

RESOLUTION NO. RES-2020-002

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

WHEREAS, human activities have warmed the Earth to a point that threatens climate stability, and climate change has already set in motion catastrophic changes to the Earth's systems, including fresh water scarcity and droughts, floods, extreme weather events and increased heat, wildfires, accelerating ice mass loss that will result in sea-level rise, and species extinction; and

WHEREAS, the current pace and scale of national climate action is not sufficient to avert substantial damage to the economy, environment, and human health over the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, the October 8, 2018, the special report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projected that curtailing warming to 1.5°C to reduce the risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, economic growth and plant and animal life this century, will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 12 years; and

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2018, the Federal Government issued the Fourth National Climate Assessment detailing the massive threat that climate change poses to the American economy and underscoring the need for immediate climate emergency action at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, critical tipping points must be avoided, as they will have cascading feedback effects that are predicted to cause an increasingly uncontrollable climate emergency that includes a devastating burden to the global economy, and with current greenhouse gas (GHG) emission levels these tipping points could be passed as soon as 2050; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires an emergency mobilization to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors, to rapidly and safely draw down or remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, and to implement measures to protect all people and species; and

WHEREAS, a just transition away from fossil fuels requires the development of a framework for a fair shift to an economy that is ecologically sustainable, equitable, and just for all its members; and

WHEREAS, marginalized communities worldwide—including people of color, immigrants, indigenous communities, low-income people, those with disabilities, and the unhoused—are already disproportionately affected by climate change and must benefit from a just transition to a sustainable and equitable economy; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2018, the State of California's Governor Brown issued an executive order establishing a 2045 statewide target to achieve carbon neutrality, and on the same day, Senate Bill 100 was passed, which sets a 100% clean electricity goal for the State by 2045; and

WHEREAS, California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment warned that extreme weather and climate-related events in the United States are worsening, predicting increased drought cycles and heat waves in the western U.S. with a resulting three-fold increase in intensity and magnitude of wildfires, declined water supply and snow pack, increased flooding, impacted agriculture, as well as substantial damages to the U.S. economy and human health, unless GHG emissions are curbed; and

WHEREAS, the California Legislature has set clear climate objectives for the next decade, including a 40% reduction in 1990 level GHG emissions by 2030; 50% renewable energy; 50% reduction in petroleum use in vehicles and a doubling of energy efficiency savings in existing buildings; and

WHEREAS, the current scale and rate of expansion of local government action has not resulted in the necessary reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions to enable us to limit global temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and no more than 1.5°C as outlined in the 2016 Paris Climate Accord and recommended by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); and

WHEREAS, many of the major climate change drivers - energy generation, fuel standards, consumption patterns, product design and specification and large-scale infrastructure investments – are dispersed across both the private and public sector and are controlled at scales larger than local and regional governments; and

WHEREAS, in order to avoid irreversible, catastrophic climate change impacts, we cannot only focus on reducing emissions but must also dramatically increase and enable meaningful carbon sequestration while preparing communities now for significant climate impacts;

WHEREAS, Sonoma County has already begun to experience extreme climate-related events, including six years of drought, the October 2017 Northern California wildfires, which caused more than \$9.4 billion in damage and killed forty-four people, and the February 2019 Winter Storms and Flooding that caused over \$150 million in damages and resulted in the declaration of a local health emergency due to the scale of household hazardous waste scattered along waterways, roadsides and on public and private properties after flooding, and the October 2019 Kincaide Fire, which burned 77,758 acres; and

WHEREAS, Sonoma County public agencies have taken a number of important actions to reduce GHG emissions and enhance quality of life in our community, including long-term commitments to preserving over 100,000 acres of both agricultural and open space lands; setting and meeting a goal to deliver carbon free water; offering cost effective programs to reduce

energy use and conserve water; and establishing Sonoma Clean Power, a regional community choice energy provider offering the first 100% local renewable power option in California; and

WHEREAS, in February 2019, the City Council designated implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan as a Tier One Council priority; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Action Subcommittee was formed in 2019 to provide guidance and oversight of the implementation of the City's Municipal Climate Action Plan and the Community Climate Action Plan with a goal of reducing the local greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring long-term sustainability and resilience from climate change and its effects; and

WHEREAS, following the formation of the Climate Action Subcommittee, an All-Electric Reach Code was adopted by the Council and the Evergreen and Zero Waste initiatives will be presented the Council for information and action respectively, in January of 2020; and

WHEREAS, City staff continue to monitor progress toward greenhouse gas reduction measures as indicated in the City's Climate Action Plan report out to the Council and members of the public.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Santa Rosa declares that a climate emergency threatens humanity and the natural and built environments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Santa Rosa joins a nationwide call for a just transition away from fossil fuels and an urgent collaborative climate mobilization effort focused on enacting policies that dramatically reduce heat-trapping emissions, and rapidly catalyzing a mobilization at all levels of government to restore a safe climate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that addressing climate change underscores everything that we do, and the City remains committed to taking action to mitigate, draw down, and take adaptive measures, with the goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2030.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City commits to developing and regularly updating a public facing tracker of progress toward its climate goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an urgent global climate mobilization effort to reverse global warming is needed to achieve zero net emissions as quickly as possible and that full community participation, inclusion and support is integral to our efforts to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere and accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Council acknowledges that successful climate action and a just transition at scale requires that we work both within and outside of our regional boundaries and across sectors to accelerate the necessary systems change required to address the climate emergency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Santa Rosa commits to contributing to the development of a countywide 2030 Climate Emergency Mobilization Strategy that focuses on identifying key local actions – including a ten-year Emergency Policy Package prioritizing a short list of the most impactful local policies that will drive systems change and identify the key areas for state level advocacy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Santa Rosa commits to identifying a Climate Emergency Mobilization Liaison to drive this effort in our jurisdiction, and any financial resources to support participation in the RCPA coalition of local governments mobilizing regional climate action will be determined following Council goal setting and the City’s budget process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council supports the development and implementation of the 2030 Climate Emergency Mobilization Strategy, in alignment with statewide climate goals, and directs staff to work with the RCPA and coalition members to integrate climate change considerations into all policies.

IN COUNCIL DULY PASSED this 14th day of January, 2020.

AYES: (7) Mayor Schwedhelm, Vice Mayor Fleming, Council Members Dowd, Olivares, Rogers, Sawyer, Tibbetts

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Acting City Clerk

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney