

RESOLUTION NO. 20230608-043

WHEREAS, the scientific consensus is clear that human activities are primarily responsible for accelerating global climate change, and that the climate crisis now represents one of the preeminent threats to global civilization; and

WHEREAS, changes in our climate are already being felt in Austin and throughout our state, with prolonged drought punctuated by unpredictable torrential downpours and flooding, more frequent extreme heat events, wildfires, stronger winds, and warmer water temperatures that can result in increasing severe storms and rising costs that are taking an unsustainable economic toll on the State and its residents; and

WHEREAS, our entire community is being impacted by the health and safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, particularly those who also face socioeconomic and health inequities, including low-income families, those experiencing homelessness, people of color and indigenous peoples, youth, seniors, those experiencing mental and physical disabilities, and people with pre-existing health conditions; and

WHEREAS, our youth and future generations have the most to lose from a lack of immediate action to stop fossil fuel expansion as they face major and lifelong health, ecological, social, and economic impacts from prolonged and cumulative effects of climate change, including food and water shortages, infectious diseases, and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin recognizes that it is the urgent responsibility and moral obligation of wealthy fossil fuel producers, governments, non-governmental organizations, and the business community as a whole, to lead in

putting an end to fossil fuel development and to foster the decline of existing production; and

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2019, the City Council unanimously approved a resolution declaring a climate emergency and called for an immediate emergency mobilization to restore a safe climate; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted the Austin Climate Equity Plan, which includes the bold goal of equitably reaching net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions and achieving 100 percent of electricity power supply through clean, renewable, and zero carbon emission energy sources by 2040; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Paris Climate Agreement focused on climate mitigation and adaptation but did not necessarily address the ongoing use of coal, oil, and gas, which are the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, if not addressed, the fossil fuel industry will produce about 120 percent more emissions by 2030 than what is needed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avert catastrophic climate disruption, and such plans risk undoing the work of local communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the fossil fuel industry continues to construct new fossil fuel infrastructure, including plans for more than twenty major facilities along the Gulf Coast, which would deepen our reliance on fossil fuels and expose communities to untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and global levels; and

WHEREAS, the fossil fuel industry is making large investments in plastic production to utilize more oil and gas, and large consumers, such as cities, can play an important role in reducing demand for plastics, which is reflected in the Austin

Climate Equity Plan strategy to “Strengthen the City of Austin’s Sustainable Procurement Program to serve as a model for others locally and nationally”; and

WHEREAS, the economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin government recognizes the importance of measures taken to decarbonize the local economy and uplift frontline communities as important long term solutions; and

WHEREAS, a new global initiative is underway calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that would commit countries to ending new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and accelerate equitable transition plans; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City of Austin hereby endorses the call for a global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and requests the federal government develop and enact a federal Climate Emergency Plan and Declaration of a national climate emergency to create millions of jobs transitioning to a 100 percent clean energy economy, phase out fossil fuel production, and invest in communities on the frontlines of environmental injustice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City of Austin urges the United States Federal Government to support the initiative for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty by submitting a copy of

this Resolution to the Austin Congressional Delegation, and request that all relevant support and assistance in effectuating this resolution be provided.

ADOPTED: June 8, 2023 **ATTEST:** G Brady for

Myrna Rios

City Clerk