TOWN OF FAIRFAX
STAFF REPORT
December 4, 2013

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Michele Gardner, Town Clerk MG

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution 13- 57 In Support of Urgent International Rescue of Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Facility

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RECOMMENDATION
Adopt the attached resolution

DISCUSSION
Mayor Reed and Councilmember Bragman have requested the attached resolution be considered for adoption by the Town Council.

FISCAL IMPACT
None

Attachment: Resolution 13-57

AGENDA ITEM # 12

RESOLUTION 13- 57

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX IN SUPPORT OF URGENT INTERNATIONAL RESCUE OF FUKUSHIMA DAI-ICHI NUCLEAR FACILITY

WHEREAS, the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear reactors, crippled by the tsunami in Japan in March of 2011, continue to pose a grave risk to people and the environment around the world, including the United States. Over 300 tons of radioactive water have been discharged every day into the Pacific Ocean since the 2011 catastrophe and readings of marine life in parts of the Western Pacific and elsewhere have indicated increased radioactivity; and,

WHEREAS, this radioactive contamination, including long lasting cesium, will be carried by the jet stream and spread by ocean currents to all parts of the world, adversely affecting marine life as well as human populations, and much greater contamination is likely, given that the reactor cores are highly unstable and that the structures and storage tanks are deteriorating and that massive amounts of contaminated cooling and groundwater are being released into the Pacific daily; and,

WHEREAS, the nuclear reactors are located in a highly active seismic zone where an earthquake is likely to further compromise the structural integrity of damaged buildings and equipment, the melted reactor cores and spent fuel rods require constant cooling, and a meltdown in a spent fuel pool would release unprecedented amounts of radioactivity into the global atmosphere and may prevent further safety work at the site leading to continuous, unstoppable radioactive releases; and,

WHEREAS, this disaster presents one of the gravest threats and greatest technological challenges facing the international community, and as such demands an international response utilizing the world's most accomplished experts as well as international funding on a level commensurate with humankind's most ambitious efforts, in the interest of every nation; and,

WHEREAS, the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) which operated the Fukushima facility remains in charge of the containment and cleanup but has been unable to achieve that result and mishaps at the site are ongoing and pose a growing threat not only to the Japanese, but to all Pacific nations, including the western coast of the United States, and TEPCO and the government of Japan are now severely taxed in responding to daily on site emergencies, radioactive fisheries and farm produce, increasing human health problems, and victim compensation; and,

WHEREAS, a coalition of seventy-two organizations, joined by Hiroaki Koide of Kyoto University Nuclear Reactor Research Institute, former United Nations (U.N.)

diplomat Akio Matsumura, former senior adviser to the United States (U.S.) Secretary of Energy, Robert Alvarez, have requested that the U.N. organize an independent assessment team and international assistance, stating that it is "imperative for the Japanese government and the international community to work together on this crisis before it becomes too late, and we are appealing to the United Nations to help Japan and the planet in order to prevent the irreversible consequences of a catastrophe that could affect generations to come," and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association, California chapter, by formal resolution, has called for the United States government to continue to monitor and fully report the radioactivity levels of edible ocean species sold in the United States (Res. 414, A-13); and,

WHEREAS, the situation at Fukushima, Japan is now clearly an international problem and poses health and safety concerns to America's West Coast;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax urges that:

1. The United Nations General Assembly and Security Council appoint on an emergency basis, within thirty days, an International Independent Commission of Experts (IICE) charged with formulating a plan to reduce, to every extent possible, releases of Fukushima Dai-ichi radiation into the atmosphere and the ocean, drawing personnel from universities, national research laboratories, other public institutions and nonprofit NGO's in order to avoid conflicts of interest and to ensure adherence to the purpose of the IICE; and

2. Empower the IICE, with the intention of accurately assessing risks and formulating viable solutions, to investigate the site with the cooperation of the Government of Japan, including full access to the site, to relevant government documents and staff, and to personnel and documents of the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), operator of the site; and

3. Direct the IICE to publicize a report within ninety (90) days with a risk-based strategic plan that addresses all existing and emergent problems with a minimum mandate of preventing the abandonment of the site, and the ultimate goal of minimizing public health risks; and

4. Further direct the IICE to continue monitoring, and to publicize regular and accurate progress reports, as well as public health alerts as needed, working with Japan and with the public in an independent and transparent process; and

5. The Food and Drug Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, United States Agricultural Department and the Federal Trade Commission and other responsible agencies begin periodic collection and reporting of radioactivity levels in edible ocean species, plants and products and that the results of such surveys be

published on a public website for consumer information and education without delay; and, that the United States Government make any and all resources and technological assistance at its disposal immediately available to the Japanese government; and

BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to the U.N. General Assembly, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power, President Barack Obama, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Representative Jared Huffman, and Governor Jerry Brown.

The foregoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax held in said Town on the 4th day of December 2013 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

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Mayor

Attest:

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Michele Gardner, Town Clerk