

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND  
REQUESTING REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON AN IMMEDIATE MOBILIZATION  
EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE – DRAFT 7-24-2018**

1-**WHEREAS**, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C”;

2-**WHEREAS**, 40 mayors in the greater San Francisco Bay Area have committed to adopt, honor, and uphold the Paris Agreement, noting, “We will intensify efforts to meet each of our cities’ current climate goals, push for new action to meet the 1.5 degrees Celsius target, and work together to create a 21st century clean energy economy . . . The world cannot wait — and neither will we”;

3-**WHEREAS**, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information, in 2017 “the U.S. was impacted by 16 separate billion-dollar disaster events tying 2011 for the record number of billion-dollar disasters for an entire calendar year,” with a cumulative cost of \$309.5 billion, shattering the previous U.S. annual record cost of \$219.2 billion in 2005 due to hurricanes;

4-**WHEREAS**, severe rainfall in February 2017 across northern and central California resulted in at least five deaths and an estimated \$1.5 billion in damage, including to the Oroville Dam spillway, causing a multi-day evacuation of 188,000 residents, and to the city of San Jose, flooding neighborhoods and forcing 14,000 residents out of their homes;

5-**WHEREAS**, the October 2017 Northern California wildfires caused more than \$9.4 billion in damage, destroying over 8,900 structures, displacing many people, killing 44, and injuring another 192;

6-**WHEREAS**, climate change-fueled droughts, famines, and diseases have already killed millions of people in the Global southern hemisphere, and displaced millions more;

7-**WHEREAS**, indigenous and low-income communities and communities of color in the United States and abroad have suffered the gravest consequences of global warming;

8-**WHEREAS**, the death and destruction already wrought by global warming of approximately 1°C demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice for the world’s most vulnerable people;

9-**WHEREAS**, according to the latest climate projections, humanity is on track to warm the Earth a

sustained average of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels as soon as 2026;

10-**WHEREAS**, it is projected that sustained warming of 1.5°C could cause a long-term, “continuous thaw” of the Arctic permafrost, which could turn the tundra from a net carbon sink into a source in the 2020s;

11-**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that the Greenland Ice Sheet is likely to completely collapse at 1.6°C of sustained warming, which NASA scientists have concluded would lead to 23 feet of sea-level rise, billions of climate refugees, and a “global-scale catastrophe”;

12-**WHEREAS**, tipping points such as those state above must be avoided, as they will have feedback effects causing further and increasingly uncontrollable climate change and costs;

13-**WHEREAS**, according to the Ecological Footprint, it is estimated that humanity currently uses the equivalent of 1.7 Earths per year in resource consumption and waste disposal;

14-**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that if the world consumed as the average American consumes, humanity would need the equivalent of 4.97 Earths per year in resource consumption and waste disposal;

15-**WHEREAS**, climate change is driving species extinction rates today 1,000 times higher than the natural rate, with a predicted 65 percent decline in vertebrate populations by 2020 and up to 37 percent of all plant and animal species by 2050;..

16-**WHEREAS**, it is an act of unspeakable injustice and cruelty to knowingly subject our fellow humans now and in the future to societal disintegration, food and clean water shortages, economic collapse, and early death on an increasingly uninhabitable planet;

17-**WHEREAS**, common sense and morality indicate that humanity must seek to draw down the excess carbon from the atmosphere in order to restore a safe level of greenhouse gas concentrations and global average temperatures;

18-**WHEREAS**, corrective and preventive action requires mobilization on a scale not seen since World War II;

19-**WHEREAS**, justice requires that those that have contributed the most to this global climate and ecological cataclysm must carry a commensurate burden in reversing it;

20-**WHEREAS**, the Global Climate Action Summit, the purpose of which is to “bring together leaders

from state and local governments, business, and citizens from around the world, to demonstrate how the tide has turned in the race against climate change, showcase climate action taking place around the world, and inspire deeper commitments from each other and from national governments,” will be held in San Francisco in September 2018;

21-**WHEREAS**, the Global Climate Action Summit presents an unparalleled opportunity for the City of Santa Cruz to inspire and influence summit attendees to restore a safe climate at emergency speed, in so doing, to shift the course of human history;

22-**WHEREAS**, in Santa Cruz transportation contributes over half of our carbon emissions;

23-**WHEREAS**, Santa Cruz is particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise, salt water intrusion, and coastal erosion, exacerbated by extreme weather events with increased flooding and increased temperatures causing evaporation on land;

