



**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: September 4, 2018
Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Statement of Purpose to Reduce Diesel Emissions

REPORT BY: Claire Griffing, Sustainability & Resilience Manager

SUMMARY

This item authorizes the mayor to sign a Statement of Purpose committing to take steps to eliminate diesel emissions by 2033.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council authorize the Mayor to sign the Statement of Purpose committing to take steps to eliminate diesel emissions by 2033.

BACKGROUND

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) has requested that Bay Area cities sign the attached Statement of Purpose committing to take steps to eliminate diesel emissions. Albany's current Climate Action Plan, adopted in 2010, establishes a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by the year 2020. Staff are working with consultants to develop a new Climate Mitigation & Adaptation Plan for the City's ambitious carbon reduction goals of 60% GHG reductions by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2050. These goals will require bold actions to reduce emissions from both municipal operations and the community.

DISCUSSION

The attached Statement of Purpose commits the City to take steps to eliminate diesel emissions by 2033. Signatories may develop their own strategies to reduce diesel emissions, through means such as outreach and changes in procurement practices. The Statement commits the City to develop an implementation strategy and report progress. The Statement of Purpose is intended to accelerate action, but it is not a binding obligation. The Air District will be hosting a special signing ceremony at an affiliated event to the Governor's Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco this September 12th at the Bay Area Metro Center.

The City currently uses diesel fuel in its operations for generators, heavy equipment, and medium to heavy duty vehicles, including sewer trucks and fire engines. The Fire Department is in the process of switching from petroleum-based diesel to renewable “clean” diesel to reduce emissions for trucks and generators. The Public Works Department has retrofitted engines to burn cleaner. Staff in both departments have explored cleaner alternatives, but nothing is viable at this time. It is possible that clean and effective alternatives will be on the market by 2033.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Burning diesel results in increased greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants, which is not compatible with the City’s commitment to environmental responsibility or its role as a leader in addressing climate change. Diesel emissions are detrimental to air quality and public health, and they contribute to climate change. The California Air Resources Board estimates that on-road diesel and off-road mobile engines comprise 54 percent of the state of California’s total black carbon emissions, a short-lived climate pollutant.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact from signing the Statement of Purpose. The impact of switching City vehicles and equipment to alternatives has not yet been assessed, as viable alternatives are not yet available.

Attachments

1. Statement of Purpose

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

DIESEL FREE BY '33

The intention of this *Statement of Purpose* is to establish a goal to reduce diesel emissions in local communities throughout California and beyond. The need for this action is immediate. Diesel exhaust takes a tremendous toll on both the global climate and public health.

By signing the *Statement of Purpose*, mayors, city and county governments, industry and businesses leaders will join the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the state of California to showcase our collective leadership to identify and adopt innovative solutions to eliminate diesel emissions and black carbon from our communities.

Diesel exhaust causes significant public health effects and accelerates climate change. The California Air Resources Board estimates that on-road diesel and off-road mobile engines comprise 54 percent of the State of California's total black carbon emissions, a short-lived climate pollutant that is contributing significantly to global climate change. Diesel air pollution is highly toxic and can have an immediate impact on the health of residents in communities where emissions are most concentrated. The impacts will fall most heavily on communities and populations already significantly impacted by air pollution, environmental hazards, and economic inequality.

The signatories may each develop their own individual strategies to achieve the goal of reaching zero diesel emissions in their communities. Signatories to this agreement express their intent to:

- Collaborate and coordinate on ordinances, policies, and procurement practices that will reduce diesel emissions to zero within their jurisdictions, communities or companies;
- Share and promote effective financing mechanisms domestically and internationally to the extent feasible that allow for the purchase of zero emissions equipment;
- Share information and assessments regarding zero emissions technology;
- Build capacity for action and technology adaptation through technology transfer and sharing expertise; and
- Use policies and incentives that assist the private sector as it moves to diesel-free fleets and buildings.
- Periodic reporting to all signers of progress towards the zero-diesel emissions goal.

This *Statement of Purpose* is intended to accelerate action toward meaningful progress in support of all climate protection agreements. It is not the intent of the signatories to create through this *Statement of Purpose* any legally binding obligation. For purposes of this Statement, "diesel emissions" and "diesel exhaust" means emissions or exhaust emitted from the combustion of petroleum-based diesel fuel.

Signatories are committing to develop an implementation strategy to reduce diesel emissions in their jurisdictions, share solutions, and report progress. Together, we will forge a path toward a cleaner, healthier future by reducing diesel emissions in our communities, states, and beyond.

_____ Signature

_____ Title



_____ City

_____ Date



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