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RESOLUTION NO. 2025-07

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING
THE APPROPRIATION OF \$125,000 IN FUNDS FROM AVAILABLE FUND
BALANCE IN THE CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION RESERVE FUND
FOR THE GAS LINE DECOMMISSIONING PROJECT**

WHEREAS, since 2020, the City of Albany has been developing an experimental pilot project with the goal of electrifying all buildings on one city block and decommissioning the corresponding section of the gas pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the pilot is part of a developing strategy of zonal electrification, which aims to electrify buildings strategically and efficiently in geographic zones, rather than relying only on the current approach of incentivizing electrification on a by-appliance basis; and

WHEREAS, City staff have worked with PG&E (Pacific Gas & Electric) staff to select potential pilot sites in Albany. Staff has identified 12 locations where the PG&E gas pipeline network comes to an end, making it hydrologically feasible to cap the pipeline without disrupting the rest of the system, and in a location where the pipeline would otherwise need to be repaired or replaced in the near future; and

WHEREAS, on August 8th 2023, City staff submitted an application for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant competitive program through the United States Department of Energy (DOE) to pursue the gas line decommissioning pilot; and

WHEREAS, in October 2023 the Department of Energy awarded the City of Albany a grant in the amount of \$200,000 to fund outreach, electrification assessments of buildings, negotiations with homeowners to try to reach 100% buy-in for decommissioning on at least one block, and production of reports and materials; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in September 2024, the City and the DOE successfully completed the
2 award negotiations and the award was signed by the contracting officer. On October 21st, the
3 City Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-75, authorizing the City Manager to acknowledge
4 the terms and conditions of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant competitive
5 award for the Gas Line Decommissioning Pilot Project; and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, at the same meeting, the Council also adopted Resolution No. 2024-76,
8 authorizing the City Manager to execute Contract No. C24-54 with Environmental Justice
9 Solutions for professional services for the gas line decommissioning pilot project outreach;
10 and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, on January 20th 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order 14154,
13 titled “Unleashing American Energy” which ordered all agencies to immediately pause the
14 disbursement of funds appropriated through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 or the
15 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, on January 31st, a judge issued a temporary restraining order, ruling that
18 “agencies shall not pause, freeze, impede, block, cancel, or terminate compliance with awards
19 and obligations to provide federal financial assistance ‘to the States.’” ; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, staff have not been able to withdraw any grant funds from the Automated
22 Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) and it is unclear when or if grant disbursements
23 will be restarted.
24

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Albany City Council authorizes
26 the appropriation of \$125,000 in funds from available fund balance in the Climate Action and
27 Adaptation Reserve Fund for the Gas Line Decommissioning Project.
28
29


ROBIN D. LOPEZ, MAYOR



City of Albany

1000 San Pablo Avenue • Albany, California 94706
(510) 528-5710 • www.albanyca.org

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-07

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY,

The 3rd day of March, 2025, by the following votes:

AYES: Council Members Hansen-Romero, Jordan, McQuaid, Miki and

Mayor López

NOES: none

ABSENT: none

ABSTAINED: none

RECUSED: none

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, this 4th
day of March, 2025.

Anne Hsu
CITY CLERK