24-**WHEREAS**, we in Santa Cruz can rise to the challenge of this great crisis with the active consultation, participation, and benefit of workers and disadvantaged communities, creating hundreds of well-paying local jobs in building and installing renewable energy infrastructure, growing healthy plant-based food that stays in the community, restoring ecosystems, and retrofitting and redesigning our current environment, electric grid, and transportation systems;

1-**NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, the City of Santa Cruz declares that an existential climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world;

2-**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Santa Cruz endorses a just, citywide emergency mobilization effort to reverse global warming, which, with a change in city policy and priorities and appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from the County of Santa Cruz and State and Federal authorities, will end citywide greenhouse gas emissions and safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere as quickly as possible;

3-**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Santa Cruz commits to a change in parking policy to reduce available parking spaces and increase parking fees to fully fund bus passes for downtown employees and a robust Transportation Demand Management program.

4-**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Santa Cruz commits to seeking Affordable Housing, Sustainable Communities (AHSC) funding through the state’s cap & trade program for transit-oriented development by accelerating design and environmental review as required for application.

**5-BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Santa Cruz commits to developing a just emergency mobilization implementation plan and update its Climate Action Plan and goals to reflect a 100% reduction in community-wide greenhouse gas emissions, with the vision of becoming a carbon sink, by or before 2030;

**6-BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Santa Cruz commits to educating our residents about the climate emergency and working to catalyze a just emergency climate mobilization at the local, state, national, and global levels to protect our residents as well as all the people and species of the world;

**7-BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Santa Cruz underscores the need for full community participation and support, and recognizes that the residents of Santa Cruz, the Citizens Climate Lobby, Santa Cruz Climate Action Network, 350 Santa Cruz, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation and other community organizations will be integral to the mobilization effort;

**8-BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Santa Cruz commits to keeping the considerations of vulnerable communities central to all climate emergency mobilization planning processes and to inviting and encouraging such communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs;

**9-BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Santa Cruz, in order to ensure a just transition, will consult with community, labor, environmental justice, economic justice, and racial justice organizations at every step of the climate emergency mobilization process;

**10-BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Santa Cruz calls on the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission and other appropriate local agencies to participate in this regional emergency just mobilization effort; and

**11-BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Santa Cruz calls for a regional just transition and climate emergency mobilization collaborative effort, inviting concerned residents, youth, faith, labor, business, environmental, economic, racial and social justice organizations as well as other community groups, and all elected officials in and from Santa Cruz and nearby Counties and especially all the mayors listed in the appendix who have signed on to enact the Paris Agreement.

## **APPENDIX**

Mayor Peggy McQuaid of Albany, Mayor Trish Herrera Spencer of Alameda, Mayor Charles Stone of Belmont, Mayor Jesse Arreguin of Berkeley, Mayor Lori S Liu of Brisbane, Mayor Ricardo Ortiz of Burlingame, Mayor Mark Landman of Cotati, Mayor Darcy Paul of Cupertino, Mayor Juslyn Manalo of Daly City, Mayor David Haubert of Dublin, Mayor Janet Abelson of El Cerrito, Mayor John J. Bauters of Emeryville, Mayor Lily Mei of Fremont, Mayor Debbie Ruddock of Half Moon Bay, Mayor Barbara Halliday of Hayward, Mayor Shaun McCaffery of Healdsburg, Mayor Mary Prochnow of Los Altos, Mayor Gary Waldeck of Los Altos Hills, Mayor Marico Sayoc of Los Gatos, Mayor Rob Schroder of Martinez, Mayor Kirsten Keith of Menlo Park, Mayor Reuben D. Holober of Millbrae, Mayor Ken Rosenberg of Mountain View, Mayor Jill Techel of Napa, Mayor Libby Schaaf of Oakland, Mayor Greg Scharff of Palo Alto, Mayor David Glass of Petaluma, Mayor John Seybert of Redwood City, Mayor Jake Mackenzie of Rohnert Park, Mayor Tom Butt of Richmond, Mayor Bob Grassilli of San Carlos, Mayor Mark Farrell of San Francisco, Mayor Sam Liccardo of San Jose, Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter of San Leandro, Mayor Rick Bonilla of San Mateo, Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor of Santa Clara, Mayor Chris Coursey of Santa Rosa, Mayor Rachel Hundley of Sonoma, Mayor Glenn Hendricks of Sunnyvale, and Mayor Debora Fudge of Windsor;