

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: DAVID GUHIN, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SUBJECT: CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Climate Action Subcommittee that the Council, by resolution, declare a climate emergency and endorse the mobilization to restore a safe climate.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over 1,295 local governments in 25 countries have declared a climate emergency and have developed climate emergency resolutions to solidify their commitment to mobilizing an emergency response that is commensurate with the scale of the climate crisis.

Sonoma County remains the only county in the United States to create a Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA) to coordinate and support climate action countywide. The Sonoma County RCPA has identified continuing areas of concern and unanimously approved a Climate Emergency Resolution on September 9, 2019.

The Climate Action Subcommittee recommends adopting the enclosed Resolution to provide support for future efforts related to climate change and greenhouse gas emission reductions through the implementation of the Climate Action Subcommittee, the work of City departments, and RCPA.

BACKGROUND

In February 2019 the Council recognized implementation of the Climate Action Plan as a Tier One priority and recommended formation of the Climate Action Subcommittee (Subcommittee). The Subcommittee was created 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.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION
PAGE 2 OF 4

Since implementation of the Subcommittee an All-Electric Reach code, requiring new single family residential and low-rise construction to use only high efficiency electric appliances, was adopted by Council. The Subcommittee recommended that the Evergreen and Zero Waste initiatives focusing on local, renewable energy and sustainability, be presented to the full Council for information and action, respectively. On September 3, 2019, following a presentation by RCPA and City staff, the Climate Action Subcommittee recommended moving a Climate Emergency Resolution forward to the full Council.

In addition, the nine jurisdictions within the County, and the County of Sonoma, have similar goals demonstrated through participation and cooperation with the Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA). RCPA's mission is to lead a local government coalition to mobilize regional climate action in Sonoma County so that the County is united in taking bold action to fight the climate crisis. RCPA works with our member jurisdictions to focus initiatives on regional decarbonization, carbon sequestration and resilience to directly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve quality of life. Sonoma County remains the only county in the United States to create a regional entity specifically to coordinate and support climate action countywide.

Sonoma County RCPA has identified continuing areas of concern and unanimously approved a Climate Emergency Resolution on September 9, 2019. The final, adopted resolution reflects input received from the public and RCPA Board members at the meeting. As part of this item, RCPA also included a template resolution for consideration and use by the County and cities.

To date, the cities of Petaluma, Windsor, Cloverdale, Sebastopol, Healdsburg, Cotati and the County of Sonoma have adopted Climate Emergency Resolutions. Some of these jurisdictions utilized the RCPA Resolution template and include provisions specific to their respective jurisdictions. Additionally, over 1,295 local governments in 25 countries have declared a climate emergency and have developed these resolutions to solidify their commitment to mobilizing an emergency response that is commensurate with the scale of the climate crisis.

While the proposed Resolution would commit the City to coordinate with RCPA, the City is not precluded from taking its own actions to support the shared goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Adoption of the proposed Resolution would pledge the City to work with RCPA on the development and implementation of the 2030 Climate Emergency Mobilization Strategy as a top priority and identify a Climate Emergency Liaison to participate in this effort. The liaison would be an existing staff position, not a new position. The proposed Resolution would also commit the City to reevaluate existing policies through the lens of the climate emergency, as well as educating its employees and residents about the climate crisis and the work needed to catalyze an equitable emergency climate mobilization effort at the local, regional, state, national and global levels.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

Not applicable.

ANALYSIS

The 2030 timeline for achieving zero net carbon emissions is supported by the prevailing science on climate change, which calls for the rapid reduction of carbon emissions from the atmosphere to minimize the negative impacts currently being experienced due to human-induced global warming. Adopting the attached Resolution will provide support for future efforts related to climate change and greenhouse gas emission reductions through the implementation of the Climate Action Subcommittee, the work of City departments, and RCPA.

FISCAL IMPACT

Any commitment of additional funds or staffing would be considered through the City Council priority setting and budget process.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under section 15061(b)(3) and 15378 in that there is no possibility that the implementation of this action may have significant detrimental effects on the environment, and that no further environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On September 3, 2019, following a presentation from City staff and RCPA, the Climate Action Subcommittee recommended moving a Climate Emergency Resolution forward to the full Council.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Public Correspondence
Attachment 2 – Additional Public Correspondence
Resolution

CONTACT

David Guhin, Assistant City Manager
Planning & Economic Development Department
DGuhin@srcity.org

CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION
PAGE 4 OF 4

(707) 543-4299