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## **Rules Committee Moves to Affirm Commitment to Reducing Greenhouse Gases on Earth Day**

**San Diego, CA** – The San Diego City Council’s Rules Committee has taken the first step in reaffirming the City of San Diego’s commitment to limiting greenhouse gases. The move comes on Earth Day and follows the Trump Administration’s February rescission of the Environmental Protection Agency’s 2009 Endangerment Finding.

The 2009 Endangerment Finding was the scientific finding that current and projected concentrations of six key well-mixed greenhouse gases (GHG) threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations. Further, that emissions from motor vehicles cause and contribute to climate change.

**“When the current federal administration decides that science does not matter and that greenhouse gas emissions have no association with public health impacts, we stick to our values,”** said San Diego City Council President Joe LaCava. **“We have spent too long and worked too hard to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to ensure resiliency. We will not shift course.”**

The Endangerment Finding was based on more than 200 pages of research and evidence including decades of research by scientists globally and the Supreme Court’s 2007 rule-making decision. The repeal of the Finding is expected to increase the country’s GHG emissions by 10 percent over the next 30 years, according to the Environmental Defense Fund.

Community and environmental advocates joined Council President LaCava in calling for reaffirming the City’s stance as the administration dismantles federal actions. Actions, rooted in scientific findings, are meant to protect the public and communities across the country and the globe, as the climate crisis worsens.

**Serena Pelka, Senior Policy Advocate, Climate Action Campaign**

**“Rescinding the endangerment finding undermines existing standards to reduce pollution and puts communities, particularly communities of concern, at greater risk of poor air quality, extreme heat, and pollution burden. We urge support for this action, affirming San Diego’s commitment to reducing pollution, and implementing the Climate Action Plan in full. The health of our communities depends on it.”**

**Lisa Ross, Chair, Executive Committee, Sierra Club San Diego**

**“Decades of science make it clear that greenhouse gases endanger public health and the wellbeing of current and future generations. Even when federal leadership falls short, local leadership must step up. We commend the City on staying the course, standing with science, and protecting the people of San Diego.”**

**Masada Disenhouse, Executive Director, San Diego 350**

**“It’s important for San Diego to stand up, to fight climate denial at the federal level, and to affirm the city’s commitment to achieving the Climate Action Plan, Climate Equity Goals, and State Climate Goals. Our future depends on it.”**

**Andrew Meyer, Director of Conservation, San Diego Bird Alliance**

**“We support this stance against the climate crisis with two-thirds of our birds in our continent at risk of extinction because of climate change. It is a climate crisis we need the city and all levels of government to act on, including and especially, unregulated greenhouse gas emissions.”**

Today’s item requests the City Attorney’s Office works with Council President LaCava’s Office to prepare the resolution to uphold the City of San Diego’s commitment to limit greenhouse gas emissions, protecting public health and the environment.

Earth Day takes place every year on the 22nd of April and is an international day devoted to our planet. It draws attention to the environment and promotes conservation and sustainability.

The theme this year is 'Our Power, Our Planet', highlighting how community innovation and local problem-solving endure, regardless of policy shifts.

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*Council President Joe LaCava represents San Diego's First Council District, which includes the communities of La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Heights, Del Mar Mesa, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Torrey Hills, Torrey Pines, and a portion of University City west of the 1-5.*