

Resolution Number 2021-003

Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority
Santa Rosa, California
September 13, 2021

**RESOLUTION OF THE SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL CLIMATE PROTECTION
AUTHORITY RECOMMENDING CEASING ALL CONSTRUCTION OF NEW GAS
STATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN SONOMA COUNTY TO REDUCE FOSSIL FUEL
EMISSIONS AND PREPARE FOR THE TRANSITION TO ZERO-EMISSION
VEHICLES.**

WHEREAS, human activities have warmed the Earth to a point that threatens climate stability, and climate change has already set in motion catastrophic changes; 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; and

WHEREAS, abrupt anthropogenic climate change is a real and increasingly urgent threat to public health and safety that demands action at every level of government; and

WHEREAS, the current scale and speed of local government action has not resulted in the necessary reductions in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to limit global temperature increases; and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2018, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-48-18¹ calling for five million zero-emission vehicles by 2030 and the installation of 250,000 electric vehicle charging stations in the State; and

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2018, Governor Brown issued, and Governor Newsom has since affirmed, Executive Order B-55-18², calling for the State to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045; and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2019, the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority adopted a Climate Emergency Resolution³, and new gasoline stations are not consistent with this policy; and

WHEREAS, between May 2019 and March 2021, the County of Sonoma and each of the incorporated jurisdictions adopted Climate Emergency Resolutions and committed to working on activities to address this state of climate emergency; and

¹ <https://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/2018/01/26/governor-brown-takes-action-to-increase-zero-emission-vehicles-fund-new-climate-investments/index.html>

² <https://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/9.10.18-Executive-Order.pdf>

³ <https://scta.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/4.1.1-Climate-Emergency-Resolution.pdf>

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-79-20⁴ setting 2035 as the year by which all new vehicles sold in California must be zero-emission; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2021, the City of Petaluma became the first local government in the nation to adopt a prohibition on new gas station land uses within their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2021, the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority adopted a Sonoma Climate Mobilization Strategy⁵ which sets a goal of reaching countywide carbon neutrality by 2030; and

WHEREAS, transportation accounts for 60%⁶ of GHG emissions in Sonoma County with the burning of gasoline and diesel fuel for transportation as the leading cause of GHG emissions in this sector; and

WHEREAS, gasoline stations pose significant local impacts on public health and the environment, including toxic/carcinogenic air contamination, surface water runoff, leaking underground storage tanks, and more⁷; and

WHEREAS, a just transition away from fossil fuels requires that local government actions are 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, currently there are over 635,000 electric vehicles (EVs) in California and almost 10,000 EVs in Sonoma County, with the need for charging infrastructure inevitably growing as the need for gasoline stations correspondingly diminishes; and

⁴ <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/9.23.20-EO-N-79-20-Climate.pdf>

⁵ <https://rcpa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Sonoma-Climate-Mobilization-Strategy-Adopted-2021-03-08.pdf>

⁶ <https://scta.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2018-GHG-Report-FINAL-9-25.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/hidden-costs-fossil-fuels>

WHEREAS, in adopting the Sonoma Climate Mobilization Strategy, this Board prioritized Strategy 4—EV Access for All Partnership, calling for development of over 10,000 public and workplace charging stations in Sonoma County, addressing barriers for installing this charging equipment, and limiting fossil fuel infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, there are over 135 gasoline stations in Sonoma County⁸ and new gasoline stations have been and are continuing to be proposed throughout Sonoma County despite the associated negative environmental and climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, local government resources should be used to develop clean-emission, affordable, accessible, convenient public transportation networks; safe, connected pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure; and clean vehicle charging/fueling infrastructure;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA), recommends ceasing acceptance of all applications for new gas stations or expansion of existing gas station infrastructure throughout Sonoma County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the RCPA recommends that the County of Sonoma and the incorporated jurisdictions of Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Sonoma, and Windsor cease acceptance of all applications for new gas stations or expansion of existing gas station infrastructure in their local jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as identified and adopted in the Sonoma Climate Mobilization Strategy, that the RCPA commits to working with its local government members to assist with policy development and implementation for those areas that provide the greatest impact to reducing emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as identified and adopted in the Sonoma Climate Mobilization Strategy, that the RCPA encourages the County of Sonoma and Sonoma County incorporated jurisdictions to continue developing clean-emission, affordable, accessible, convenient public transportation networks; installing safe, connected pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure; and expanding efforts to serve zero-emission vehicles through the installation of battery charging infrastructure and other necessary improvements for the essential transition to zero-emission vehicles.

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<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=654c10243ed244aba13ec8bf9fe7b777&extent=-123.0739,38.1948,-122.25,38.5898>

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THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was moved by Director Fischer, seconded by Director Giudice, and approved by the following vote:

Director Agrimonti	<u>Absent</u>	Director Gurney	<u>Aye</u>
Director Alvarez	<u>Aye</u>	Director Hopkins	<u>Aye</u>
Director Bagby	<u>Aye</u>	Director Kelley	<u>Aye</u>
Director Fischer	<u>Aye</u>	Director Landman	<u>Aye</u>
Director Gorin	<u>Aye</u>	Director Rabbitt	<u>Aye</u>
Director Giudice	<u>Aye</u>	Director Salmon	<u>Aye</u>

Ayes: 11

Noes: 0

Absent: 1

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 Regional Climate Protection Authority held on September 13, 2021.

Suzanne Smith, Executive Director
Clerk, Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority