

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-20

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELL GARDENS, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT

WHEREAS, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (“IPCC”) issued a special report in October 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, warning that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C or more between 2030 and 2050 if carbon emissions are allowed to increase at the current rate;

WHEREAS, according to the IPCC report we have only 12 (now 9) years left to make massive and unprecedented changes to global energy infrastructure to limit global warming to moderate levels;

WHEREAS, the United States government released its Fourth Annual Climate Assessment in November 2018 reporting that the impacts of climate change are already being felt in communities across the country, and that more frequent and intense extreme weather and climate-related events, as well as changes in average climate conditions, are expected to continue to damage infrastructure, ecosystems, and social systems that provide essential benefits to communities;

WHEREAS, the state of California is already experiencing severe impacts from record- breaking wildfires, coastal sea-level rise, severe, prolonged drought, and longer and more frequent heat-waves;

WHEREAS, conservative estimates by the world's climate scientists state that, to achieve climate stabilization and avoid cataclysmic climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases (“GHGs”) must be brought to 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050;

WHEREAS, presently the environmental, health, and social costs of carbon emissions are not included in prices paid for fossil fuels, but rather these externalized costs are borne directly and indirectly by all Americans;

WHEREAS, to begin to correct this market failure, Congress can enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act to assess a national carbon fee on fossil fuels based on the amount of CO₂ the fuel will emit when burned and allocate the collected proceeds to all U.S. Households in equal per-capita shares in the form of a monthly dividend;

WHEREAS, as stated in the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, a national, revenue-neutral carbon fee starting at a relatively low rate of \$15 per ton of CO₂ equivalent emissions and resulting in equal charges per ton of CO₂ equivalent emissions potential in each type of fuel or greenhouse gas should be assessed to begin to lower what are now dangerously high CO₂ emissions. The yearly increase in carbon fees including other greenhouse gases, shall be at least \$10 per ton of CO₂ equivalent each

year, with the provision that the annual increase will be \$15 per ton of CO2 equivalent if statutory goals are not met;

WHEREAS, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act specifies that, in order to protect low and middle income citizens from the economic impact of rising prices due to the carbon fee, equal monthly per-person dividend payments shall be made to all American households (one-half payment per child under 19 years old) each month from the fossil fuel fees collected. The total value of all monthly dividend payments shall represent 100% of the net carbon fees collected per month;

WHEREAS, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act encourages market-driven innovation of clean energy technologies and market efficiencies which will reduce harmful pollution and leave a healthier, more stable, and more prosperous nation for future generations;

WHEREAS, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act will, after 12 years, lead to a decrease in America's CO2 emissions of 40 percent and an increase in national employment of 2.1 million jobs in 10 years;

WHEREAS, border adjustments (carbon content-based levies on products imported from countries without comparable carbon pricing, and refunds to our exporters of carbon fees paid) can maintain the competitiveness of U.S. businesses in global markets;

WHEREAS, for efficient administration, the fossil fuels fee can be applied once, as far upstream in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States;

WHEREAS, a national carbon fee can be implemented quickly and efficiently, and will respond to the urgency of the climate crisis because the federal government already has in place mechanisms, such as the Internal Revenue Service, needed to implement and enforce the fee, and already collects fees from fossil fuel producers and importers;

WHEREAS, a national revenue-neutral carbon fee would make the United States a leader in mitigating climate change and in the clean energy technologies of the 21st century and would provide incentive to other countries to enact similar carbon fees, reducing global CO2 emissions without the need for complex international agreements; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to addressing climate change.

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 urges the United States Congress to enact without delay the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, and

SECTION 2. That the City Manager or City Clerk, no later than 60 days after passage of this Resolution, shall transmit copies of this resolution to the U.S. Senators and Representative from the State of California in the Congress of the United States, and to nearby city and county governments urging that they pass similar resolutions.

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.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 8th day of March, 2021.

THE CITY OF BELL GARDENS



Marco Barcena, Mayor

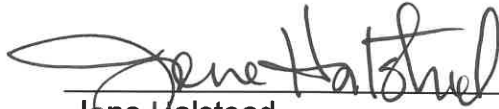
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTEST:



On behalf of

Rick Olivarez
City Attorney



Jane Halstead
City Clerk

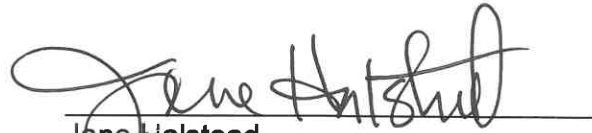
I, JANE HALSTEAD, City Clerk of the City of Bell Gardens, hereby CERTIFY that **City Council Resolution No. 2021-20** was adopted by the Bell Gardens City Council at a **regular** meeting of the City Council held on **Monday, March 8, 2021** and was approved and passed by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Chavez, Cortez, Flores, Mayor Pro Tem Pulido, Mayor Barcena

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None



Jane Halstead
City Clerk

