy, and mitigate the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City's government fully recognizes the limits to its authority over fossil fuel transport imposed by the federal government, and finds that this action is within the City's authority;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Bell Gardens as follows:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Bell Gardens hereby finds that the above recitals are true and correct and incorporate them herein by this reference.

SECTION 2. The City Council of the City of Bell Gardens hereby finds, determines, and declares as follows:

- a. that a climate, environmental justice, public health, and ecological emergency threatens the City, region, state, nation, humanity, and the natural world; and
- b. the City endorses the call for a global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that will end new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and accelerate just and equitable energy transition plans; and

- c. the City urges the State of California and the United States Federal Government to support the initiative for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty; and
- d. the City commits to investigate and implement policies limiting or preventing fossil fuel expansion as part of the Stand Against Fossil Fuel ("SAFE") Cities movement because of the inherent dangers to the public's health and safety in extraction, production, transport, storage, and combustion of fossil fuels; and
- e. the City intends to investigate and implement policies limiting or preventing exposure to lead, arsenic, PM 2.5, PM 10, diesel particulate matter and other environmental toxins from new and existing sources and consider implementing policies to remediate existing contamination in tandem with renter protections to ensure that remediated households are not displaced as a result of environmental clean-up efforts; and
- f. the City of, in their commitment to environmental justice and in reducing the impact of climate change on low-income communities and communities of color, support land use that will accommodate more park space and tree canopy that would mitigate environmental pollution and provide relief from heat island phenomenon; and
- g. the City will investigate and implement policies promoting decarbonization and electrification of buildings and transportation, and other development to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and achieve maximum energy efficiency, water efficiency, and safety, including the use of Reach Codes; and
- h. the City seeks to achieve 100% of electricity power supply through clean, renewable, and zero carbon emission energy sources before the year 2045; and
- i. the will investigate the feasibility of building microgrids to ensure safe and reliable access to electricity by providing services such as community renewable energy programs; and
- j. the City intends to continue to investigate Community Choice Aggregation such as the Clean Power Alliance as a means to meet the City's 100% clean, renewable zero-emission equitable electricity by 2045 goals; and
- k. the City will explore how to achieve a just transition to a clean energy economy through job creation goals centering frontline and vulnerable communities, including labor strengthening projects, education, and job retraining programs to spur clean energy investment, decarbonize the City's local economy, benefit local ecosystems, access to nature, boost biodiversity, end poverty, and tackle systemic injustices; and
- l. during the just transition to a decarbonized economy, the City will support the rights of workers to organize, unionize, and collectively bargain free of coercion,

intimidation, and harassment, and strengthen workplace health and safety protections, anti-discrimination protections, and wage and hour standards across all employers, industries, and sectors as required by state and federal law; and

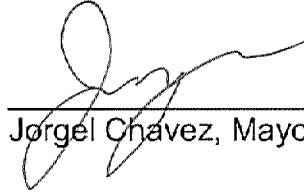
- m. the City will work with the labor and business communities, as well as the state and federal government, to investigate how to achieve a just climate transition and zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 across all industries, sectors, and communities; and
- n. the City's 2024 Environmental Justice Element be improved and expanded through extensive community consultation to co-create a resilience plan that is reflective of our community's values, as soon and as socially equitable as possible; and
- o. the City will aggressively pursue state and federal funding, and other agency resources to help achieve the objectives within this resolution; and
- p. the City shall continue upholding the importance of community accountability by providing further training to the City's Planning Commission with regards to actions on projects by taking into consideration the conservation of natural resources, balancing the natural and built environments, and supporting clean energy transition and resilience; and
- q. in furtherance of this resolution, the City shall submit a copy of this resolution to federal, state, regional, county, , tribal, and other relevant agencies, and request that all relevant support and assistance in effectuating this resolution be provided.

SECTION 3. The City Clerk shall attest and certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions, and it shall become effective immediately upon its approval.

[Signatures on the following page]

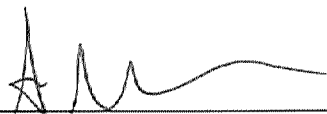
PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 12th day of February 2024.

THE CITY OF BELL GARDENS



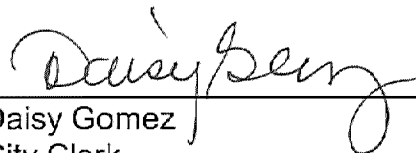
Jorge Chavez, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Stephanie Vasquez
City Attorney

ATTEST:



Daisy Gomez
City Clerk

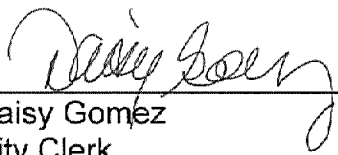
I, Daisy Gomez, City Clerk of the City of Bell Gardens, hereby CERTIFY that **City Council Resolution No. 2024-09** was adopted by the Bell Gardens City Council at a **regular** meeting of the City Council held on February 12, 2024, and was approved and passed by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmember Gomez; Mayor Pro Tem Barcena; Mayor Chavez

NOES: Councilmember De Leon Sanchez

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Pulido



Daisy Gomez
City Clerk