

Resolution No. 115-06

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PROMOTION OF BIODIESEL UTILIZATION IN THE CITY OF RICHMOND

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond is committed to responsible environmental stewardship as an element of the city's general plan, and

WHEREAS, the average diesel emissions per square mile in Richmond, and West Contra Costa County, are 40 times higher than California as a whole and six times higher than in other areas of Contra Costa County,¹ and

WHEREAS, diesel emissions are a growing concern for public health and the reduction of diesel emissions is a top priority of the Bay Area Quality Management District and other regulators, and

WHEREAS, most of the increase risk for cancer from air pollution resides in the exposure of residents to diesel pollution, and especially the small particles known as "diesel particulate matter", and

WHEREAS, mobile sources of pollution, like vessels, cargo-handling equipment, locomotives, buses and trucks that support the shipping industry, are significant generators of diesel emissions emanating from the Port of Richmond, and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond operates a significant fleet of diesel vehicles, and

WHEREAS, new and renewable fuels for diesel engines have been derived from natural vegetable oils and recycled cooking oils, and these fuels are known as "biodiesel" and "biodiesel blend" fuels, and these fuels are available in the market and can be used in any concentration with petroleum-based diesel fuel in existing diesel engines with little or no modification,² and

WHEREAS, the use of biodiesel and biodiesel blends in diesel engines results in substantial reductions of unburned hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter, and

WHEREAS, the use of biodiesel reduces the health risk associated with petroleum diesel by dramatically lowering the emission of cancer-causing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and

WHEREAS, the use of biodiesel reduces America's dependence on foreign energy sources and lessens the conflict-generating pressures to control those sources of energy, and

WHEREAS, biodiesel provides jobs for American farmers and promotes economic development in America's rural areas

WHEREAS the City of Richmond has welcomed in recent years two different companies (*Bay Area Biofuel, Inc* and *LC Biofuels, LLC*) which have opened production plants and manufacture thousands of gallons of biodiesel a day for personal vehicles and commercial fleets, and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond can improve the air quality of our residents and at the same time participate in the creation of a more sustainable economy and a future with more secure energy sources, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Richmond shall study the feasibility of mandating the use of biodiesel and biodiesel blends in all the diesel vehicles the city operates; and

Be it also resolved that the City of Richmond directs the Port of Richmond to study the feasibility of requiring use of biodiesel and biodiesel blends by all port tenants and users, including but not limited to vessels, cargo-handling equipment, locomotives, buses and trucks that support the shipping industry; and

Be it further resolved that the City of Richmond encourages the citizens of Richmond who own and operate diesel vehicles to use biodiesel and biodiesel blends, and whenever possible to buy biodiesel locally from Richmond-based biodiesel manufacturers.

I certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the Members of the City Council of the City of Richmond at a meeting held on October 17, 2006 by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Griffin, Marquez, McLaughlin, Rogers,
 Thurmond, Viramontes and Mayor Anderson

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

DIANE HOLMES
 Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

IRMA L. ANDERSON
 Mayor

Approved as to form:

JOHN EASTMAN
 City Attorney

State of California }
 County of Contra Costa : ss.
 City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 115-06, finally passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at meeting held on October 17, 2006.