

1 **CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-30**

3 **INTRODUCED BY:**

4
5 Councilor Romero
6 Councilor Wurzburger
7 Councilor Calvert
8
9

10 **A RESOLUTION**

11 **SUPPORTING THE REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION UNDER THE**
12 **CLEAN AIR ACT.**

13
14 **WHEREAS**, the decade from 2000 to 2010 was the warmest on recordⁱ, and 2005 and 2010
15 tied for the hottest years on recordⁱⁱ; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the current level of CO₂ in the atmosphere is approximately 392 parts per
17 millionⁱⁱⁱ (ppm); and

18 **WHEREAS**, one of the world's leading climate scientists, Dr. James Hansen, stated in 2008:

19 "If humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization
20 developed and to which life on Earth is adapted, paleoclimate evidence and
21 climate change suggest that CO₂ will need to be reduced from its current 385
22 ppm to at most 350ppm^{iv}; and

23 **WHEREAS**, according to the Global Humanitarian Forum, climate change is already
24 responsible every year for some 300,000 deaths, 325 million people seriously affected, and economic
25 losses worldwide of U.S. \$125 billion^v; and

1 **WHEREAS**, extreme weather events are striking with increased frequency, with deadly
2 consequences for people and wildlife^{vi}; in the United States alone:

- 3 • 2005 had the most hurricanes on record since 1851;
- 4 • blizzards plagued the Northeast during the winter of 2011;
- 5 • intense rainfall and snowmelt forced the Mississippi River to overflow its banks across
6 the Midwest and South in summer 2011;
- 7 • the unprecedented 2011 Texas drought lead the U.S. Department of Agriculture to
8 declare the entire state a natural disaster zone;
- 9 • heat waves scorched the Midwest and East in summer 2011, with many cities hitting
10 record-high temperatures and for example, Oklahoma on pace to break its record for days
11 over 100 degrees; and

12 **WHEREAS**, climate change is threatening food security as crop growth and yields diminish
13 and droughts, floods and changes in snow pack depth are disrupting water supplies^{vii}; and

14 **WHEREAS**, scientists have concluded that by 2100 as many as one in 10 species may be on
15 the verge of extinction due to climate change^{viii}; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the world's ice is rapidly melting threatening water supplies, raising sea levels,
17 and jeopardizing ice-dependent animals so severely that Arctic summer sea ice is half the area and
18 thickness it was several decades ago^{ix}; and

19 **WHEREAS**, according to *Scientific American*, sea level is rising faster along the U.S. East
20 Coast than it has for at least 2,000 years, and is accelerating in pace, threatening coastal wildlife and
21 the 40 percent of the world's population that lives within 60 miles of the coast^x; and

22 **WHEREAS**, for four decades, the Clean Air Act has protected the air we breathe through a
23 proven, comprehensive, successful system of pollution control that saves lives and creates economic
24 benefits exceeding its costs by many times^{xi}; and

25 **WHEREAS**, with the Clean Air Act, air quality in this country has improved significantly

1 since 1970, despite major growth both in our economy and industrial production; and

2 **WHEREAS**, between 1970 and 1990, the six main pollutants covered by the Clean Air Act –
3 particulate matter and ground-level ozone (both of which contribute to smog and asthma), carbon
4 monoxide, lead, sulfur and nitrogen oxides (the acid gases that cause acid rain) — were reduced by
5 between 47 percent and 93 percent, and airborne lead was virtually eliminated; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Clean Air Act has produced economic benefits valued at \$2 trillion or 30
7 times the cost of regulation; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Massachusetts vs. EPA* (2007) that greenhouse
9 gases are “air pollutants” as defined by the Clean Air Act and the Environmental Protection Agency
10 has the authority to regulate them; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe prides itself on being a leader in the fight against climate
12 change and for clean air; and

13 **WHEREAS**, through the adoption of Resolution 2006-55 the Governing Body of the City of
14 Santa Fe endorsed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement which urges the
15 federal government and state governments to reduce the United States’ dependence on fossil fuels and
16 accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies
17 such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, waste to energy, wind and solar
18 energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body supports the Architecture 2030 Challenge to reduce fossil
20 fuel energy use associated with City facilities.

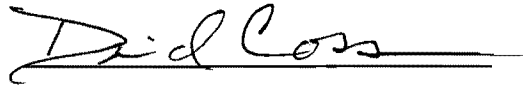
21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
22 **CITY OF SANTA FE**, that climate change is not an abstract problem for the future or one that will
23 only affect far-distant places but rather climate change is happening now, we are causing it, and the
24 longer we wait to act, the more we lose and the more difficult the problem will be to solve.

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we, the Governing Body, on behalf of the residents of

1 Santa Fe, New Mexico, do hereby urge the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency,
2 Lisa P. Jackson, and President Barack Obama to move swiftly to fully employ and enforce the Clean
3 Air Act so that we can do our part to reduce carbon in our atmosphere to no more than 350 parts per
4 million.

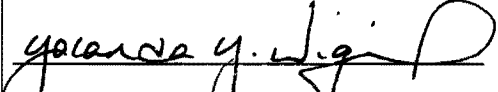
5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution
6 to Lisa P. Jackson of the Environmental Protection Agency and President Barack Obama.

7 PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 14th day of March, 2012.

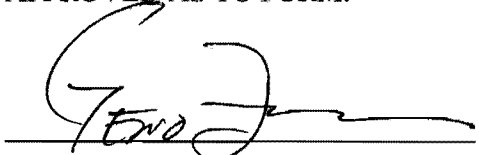
8
9 

10 DAVID COSS, MAYOR

11 ATTEST:

12
13 
14 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

15 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

16
17 
18 GENO ZAMORA, CITY ATTORNEY

19
20
21
22
23
24
25

-
- i http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2010/jan/HQ_10-017_Warmest_temps.html
- ii http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110112_globalstats.html
- iii <http://co2now.org/>
- iv <http://arxiv.org/abs/0804.1126>
- v www.eird.org/publicaciones/humanimpactreport.pdf
- vi http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/05/19/floods-droughts-extreme-weatherus_n_864046.html?view=print
- vii <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/02/110221101319.htm>
- viii <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/07/110711151457.htm>
- ix <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/jul/11/arctic-ice-free;>
http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/mammals/polar_bear/fact_sheet.html;
http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/mammals/Pacific_walrus/index.html;
<http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/climatechange/theClimate/glaciers.htm>
- x <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=warming-accelerates-us-east-coast-sea-level>
- xi For Clean Air Act facts, see:
http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/climate_law_institute/global_warming_litigation/clean_air_act/pdfs/CleanAirActWorks_032011.pdf and
[http://www.epa.gov/air/sect812/;](http://www.epa.gov/air/sect812/) "The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act, 1970 to 1990," "The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act, 1990 to 2010"