A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH TO SUPPORT SB 696 BY SENATOR ROD WRIGHT AND SPONSORED BY THE SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (AQMD) TO RESOLVE THE AIR QUALITY PERMIT MORATORIUM CAUSED BY A STATE COURT CEQA DECISION

RESOLUTION NO. RES-09-0053

WHEREAS, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, (AQMD), is the agency responsible for attainment of state and federal clean air standards in the Coachella Valley and South Coast Air Basin within prescribed timeframes; and

WHEREAS, Long Beach falls under the AQMD jurisdiction under the
 provisions of the Health and Safety Code Section 40410; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Long Beach continue to be impacted by Ozone
 and PM10 air pollution which affect their health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the AQMD and Long Beach have a demonstrated history of
implementing air pollution control strategies; and collaborating on other air quality efforts
benefiting the residents of Los Angeles County; and

WHEREAS, under state and federal law, most local government and
business operations that have a potential to emit air pollutants must obtain a valid permit
from AQMD, prior to operation; and

WHEREAS, under state and federal law, facilities that wish to modernize,
start, or modify their operations with a potential emissions increase of one (1) pound per
day or more, must provide emission reduction credits (ERCs) purchased from the open
market, or offsets obtained from AQMD's internal bank; and

WHEREAS, due to a recent State Superior Court CEQA decision, the

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AQMD has been forced to suspend operations of its internal bank of credits and cease
 processing permit applications subject to Rule 1309.1 Priority Reserve and Rule 1304
 Exemptions; and

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WHEREAS, over 1200 permit applications are on hold; and

5 WHEREAS, this court action also impacts thousands of permits for which
6 the AQMD cannot ensure the long-term validity for permits that were issued on or after
7 September 8, 2006; and

8 WHEREAS, without AQMD's internal bank of credits, no essential public
9 service projects or local government and business permits can be issued that rely on
10 AQMD Rule 1304 or 1309.1, including hospitals, schools, police stations, landfills,
11 sewage treatment plants, renewable energy projects; and

WHEREAS, without legal remedy, the only remaining option for local government and business is to purchase ERCs in the open market which are extremely limited, expensive and potentially unaffordable; and

WHEREAS, this court action impacts local government and businesses in Long Beach; thereby resulting in a direct and severe economic impact to the residents of Long Beach;

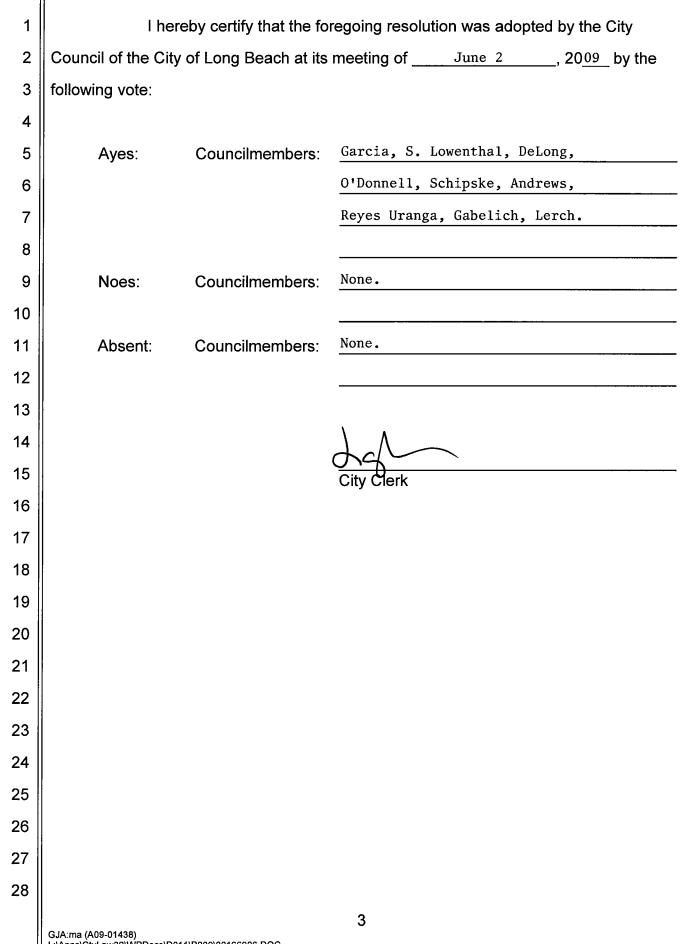
WHEREAS, SB 696 will allow for the resumption of AQMD's internal credit
bank and the issuance of needed permits, pursuant to Rule 1304 and Rule 1309.1, which
are necessary for local government and business operations;

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 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as

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 follows:

Section 1. That the City Council of the City of Long Beach hereby declares
and resolves its support for SB 696 authored by Senator Rod Wright to remove the
stranglehold on the economy and to permit facility modernizations and other emission
reduction projects to move forward.

27 Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by 28 the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.



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