RESOLUTION NO. 63,518–N.S.

EXPRESSING THE PEOPLE'S GOAL OF 80% REDUCTION IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 2050 AND ADVISING THE MAYOR TO WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR COUNCIL ADOPTION WHICH SETS A TEN YEAR EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGET AND IDENTIFIES ACTIONS FOR THE CITY AND ITS RESIDENTS TO TAKE TO ACHIEVE BOTH THE TEN YEAR TARGET AND THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF 80% REDUCTION IN EMISSIONS

The People of the City of Berkeley hereby resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, scientific consensus has determined that Carbon Dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels are having disruptive effects on the Earth's climate; and

WHEREAS, this understanding of humanity's impact on the Earth's climate is supported by the following international and national bodies:

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the international climate research community's most respected assemblage of scientists;
- The National Academy of Sciences, America's most respected scientific institution;
- The American Meteorological Society, the American Geophysical Union, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science; and

WHEREAS, the effects of global warming that we are now experiencing and the magnitude of the effects that are predicted by the scientific community are already causing a significant disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has determined that atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide need to be kept below 400 to 500 parts per million to avoid irreversible impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the scientific community believes that there is a window within the next ten years whereby significant emissions reductions need to be achieved in order to avoid the most dangerous climate changes and keep atmospheric concentrations below the most damaging levels; and

WHEREAS, achieving greenhouse gas emission reductions required to protect the climate is of overriding importance not just to the community of nations but to the people who inhabit their cities and states as well; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments throughout the United States are initiating their own emission reduction targets and programs and that this leadership represents a remarkable bipartisan response; and

WHEREAS, 248 American cities, including Berkeley, have endorsed Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels' Climate Protection Agreement which was unanimously endorsed by the US Conference of Mayors in July 2005; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley and 160 more U.S. local governments participate in ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection campaign, an effort to develop and implement greenhouse gas reductions measures in cities and counties, that collectively represent more than 55 million people; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley and the State of California will face serious consequences from global climate change in the coming years, including the potential inundation of low lying areas, more intense winter storms resulting in severe flooding, shortages of drinkable water, loss of habitat and diversity of species, reduction in food production, and increased costs of energy; and

WHEREAS, greenhouse gas reduction activities can contribute substantially to the achievement of Berkeley's highest priority goals, including but not limited to: economic and quality of life benefits such as reduced energy bills, green space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, solid waste reduction, affordable and reliable water supplies, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, the City itself is engaging in actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from City operations and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the People of Berkeley have supported, and encourage the development of, policies to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions such as residential energy efficiency standards, incentives for residents and businesses to reduce energy use, recycling and waste reduction programs, and improved transportation options; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has set an ultimate goal of achieving climate neutral greenhouse gas emissions in its Resolution 62,783–N.S. endorsing the Kyoto Protocol and calling for cities across America to join the City in addressing the problem of global warming; and

WHEREAS Berkeley's tradition of environmental leadership and the global consensus that aggressive action is needed to halt dangerous climate change impels the City to exercise additional leadership in this area; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the People of Berkeley believe that the City should have a goal of achieving an 80% reduction in community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor should work with the community to develop a plan for adoption by the City Council in 2007 that sets a ten year emissions reduction target and identifies the actions that the City and its residents should take both to achieve both the ten year target and the goal of 80% reduction in emissions.

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The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Berkeley City Council on December 12, 2006 by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Anderson, Capitelli, Maio, Moore, Olds, Spring, Worthington, Wozniak and Mayor Bates.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Tom Bates, Mayor

Attest: _____
Pamyla Means, City Clerk