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22       **WHEREAS**, in October 2018, extreme flooding along the Colorado River severely  
23 strained the City’s water treatment plants, resulting in an unprecedented week-long boil  
24 water notice for Austin Water customers; and

25       **WHEREAS**, unparalleled weather events continue to attest to the findings of scientific  
26 studies, most significantly the 2018 “Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5° C” by the  
27 UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which warned of imminent threats to  
28 public health, safety, and the global economy without a worldwide push to reduce global gas  
29 emissions by 45 percent in 12 years; and

30       **WHEREAS**, in response to the report, nearly 100 U.S. Congressional representatives  
31 have signed House Resolution 109, recognizing the duty of the federal government to create  
32 a Green New Deal, with cosponsors including Texas U.S. Reps. Lloyd Doggett (Austin),  
33 Joaquin Castro (San Antonio), and Veronica Escobar (El Paso); and

34       **WHEREAS**, the Green New Deal establishes federal goals that include:

- 35       • “achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions;
- 36       • establishing millions of high-wage jobs and ensuring economic security for all;
- 37       • investing in infrastructure and industry;
- 38       • securing clean air and water, climate and community resiliency, healthy food, access
- 39 to nature, and a sustainable environment for all; and promoting justice and equality;”
- 40 and

41       **WHEREAS**, the City of Austin is recognized as an early leader in addressing the  
42 threats of climate change by, among other council actions, setting a community-wide goal

of net-zero gas emissions by 2050, setting a sustainability goal of 55% renewable energy by 2025, joining the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, and, most recently, adopting the Water Forward plan to ensure a reliable and resilient water future for the next century; and

**WHEREAS**, in April 2018, the Sustainability Office released a Climate Resilience Action Plan, which examined the City of Austin's assets and operations to identify vulnerabilities and make recommendations for mitigating the impacts of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rockefeller Foundation, in 2013, established 100 Resilient Cities, which helps member cities in the U.S. and abroad retain Chief Resilience Officers and provides the necessary resources to create a resilience plan through such avenues as:

- financial and logistical guidance;
- expert support for the development of a resilience plan
- access to partners from the private, public and non-profit sectors who can assist in the development of a strong and healthy resilience strategy;
- membership into a global network of member cities that learn from and support one another; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Manager is directed to work with the Office of Sustainability to perform a literature review of climate resilience plans of peer cities, to explore available, potential partnerships (such as the 100 Resilient Cities effort), and to return to Council no later than August 22, 2019, with recommendations for creating a comprehensive, community-wide climate resilience plan that is fair, just, and equitable.

Recommendations should include funding options, such as grants or other revenue sources, to 1) fund a position for a Chief Resilience Officer and staff necessary to produce a resilience plan; or 2) hire a consultant to draft or assist city staff with drafting a comprehensive resilience plan; or 3) other recommendations for achieving this objective;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The Council recognizes we are already experiencing the adverse consequences of climate change, understands the urgency of creating a blueprint to prepare for and respond to the shocks and stressors of catastrophic climate events, and supports the general tenets of the Green New Deal.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk