



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Council Member Chris Beale
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: **Clean Fuel Standard Rule – December 17, 2019**
DATE: **11/22/2019**

SUMMARY & PURPOSE:

A resolution affirming the City Council’s support for the most robust proposal, “Scenario D,” for the regional Clean Fuel Standard rule, with a “yea” vote when it comes before the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Board of Directors for approval in 2020.

[Council Member Chris Beale]

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Woodards
Council Member Beale
Council Member Hunter
Council Member Mello

BACKGROUND:

This Council Member’s Recommendation is Based On:

The City’s 2008 Climate Action Plan sets an aggressive greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal of 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050; and the current Environmental Action Plan supports these goals, with targets to register 2,000 electric vehicles and decrease City and Tacoma Public Utilities transportation-based fossil fuel use by 15 percent of 2014 levels by 2020.

In 2016, transportation accounted for 71 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the City. Diesel exhaust from fossil fuel combustion is linked to heart and lung disease, cancer, and premature death. From 2009 to 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency formally designated part of Tacoma and most of Pierce County as “non-attainment,” meaning that air quality did not meet federal health standards because of fine particle pollution, including diesel exhaust.

In 2017, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency’s (Agency) Board of Directors adopted a science-based target to reduce greenhouse gas pollution by 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, and is considering adopting a regional Clean Fuel Standard to help meet that target. A Clean Fuel Standard would reduce greenhouse gas pollution from transportation to address climate change and protect human health. The standard would apply to transportation fuels supplied or sold in the Agency’s jurisdiction -- King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. The Agency has drafted a rule for the Agency’s Board of Directors to consider for action in early 2020. Currently, the agency is in a 90-day public comment period. The Agency’s Board of Directors will then consider action on a potential final rule no sooner than the Board’s meeting on February 27, 2020.

The Clean Fuel Standard “Scenario D” is consistent with the region’s economic growth, and any changes to economic productivity and employment are estimated to be minimal. If adopted, the regional Clean Fuel Standard “Scenario D” will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation fuels using a flexible, market-based



approach that spurs technological innovation, and has the ability to improve air quality, protect public health, transform and diversify the transportation fuel pool, decrease dependency on petroleum over the long-term, and increase predictability and consistency in the fuel market in Tacoma and the wider Puget Sound region.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ (CUSTOMER RESEARCH):

This resolution was requested by the Sustainable Tacoma Commission.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

Poor air quality affects everyone; however, children, the elderly, pregnant women, those with respiratory or cardiovascular health problems, those situated within 500 feet of a freeway, and those without the resources to protect themselves are most at risk. This resolution formally supports the Agency’s Board of Directors taking action that will reduce fine particle pollution and improve health outcomes for those living closest to the freeway, which we know is the largest source of pollution.

Livability: Equity Index Score: Select Index Score.

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents

How does your policy, program, or service help or harm the health of the natural environment?² (e.g. reduction in carbon emissions, open space conditions, sustainability, clean air, water and soil, and noise and light pollution).

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s)?

The proposed regional Clean Fuel Standard, “Scenario D,” projects 20-26 percent reductions in transportation fuel carbon intensity by 2030, and a resulting reduction in fine particle pollution (PM2.5) emissions is estimated to result in health benefits, presently valued at up to \$45.7 million by 2030, especially for low-income communities and communities of color, which studies show are often located near major roadways such as the Interstate-5 corridor.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. The Council could take no action		The Agency could adopt a less effective clean air standard that doesn’t meet long-term goals
2. The Council could recommend Scenarios A, B, or C	Council would still support clean air standards that will reduce emissions	The Agency could adopt a less effective clean air standard that doesn’t meet long-term goals

EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:

Council will be informed of final decision from the Puget Sound Clean Agency Board of Directors in 2020.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECOMMENDATION:

The recommendation is to pass a resolution in support for “Scenario D.”



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

FISCAL IMPACT:

This resolution does not have any fiscal impact.