

Resolution No. 2010-3

RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS PROMOTING CLEAN AND ENERGY EFFICIENT MOTOR VEHICLES, ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, ZERO EMISSION TECHNOLOGIES AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE IN CALIFORNIA AND FURTHERMORE SUPPORTING THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD'S LEADERSHIP IN THIS AREA.

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;

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 needs; 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 Fuels Outlet regulation is being updated to ensure that clean fueling infrastructure is sufficiently deployed to support the new vehicle market so that clean fuels are readily available to meet consumer demand for advanced clean vehicles; 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 and public health goals and emphasizes reductions in vehicle miles traveled and emissions by promoting alternatives to driving, such as practical walking, biking, local use vehicles and innovative 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; and

WHEREAS, the South Bay Cities COG and its member cities began inventorying green house gas emissions two years ago in order to be able to set a baseline for actions that would lead to reductions; and

WHEREAS, the South Bay Cities COG and its member cities are demonstrating their leadership and commitment to support these efforts by implementing local strategies such as the implementation of a Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV) demonstration project, which will reduce cold starts, relieve congestion on the major streets and reduce air pollution; and

WHEREAS, because the majority of South Bay trips are less than 5 miles, a robust neighborhood electric vehicle project has the potential of significantly reducing vehicle related emissions, reducing reliance on imported oil and reducing fuel costs, while helping protect the health and safety of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the South Bay Cities COG asks for the support of the Southern California Association of Governments and the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority to strategically implement the project, the California Energy Commission to help create incentives for the purchase of the neighborhood electric vehicles, and the California Department of Motor Vehicles to modify the California Vehicle Code to allow low-speed vehicles to travel at 35 mph to qualify for the relaxed federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South Bay Cities Council of Governments encourages the State of California and the California Air Resources Board to establish ambitious but achievable 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, neighborhood electric vehicles, and innovative transit options; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the South Bay Cities Council of Governments requests the California Department of Motor Vehicles support the South Bay Cities COG's efforts to comply with the goals of SB 375 by allowing low-speed vehicles that travel at 35 mph to qualify for the relaxed federal Motor Vehicles Safety Standards, and the California Energy Commission adopt strong incentives for the purchase neighborhood electric vehicles; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the South Bay Cities Council of Governments urges the State of California and the California Air Resources Board to continue its national and international leadership role in reducing motor vehicle emissions, and in its efforts to promote 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.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 22nd of July, 2010.

Judy Mitchell, SBCCOG Chair
Councilmember, Rolling Hills Estates

ATTEST:

Merna Marshall, Secretary