

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND PROPOSING A COUNTY-WIDE MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO PROTECT ALL RESIDENTS AND RESTORE A HEALTHY CLIMATE

Draft

WHEREAS, the residents of Sacramento County face a crisis of unprecedented proportions due to rising atmospheric greenhouse gases, resulting in increasing temperatures, devastating weather events, and vanishing species in what scientists now recognize as the sixth mass extinction.

WHEREAS, in October 2018, the United Nations released a special report which projected that limiting warming to even an unsafe 1.5°C target this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 12 years;

WHEREAS, the Fourth Annual National Climate Assessment of November 23, 2018 warned that extreme weather and climate-related events in the U.S. are worsening, predicting increased drought cycles and heat waves in the Western United State, including the County of Sacramento, with a resulting three-fold increase in intensity and magnitude of wildfires, effects which will cascade if not immediately addressed; and

WHEREAS, climate change exacerbates droughts, famines, and diseases that have already resulted in the death or displacement of millions of people; and the increasing severity of storms, drought, and other climate events present a devastating burden to the global economy, the economy of the United States, and the economy of Sacramento County; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, California wildfires exceeded previous records for size, economic damage, and human loss, including the Camp Fire, the most destructive in state history, which left 88 dead, created unimaginable public health, safety, and water problems, generated significant and unanticipated expenditures of public funds, and crippled the County of Sacramento with unhealthy air quality for weeks; and

WHEREAS, because of our climate, the confluence of rivers, a long growing season, and soil types, agriculture has traditionally been, and continues to be, an important economic driver for Sacramento County, and all of these climate conditions are now threatened by prolonged drought, flooding, severe storms, and wildfire; and

WHEREAS, indigenous communities, low-income communities, communities of color, the young, the disabled, and the elderly suffer the gravest consequences from climate change; and remediation of the impacts of the climate emergency requires their active consultation and protection as essential elements of all County remedial programs, and

WHEREAS, the massive scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate will require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address the climate crisis;

WHEREAS, more than one thousand other jurisdictions (cities, municipalities, counties, states, and nations) have declared Climate Emergencies, and now is the time for the County of Sacramento to join them;

WHEREAS, common sense, our responsibility for sound planning including financial prudence, and morality have led the Sacramento County Board of Supervisor to conclude that the County, as well as all humanity, must embark on an emergency mobilization to reach zero emissions across all sectors to remove excess carbon from the atmosphere rapidly and safely; preserve and restore the Earth's biodiversity; implement safety measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt warming and other extreme weather events; and cultivate a shift toward climate-resiliency, prioritizing conservation, community, and independence from fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, it is the firm belief of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors that restoring a safe and stable climate will require an emergency mobilization on a scale not seen since World War II, and that the County, County employees, and residents of the County have the insight, drive, capacity, creativity, and capital to address this emergency in an aggressive, fair, and transformative manner.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the County of Sacramento declares that a soil and climate emergency threatens our County, our state, nation, civilization, humanity, and the natural world;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Sacramento commits to a countywide just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse global warming and soil degradation, which, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from State and Federal authorities, ends county wide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and no later than 2030.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sacramento County will establish, within 60 days, a permanent, *Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force* to oversee the development and implementation of a Climate Emergency Response Plan utilized by all departments of the County, and each department shall assign a point person and provide regular updates to the Task Force and the Board of Supervisors concerning their progress in reducing emissions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Sacramento Climate Emergency Plan will include the necessary promulgation of codes and ordinances to reduce fossil fuel emissions within County boundaries to Zero by 2030, including but not limited to measures necessary to reduce emissions generated by transportation, agriculture, construction, County government operations, business practices, and the continued use of high emission equipment and technologies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Sacramento commits to the timely implementation of a comprehensive education program to inform residents about the soil and climate emergency and the

need to work together to catalyze a climate emergency mobilization effort at the local, state, national, and global level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Sacramento recognizes that the full participation, inclusion, support, and leadership of community organizations, faith communities, youth, labor organizations, academic institutions, indigenous groups, and racial, gender, family, immigrant and disability justice organizations and other allies are integral to the climate emergency response and mobilization efforts; and will ensure transparency in all documents and consult with them at every step of the mobilization process to ensure that efforts are centered in equity and respect for all community members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is vital that area farmers be supported during the climate emergency, including support in necessary conservation and regenerative practices that will reduce emissions and improve resilience to extreme weather events.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, recognizing that the impacts of the climate emergency combined with increasing and competing demands threaten the entire Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the County of Sacramento will take a leadership role in working regionally with other Counties to support, revitalize and sustain this vibrant ecosystem.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors directs all County Staff to provide an assessment of greenhouse gas emissions and other climate impacts of any recommended actions and alternative options for Board's consideration in every staff report presented to the Board of Supervisors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Sacramento calls on the State of California and the United States to initiate an emergency mobilization effort to mitigate climate change, end greenhouse gas emissions, immediately begin programs that will safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere, and to provide the necessary remedial funding to all Counties who adopt Climate Emergency Resolutions.