

RESOLUTION No. 08-15

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSITION 7

WHEREAS, Prop. 7 is so poorly drafted that renewable energy and environmental experts warn the initiative would not achieve its goals and, instead, could actually “slam the brakes” on renewable energy development in California; and

WHEREAS, Prop. 7 was drafted by a handful of lobbyists and lawyers and funded by one out-of-state billionaire with no energy expertise; and

WHEREAS, the initiative would erode local control and negatively impact local governments, community choice aggregates and municipal utilities in California by imposing new statewide, top-down mandates for renewable power that are inflexible and greatly erode local officials’ ability to determine the right energy resource mix for their customers; and

WHEREAS, Prop. 7 further pre-empts local control by specifically removing existing permitting authority away from cities and counties for the approval of certain renewable energy power plants and related infrastructure, and by giving that authority to a state bureaucracy; and

WHEREAS, Prop. 7 also authorizes the state to cut down the time to 100 days in which local governments can file comments on proposed power plant projects in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Prop. 7 also contains a “competition elimination” provision that forces small renewable energy companies out of California’s market, by excluding power from small, renewable plants under 30 megawatts from counting toward the new renewable requirements; and

WHEREAS, Prop. 7 allows renewable power providers to always charge 10% above the market price of power, stifling competition for renewable power, and artificially increasing the cost of power; and

WHEREAS, nothing in the text of Prop. 7 actually limits increases in our electric bills and the initiative would actually cost consumers and taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, when the initiative is fully implemented, it’s estimated that Prop. 7 would increase electricity costs for local governments by \$704 million annually; and

WHEREAS, California recently announced a world-leading plan to combat global climate change that includes strong new requirements that is already resulting in the use of more renewable power sources and we need to give this plan time to work; and

WHEREAS, a broad coalition of environmental organizations, local governments, business organizations, taxpayer groups, organized labor and others have come together in opposition to Prop. 7, and have formed a coalition called “Californians Against Another Costly Energy Scheme”.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE City Council of the City of Williams that we hereby **OPPOSE Prop. 7 on the November 2008 ballot.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we hereby authorize the listing of the City of Williams in formal opposition of Prop. 7 and as a member of Californians Against Another Costly Energy Scheme.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of October, 2008 by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers Barker, Fulcher, Johnson, and Mayor Ash.
NOES:	None.
ABSTAIN:	Councilmember Azevedo.
ABSENT:	None.

Patricia Ash, Mayor

Attest:

Rene L. Miles, City Clerk