

CITY OF UNION CITY

RESOLUTION

Supporting the California Air Resources Board's Leadership in Developing and Implementing Strategies for Reducing Emissions from Motor Vehicles

WHEREAS, California is experiencing a public health crisis due to poor air quality, with over 90% of Californians living in areas that exceed federal health-based ozone standards; and exposure to elevated levels of ozone and other pollutants, such as particulate matter, annually contributes to hundreds of thousands of asthma attacks, and tens of thousands of hospitalizations and premature deaths, due to heart and lung disease; and recent research conducted by the RAND Corporation found that hospital care related to elevated pollution levels in California cost nearly \$200 million from 2005 to 2007; and

WHEREAS, higher temperatures resulting from global warming can create conditions that are ideal for the formation of ground-level ozone, a pollutant that causes severe adverse health impacts including asthma attacks, hospitalizations, and even premature deaths; and without significant actions, the State of California faces billions of dollars in public health damages; and

WHEREAS, California is expected to face more intense heat waves, more frequent droughts, flooding, agricultural losses, greater energy demand, and the potential loss of trillions of dollars in real estate due to sea level rise, increased wildfires, and rising temperatures associated with global warming; and

WHEREAS, California depends on petroleum for 97 percent of its transportation need, and motor vehicles are significant emitters of ozone precursors, particulates and air toxics, and the single largest anthropogenic source of global warming, causing greenhouse gas emissions in California; and

WHEREAS, California's Clean Cars (AB 1493: Pavley, 2002), Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) and Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) programs reduce petroleum consumption, support new jobs and investments in California's emerging green economy, and spur innovation in low and zero emission vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the California Legislature enacted Senate Bill 375 (SB 375: Steinberg, 2008) to encourage integrated land use and transportation planning that supports air quality, public health goals, and emphasizes reductions in vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions by promoting alternatives to driving such as practical walking, biking and mass transit options; and

WHEREAS, California's history of national leadership is critical to protecting public health, creating a new green economy, and spurring action on global warming pollution nationally.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Union City supports the State of California and the California Air Resources Board in its efforts to reduce criteria air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles while also advancing public health, air quality, the environment and the green economy in California; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Union City encourages the State of California and the California Air Resources Board to establish ambitious regional greenhouse gas reduction targets as envisioned by SB 375, and to work with local governments to incentivize integrated land use and transportation planning that supports air quality and public health goals and emphasizes reductions in vehicle miles traveled through alternatives to driving such as practical walking, biking and mass transit options; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Union City urges the State of California and the California Air Resources Board to continue its national and international leadership role in promoting clean vehicle technologies by moving forward quickly to develop and adopt expanded Low Emission Vehicle (LEV III) standards to reduce criteria air pollutants and greenhouse gases, and to strengthen the state's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) program to protect the health of California's economy, environment and its people.

Dated this 29th Day of June 2010



Mark Green, Mayor



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June 29, 2010

Mary Nichols, Chairman
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Support for Clean Cars Program and SB 375 to reduce vehicle emissions

Dear Chairman Nichols,

The City of Union City applauds the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for its national leadership in the development of programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution from motor vehicles in California. I strongly encourage CARB to establish more stringent vehicle emission standards for the next decade, while also working to ensure our communities are designed to reduce our dependency on driving. Our state's landmark global warming strategies provide a roadmap for transitioning to a robust, clean economy while also providing significant public health and environmental benefits.

Although our state has made progress in combating air pollution over the past 30 years, the fact remains that the vast majority of California residents still breathe unhealthy air and remain at risk for respiratory illnesses and even premature death. Air pollution is particularly harmful to our most vulnerable populations, such as infants and children, the elderly, those living in low-income communities or those suffering with chronic illnesses like asthma or heart disease. Unfortunately, global warming is expected to compound these problems by further threatening the quality of the air we breathe and increasing our public health burdens.

As transportation sources represent the largest contributors to greenhouse gases, smog and other air pollutants in our state, CARB must remain focused on reducing vehicle emissions. Improving land use planning, and strengthening conventional vehicle emission standards into the 50 mile per gallon range in the next decade will advance California's fight against global warming and air pollution and protect our quality of life.

Therefore, I urge CARB to develop and adopt the next generation of motor vehicle standards in 2010 by expanding California's Low Emission Vehicle (LEV III) program to reduce criteria pollutants and greenhouse gases from new vehicles and to strengthen California's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) program to hasten the transition to truly clean transportation. I also support the adoption of strong regional targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles by encouraging improved land use and transportation planning to reduce vehicle emissions, as envisioned by Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg, 2008).

Thank you for your leadership on global warming and air quality policy. I urge you to continue this important work to benefit the health of the people of California for generations to come.

Sincerely,

MARK GREEN
Mayor