

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Sacramento County is at risk of experiencing the devastating effects of extreme heat and weather events caused by rising atmospheric greenhouse gasses, resulting in climate change, including rising temperatures and more extreme heat waves, drier landscapes and more intense droughts, increased frequency and magnitude of wildfires and associated air pollution, health impacts, utility and transportation services interruptions, economic disruption, property loss, dislocation, housing shortages, food insecurity, gaps in education due to school closures, impacts on agricultural production; increased risk of floods, and increased demand on public sector resources and emergency response capacity; and

WHEREAS, The need for immediate climate action is exemplified in the risks already impacting the region's public health and safety, life-sustaining ecosystems and the region's economy; and

WHEREAS, due to Sacramento County's climate, the confluence of the Sacramento River and the American River, a long growing season, and soil types, agriculture has traditionally been, and continues to be, an important economic driver for Sacramento County, now threatened by prolonged drought, flooding, severe storms, wildfires, and growing salinization of the Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta waterways; 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,

WHEREAS, the 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; and,

WHEREAS, on November 9, 2011, Sacramento County approved the Phase 1 Climate Action Plan Strategy and Framework document (Phase 1 CAP), which is the first phase of developing a community-level Climate Action Plan; and,

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WHEREAS, on September 11, 2012, Sacramento County approved the Phase 2A Climate Action Plan for Government Operations (Phase 2A CAP); and,

WHEREAS, preparation and adoption of the Phase 2B Communitywide Climate Action Plan is a high priority for Sacramento County and shall provide meaningful and equitable climate action, enhance resiliency and provide a transparent and public pathway for future plan performance and adaptive management; and,

WHEREAS, the County's goal is to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions to the greatest extent possible, to remove or sequester greenhouse gases to mitigate any remnant GHG emissions, and ultimately to sequester more GHG than emitted, thereby decreasing atmospheric GHG concentrations to ultimately achieve carbon neutrality by 2030; and,

WHEREAS, the Office of Emergency Services' Heat and Climate Emergency Response Plan for the Emergency Operations Center, the Department of Water Resources' current update of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, implementation of the adopted Environmental Justice Element, and preparation of the Communitywide Climate Action Plan and Vulnerability Assessment are linked in addressing climate change and adaptation in Sacramento County; and,

WHEREAS, ongoing coordination and integration among multiple County planning efforts is necessary to achieve carbon neutrality.

WHEREAS, The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors is committed to restoring a safe and stable climate that is essential to the health and prosperity of Sacramento County residents and businesses; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sacramento does hereby declare climate change an emergency requiring urgent and immediate mobilization of public and private resources to develop and implement a climate and sustainability plan that identifies and integrates current and future actions necessary to achieve an equitable, sustainable, and resilient economy and transition to a countywide carbon neutrality footprint by 2030; and,

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Sacramento commits to build on existing climate action commitments and taking significant steps to sustain and accelerate short term communitywide carbon elimination, and all efforts and actions necessary to eliminate emissions by 2030, recognizing that such a goal will only be achieved through regional collaboration between multiple partners; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Communitywide Climate Action Plan shall explain the County's approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, building on recommendations and analysis from community partners, and suggested mitigation measures from climate experts, urban and regional planners, community members, and economists. Development and implementation of the plan shall be guided by science, data, best practices, and equity concerns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, County staff shall evaluate the resources necessary to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, and the emergency actions required to eliminate emissions by 2030. Where existing funding or resources do not support the level of action required, County staff shall identify gaps and provide recommendations to the County Executive and Board of Supervisors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Sacramento will establish, within 60 days, a permanent Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force composed of climate experts including but not limited to representatives of the scientific community and academia to oversee the development and implementation of a climate emergency response plan utilized by all departments within the County of Sacramento, and each department shall assign a point person to provide regular updates to the Task Force and the Board of Supervisors concerning departmental progress in reducing emissions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is vital that farmers operating within the County of Sacramento 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.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Sacramento affirms the community's need to understand, participate and support all actions and initiatives the County adopts in response to the climate emergency. The County therefore commits to support outreach, information and education for County residents and staff on the urgent need to reduce GHG emissions, and the policies and strategies necessary to advance sustainability and resilience. Implementation of the County's climate efforts shall include the engagement of community-based and grassroots organizations and inclusive economic development partners, with a focus on low-income and disadvantaged communities, youth, communities of color, and environmental justice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County shall continue to support and enhance local climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, and the work of local agencies and partners, including the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (AQMD), the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), and other regional agencies and associations as well as the region's environmental and social justice member organizations.

On a motion by Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sacramento this 16th day of December, 2020, by the following vote, to wit:

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AYES: Supervisors,

NOES: Supervisors,

ABSENT: Supervisors,

ABSTAIN: Supervisors,

RECUSAL: Supervisors,
(PER POLITICAL REFORM ACT (§ 18702.5.))

Chair of the Board of Supervisors
of Sacramento County, California

ATTEST: _____
Clerk, Board of Supervisors