



Office of the Mayor

CONSENT CALENDAR
September 24, 2019

To: Honorable Members of the City Council
From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín, and Councilmembers Wengraf, Harrison, and Bartlett
Subject: Clean Air Day 2019

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution declaring October 2nd, 2019 as Clean Air Day.

BACKGROUND

Since the creation of the Spare the Air program in 1991, the Bay Area has seen an average of 11.3 Spare the Air Days a year. However, between 2016-2018, the average has been 19.3. Last year, air pollution in Berkeley became so extreme, as a result of the Camp Fire that destroyed the town of Paradise, that the City Manager ordered city staff who work outdoors to stay home unless they had an indoor work station.

Despite recent statewide efforts to mitigate pollutants, California has some of the most polluted regions in the United States, with seven of the country's ten most ozone polluted cities. Air pollution contributes to higher rates of cancer and heart and lung diseases, which adversely affect health.

Between 2000-2016, emissions in Berkeley have declined by 15%, despite an 18% increase in our population. Specifically, emissions from electricity are down 60% and natural gas 18%. However, emissions from transportation have gone up 8%, and now account for 60% of Berkeley's greenhouse gas emissions.

To help promote the reduction of air pollution, the Coalition for Clean Air is holding its second annual California Clean Air Day on October 2nd, 2019. It calls upon California residents and cities to take action on ways to reduce their carbon footprint, such as taking public transit instead of driving a car. While actions like these should be promoted every day, this event also serves to educate people on ways to create a cleaner environment and raise awareness of the consequences of air pollution. Given Berkeley's continued focus on environmental sustainability, it is important to express our support by joining other cities in passing a resolution in support of Clean Air Day.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Clean Air Day promotes environmentally friendly actions such as reducing people's carbon footprint and reduction of greenhouse gases and pollutants.

CONTACT PERSON

Mayor Jesse Arreguín 510-981-7100

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

DECLARING OCTOBER 2, 2019 AS CLEAN AIR DAY

WHEREAS, air pollution contributes to higher rates of cancer and heart and lung diseases, which adversely affect health; and

WHEREAS, California has some of the most polluted regions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that we protect the health and well-being of our residents, visitors, and workforce; and

WHEREAS, emissions from vehicles, industry, and even household sources significantly affects the natural environment, air quality and well-being of residents, employees, and visitors of the City of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, individual actions such as not idling vehicles, walking or biking to work and school, carpooling, and conserving energy can directly improve air quality in our region; and

WHEREAS, education about air quality can raise community awareness, encourage our community to develop better habits, and improve our community health; and

WHEREAS, Californians will be joining together across the state to clear the air on October 2, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is committed to the health of our residents, workforce, visitors, and community at large.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that October 2, 2019 be declared "Clean Air Day" in the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage all City Department heads to determine how their employees can participate in Clean Air Day.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we encourage all residents, businesses, employees, and community members to participate in Clean Air Day and help clear the air for all Californians.

