

**RESOLUTION OF THE SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL CLIMATE PROTECTION
AUTHORITY 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, 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 will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 12 years;

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2018 the Federal Government issued the *Fourth National Climate Assessment*¹ 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*² 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

¹ <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>

² <http://www.climateassessment.ca.gov/>

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 buildings³; and

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

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, the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA) was created to assist Sonoma County agencies in meeting their GHG emission reduction goals as set forth in resolutions and adopted plans; and

WHEREAS, the RCPA has the statutory authority to perform planning and coordination activities, including but not limited to designing programs and policies to reduce energy and water consumption and increase access to clean transportation options; identifying carbon sequestration opportunities; and measuring, tracking and communicating ongoing GHG reductions; 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;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA) declares that a climate emergency threatens humanity and the natural and built environments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the RCPA joins a nationwide call for a just transition away from fossil fuels and an urgent collaborative climate mobilization effort focused on enacting policies that

³ <https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/cc/pillars/pillars.htm>

dramatically reduce heat-trapping emissions and rapidly catalyzing a mobilization at all levels of government to restore a safe climate; and

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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCPA acknowledges that there is still time to act and that successful climate action and a just transition at scale requires that our members and partners work both within and outside of our regional boundaries and across sectors to accelerate the necessary systems change required to address the climate emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCPA, as a special district created to coordinate regional climate action, commits to developing 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 identifying the key areas for state level advocacy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCPA leads a local government coalition to mobilize regional climate action in Sonoma County and calls on our member and partner agencies, local businesses, community organizations, and residents to actively participate in this climate emergency mobilization effort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCPA re-commits to ensuring that our actions remain in alignment with the most current scientific findings regarding climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCPA will collaboratively develop and implement more ambitious but achievable goals consistent with or exceeding state goals and objectives, integrated into a new 2030 Climate Emergency Mobilization Strategy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCPA Board directs the RCPA staff to work with the County Administrator and City Managers to identify a Climate Emergency Liaison for each jurisdiction and appropriate internal structure to support the development and implementation of a countywide 2030 Climate Emergency Mobilization Strategy and to identify a reporting timeline and process for tracking progress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCPA Board of Directors supports the RCPA in exploring new and more diverse funding and financing mechanisms to sustain local Climate Emergency Mobilization efforts and commits to working with city and county elected officials and staff to identify and dedicate additional human and financial resources within each of our member jurisdictions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCPA commits to working with the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled through robust Transportation Demand Management strategies as aligned with California's 2030, 2045 and 2050 greenhouse gas reduction and climate goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCPA commits to working with the Bay Area Regional Energy Network and the County of Sonoma Energy and Sustainability Division on energy efficiency and water conservation strategies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCPA commits to working with the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District on carbon sequestration in working and natural lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCPA commits to working with Sonoma Clean Power on electrification, expanding access to electric vehicles and infrastructure, and grid reliability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCPA commits to working with the Bay Area Air Quality management District and Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District on improving air quality and reducing ozone precursors, particulate matter, toxic air contaminants, and greenhouse gas emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCPA commits to working with our member and partner agencies to evaluate all existing and future county and city policies, priorities, processes, and resources through the lens of the climate emergency as we implement Climate Emergency Mobilization efforts countywide.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was moved by Director Rogers, seconded by Director Zane, and approved by the following vote:

Director Bagby	<u>Aye</u>	Director Miller	<u>Aye</u>
Director Callinan	<u>Aye</u>	Director Naujokas	<u>Aye</u>
Director Gorin	<u>Absent</u>	Director Rabbitt	<u>Absent</u>
Director Gurney	<u>Aye</u>	Director Rogers	<u>Aye</u>
Director Harvey	<u>Aye</u>	Director Salmon	<u>Aye</u>
Director Landman	<u>Aye</u>	Director Zane	<u>Aye</u>

Ayes: 9

Noes: 0

Absent: 2

Abstain: 0

SO ORDERED

I, the undersigned, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority held on September 9, 2019.



Suzanne Smith, Executive Director
Clerk, Sonoma County Transportation Authority