

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL



DATE: July 2, 2019

TITLE: Resolution in Support of Balanced Energy Solution and Local Choice

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RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution of the City Council Supporting Balanced Energy Solution and Local Choice.

BACKGROUND:

A number of state agencies are increasingly proposing new legislation and regulations looking to eliminate energy choices and mandating solutions to fully electrify homes and businesses in the future. These mandates eliminate local control and customer choice, which suppresses innovation, reduces reliability, and unnecessarily increases costs for Irwindale residents and businesses.

The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the effect of climate change on our citizens are primary concerns of the Desert Hot Springs City Council and staff. The City is taking a much more active role in helping promote ideas and measures that seek to meet or exceed emission reduction regulations. Supporting this Resolution is a positive step towards communicating our City's desire to protect the interests of citizens to have a continued choice in their preferred energy solutions for their homes and businesses.

One of the additional benefits of maintaining a balanced energy solution is to allow alternative sources to be developed and available in case of electrical grid failure. The State's focus on electrical energy delivery discourages investment in alternative energy sources.

Similar to the electrical companies, the Southern California Gas Company has also been doing its part to reduce greenhouse gases by promoting biogas or renewable natural gas. These energy alternatives come from sources such as green waste, wastewater treatment plants, food waste and agriculture waste. They can capture this methane, which would normally go into the atmosphere, and put it into their pipelines for customer use.

Supporting energy choice does not come at a cost to the environment. Both electricity and gas energy suppliers are concerned with greenhouse gas emissions and are seeking methods to protect the environment. By supporting the recommended Resolution, the City Council is making a statement to protect customer choice, protect customers from higher energy costs and making a positive decision for a better environment in the future.

FISCAL IMACTS

There is no fiscal impact for the City with the recommended action.

EXHIBITS

1) Resolution