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C-8

DAWN MCINTOSH
City Attorney

April 18, 2023

GARY J. ANDERSON
Assistant City Attorney

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution calling on top maritime importers to Long Beach to adopt existing emissions-reducing technologies and take steps to make port calls to the San Pedro Port Complex on zero-carbon ships by 2030. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to the City Council's request on June 21, 2022, this office has prepared and submits the above-described resolution for the Council's consideration and approval.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Very truly yours,

DAWN MCINTOSH, City Attorney

By: 

MONICA J. KILAITA
Deputy City Attorney

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RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LONG BEACH CALLING ON TOP MARITIME
IMPORTERS TO LONG BEACH TO ADOPT EXISTING
EMISSIONS-REDUCING TECHNOLOGIES AND TAKE
STEPS TO MAKE PORT CALLS TO THE SAN PEDRO
PORT COMPLEX ON ZERO-CARBON SHIPS BY 2030

WHEREAS, in the last century, Southern California has already irreversibly warmed by three degrees (3°) Fahrenheit; and

WHEREAS, the international shipping industry is one of the world's largest climate polluters, emitting 1 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide a year, more than all coal plants in the United States combined, due primarily to its reliance on fossil fueled propulsion; and

WHEREAS, the international shipping industry's pollution is on the rise and is expected to make up 17% of global carbon dioxide emissions by the 2050's without urgent action; and

WHEREAS, most cargo ships burn heavy fuel oil, and fossil-fueled ships have brought large amounts of pollutants into disproportionately low-income communities and/or communities of color living near the Port of Long Beach; and

WHEREAS, shipping pollution contributes to at least 1,300 premature deaths each year in Long Beach and Los Angeles, and an estimated 260,000 premature deaths each year globally, in addition to contributing to and/or exacerbating structural health inequities and rates of childhood asthma, cancer, and other ailments in American port communities; and

WHEREAS, port-adjacent communities, including Long Beach, within Los Angeles County experience up to an 8-year lower life expectancy than the County

1 average, and the highest risk of cancer regionally; and

2 WHEREAS, fossil-fueled shipping also harms oceanic wildlife, contributing
3 to the death of coral reefs globally and causing maritime animals to have lower sensory
4 ranges; and

5 WHEREAS, according to a 2021 study by environmental organizations
6 Pacific Environment and Strand.earth, the top 15 maritime import polluters to the United
7 States in 2019 by pollution volumes produced as much sulfur oxide pollution as 2 billion
8 trucks and cars; and

9 WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach’s Climate Action and Environmental
10 Committee (“CAEC”) was established to research and explore new practices beneficial to
11 the City with reaching its goals to become more environmentally friendly throughout all
12 City departments; and

13 WHEREAS, the CAEC met on April 22, 2022, to hear from advocates and
14 members of the public to discuss green shipping, including the Harbor Department’s plan
15 with the Port of Long Beach to decrease pollution from shipping activities; and

16 WHEREAS, the CAEC indicated support for green shipping efforts,
17 including the establishment of green shipping corridors with partner ports and legislative
18 and administrative actions to rapidly decarbonize the maritime shipping industry, such as
19 requesting the adoption of a resolution similar to that of the City of Los Angeles focusing
20 on the maritime shipping industry decarbonization, adopted by the Los Angeles City
21 Council on November 9, 2021; and

22 WHEREAS, the Port of Long Beach committed to such efforts when joining
23 the Los Angeles-Shanghai Green Shipping Corridor Initiative, focusing on decarbonizing
24 the movement of goods along one of the world’s busiest container shipping routes
25 between the United States and China, and Port staff will work with partners in the coming
26 years to carry out these initiatives; and

27 WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Long Beach now desires to
28 further support maritime shipping industry decarbonization;

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NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach hereby
resolves as follows:

Section 1. The City of Long Beach hereby calls upon top maritime
importers to Long Beach to adopt existing emissions-reducing technologies and take
steps towards making port calls to the San Pedro Port Complex on zero-carbon ships by
2030.

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

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City
Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of _____, 2023, by
the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: _____

Noes: Councilmembers: _____

Absent: Councilmembers: _____

Recusal(s): Councilmembers: _____

City Clerk