

**BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION No. 2013 - 08**

**A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District**

**Resolution Urging the President of the United States of America to Reject the Application of TransCanada Corporation to Construct the Keystone XL Pipeline**

WHEREAS, The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 commits the State of California to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and the Governor's Executive Order S-3-05 further calls on the State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and,

WHEREAS, The Bay Area Air Quality Management District launched a formal Climate Protection Program in 2005, and through this program works with the State of California and city and county governments throughout the Bay Area region to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, The 109 local governments in the Bay Area region have either adopted or are in the process of developing local climate action plans that seek to meet the State's aggressive greenhouse gas reduction targets, largely through energy efficiency programs and pursuing alternatives to fossil fuel-based energy consumption; and

WHEREAS, Regional Agencies in the Bay Area are developing *Plan Bay Area* in an effort to improve coordination between transportation, land use and housing policies as part of a "Sustainable Communities Strategy," in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light-duty trucks; and,

WHEREAS, President Obama is expected to make a decision this year regarding a proposed 850-mile "oil sands" pipeline (known as the Keystone XL pipeline) across Montana, South Dakota, and Nebraska to be built by the Canadian company TransCanada, connecting the oil sands region in the Province of Alberta, Canada, to oil refineries in Texas; and,

WHEREAS, The boreal forest which overlays much of the Canadian oil sand deposits stores more carbon in peat lands, soil and trees than any other ecosystem in the world; oil sands extraction in Northern Alberta creates a vast network of open pit mines, wells, roads and pipes which will destroy hundreds of thousands of acres of previously untouched boreal forest; and,

WHEREAS, the Congressional Research Service reported that greenhouse gas emissions from the production of oil sands are on average 14%-20% higher than the average transportation fuel sold in the United States, largely due to the increased energy required to extract, transport and refine the heavy oil sands; and,

WHEREAS, The Congressional Research Service further reported that the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline would increase annual GHG emissions in the United States by 3.7 million to 20.7 metric tons, or the equivalent of emissions from approximately 771,000 to 4,300,000 passenger vehicles; and,

WHEREAS, The Pembina Institute, a Canadian energy research group, reported that the refinement of oil sands in 2005 released 37 megatons of greenhouse gases, compared with 23 megatons in 2000. Emissions could reach 164 megatons per year by 2015 due to rapidly increasing production; and,

WHEREAS, Refinement of oil sands to usable petroleum products requires more intensive processing, which will increase emissions of both toxic, criteria, and greenhouse gas pollutants at local refineries; and,

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay Area is a major refining center for the western United States, and any increase in emissions of both toxic and criteria pollutants at local refineries will impact the health of local residents; and,

WHEREAS, Disruption of local weather patterns due to warming could alter the patterns and intensity of infectious diseases causing new threats to public health; and,

WHEREAS, A joint report published in February 2011 by the National Resources Defense Council, the Pipeline Safety Trust, the National Wildlife Federation and the Sierra Club described the substance that would be carried in the Keystone XL pipeline as “a highly corrosive, acidic, and potentially unstable blend of thick raw bitumen and volatile natural gas liquid condensate;” and,

WHEREAS, The same report above specifies that diluted bitumen contains up to 50 times higher acid concentrations than conventional crude oil and up to 10 times as much sulfur, and the California Air Resources Board has consistently worked to lower the high sulfur content of fuels used within the State, including the notoriously high California crude oil; and,

WHEREAS, Extraction, processing, and combustion of Alberta tar sands bitumen that would be carried by the Keystone Pipeline XL would counteract greenhouse gas reduction achievements made by local climate protection efforts in the Bay Area and throughout California; and,

WHEREAS, Reducing the demand for fossil fuels in the Bay Area by meeting or exceeding the goals of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District’s Climate Protection Program would help reduce the demand for further extraction of Alberta tar sands; and,

WHEREAS, By statute, President Obama, on his own and without Congressional approval, has the power to stop this pipeline by denying a permit for the proposed pipeline to cross the border between Canada and the United States; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby call upon President Obama to use his authority to deny the "Presidential Permit" for the Keystone XL pipeline, thereby rejecting the oil sands pipeline project and the negative impacts it would have on our efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and improve public health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors directs staff to write letters to Mary D. Nichols, Chairman of the California Air Resources Board, and Matt Rodriguez, Secretary for Environmental Protection of the California Environmental Protection Agency, calling upon each of them to contact President Obama asking that he use his authority to deny the "Presidential Permit" for the Keystone XL pipeline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors believes that by denying the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline, President Obama will take a positive stand for addressing climate change concerns and avoid public health impacts associated with increased refining of oil sands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors commits to revising the greenhouse gas emission reduction goals of the District's Climate Protection Program to reduce the Bay Area's reliance on oil sands.

The foregoing resolution was duly and regularly introduced, passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District on the Motion of Director Avalos, seconded by Director Mar, on the 7th day of August, 2013, by the following vote of the Board:

AYES: AVALOS, BARRETT, BATES, GIOIA, GROOM, KNISS, MAR, PEPPER, ROSS, ZANE, KALRA

NOES: KLATT, PIEPHO, SPERING, WAGENKNECHT

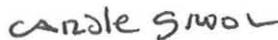
ABSTAIN: HAGGERTY, MILEY

ABSENT: ADAMS, HUDSON, LEE, SBRANTI, YEAGER



Ash Kalra  
Chairperson of the Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Carole Groom  
Secretary of the Board of Directors