

San Rafael City Council 14 Fifth Avenue San Rafael, CA 94901

RE: Climate Emergency Mobilization

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

I am Belle Cole, Chair of OFA Marin, an advocacy group fighting to reverse climate change since 2009. I want to support the letter you received from Bill Carney, President of Sustainable San Rafael. He emphasizes implementation of the Climate Action Plan with implementation of 3 carbon emission approaches including mandatory organics recycling.

I want to emphasize how critical mediatory organics recycling is because it guarantees reduction of GHG generated by **landfilled waste** as well as reduction of natural resource depletion through **recycling**.

OFA Marin strongly supports the City's adoption of a strong Climate Emergency Declaration, tied to the specific actions needed in the near term to do our part to achieve the statewide goal of zero net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2045.

Kudos for a CER that is statement of clarity, aggressiveness and above all, leadership. As the largest city in Marin we are not only in alignment with other local jurisdictions but by resetting the City's long term GHG reduction goal to becoming neutral by no later than 2045, San Rafael is in conformity with State targets allowing the City to take advantage of State mandates, incentives and programs that help in reducing GHGs but also position us to take advantage of technologies and opportunities for innovation and leading edge practices. As someone looking ahead to innovative Biomass pathways for San Rafael and the county, this is very foresighted.

Urgency cannot be said often enough. According to a new UN Report, the global average temperature will rise 2.7 degrees Celsius by century's end even if all countries meet their promised emissions cuts, a rise that is likely to worsen extreme wildfires, droughts and floods, the United Nations said in a report on Friday. The Secretary General António Guterres said it shows **"the world is on a catastrophic pathway."**

For our State and County, the stakes couldn't be higher. The CED is essential. California has had more than 7,400 wildfires so far this year, scorching more than

3,500 square miles (9,065 square kilometers) most of the worst in Northern CA. As a leader of the MWPA's Ecologically Sound Practices, I can report that our recent Vegetation best management practices recognize that actions taken to reduce wildfire risk can also reduce carbon emissions and increase sequestration. Healthy vegetation and healthy soils pull carbon out of the atmosphere and help counter climate change and ultimately reduce fire danger.

I encourage you to attend the ESP meeting Tuesday afternoon that addresses

*Fuel Removal: Where does the carbon go?*

- Carbon farming to enrich working lands and sequester carbon

Dr. Jeffrey Creque, Director of Rangeland and Agroecosystem Management, Carbon Cycle Institute

- Biochar to store carbon long term while improving soil and possibly selling carbon credits

Christopher Carstens, CTO and Co-Founder of Carbo Culture. Carbo Culture makes functional biocarbons and Biographite from waste to keep CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81162203577?pwd=NHBtbkl2MVZLeFlpeU03REZDT3lLQT09>

Congratulations to all involved.

Belle Cole, San Rafael



Dear Mayor Colin and Members of the San Rafael City Council,

On behalf of the Redwood Community Health Coalition (RCHC), Marin Community Clinics (MCC), and Ritter Center and our patient population, we urge you to adopt the proposed Climate Emergency Resolution (CER) at tonight's meeting. The CER rightly emphasizes the urgency of acting swiftly to prioritize climate issues, and to apply a climate lens to issues traditionally viewed separately.

As community health centers, we recognize the challenges that climate change poses to our patient population. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) rightly identifies climate change as a human-made health stressor which influences health and disease due to the increase in frequency and severity of natural disasters such as wildfires and flooding, sea level rise, infectious diseases, and increased behavioral health challenges. As the CDC notes, climate change induced disruptions in natural systems can result in an increase in respiratory and cardiovascular disease, injuries and even premature deaths.

Climate change intersects with multiple social determinates of health impacting our patients, including access to equitable transit, sustainable water supplies, clean air, and affordable and safe housing conditions. Over the past year and a half, our country has in many ways had a racial reckoning, recognizing that our systems and institutions disproportionately affect lower-income residents and communities of color. Climate change exacerbates these inequities, including in our frontline communities locally in the Canal Neighborhood of San Rafael and Marin City who are at the greatest risk from sea level rise.

Meeting this challenge will take all of us. The City of San Rafael, in partnership with state and federal agencies, can have a direct impact on climate change through mitigation efforts including building electrification, EV adoption, mandatory organics recycling, and the many other worthy actions contained in the City's Climate Change Action Plan 2030 and General Plan 2040. Looking inwardly at the operations of each of our health centers, we hope to be a partner and agent of change with you in this effort. If each entity, whether government or private takes action we can ensure an equitable and resilient future.

Thank you for taking this action tonight, and for your steadfast leadership in so many key areas.

In partnership,

Alvaro Fuentes, Interim CEO, Redwood Community Health Coalition

Mitesh Popat, CEO, Marin Community Clinics

Mark Shotwell, Executive Director, Ritter Center

## SR City Council hearing on Climate Emergency Declaration

kiki la porta [REDACTED]

Mon 9/20/2021 4:47 PM

To: Lindsay Lara <Lindsay.Lara@cityofsanrafael.org>

Hello Lindsay, please share this note with Mayor Colin and the rest of the Council.

Sustainable Marin wholly endorses Sustainable San Rafael’s position and letter in support of adopting a strong Climate Emergency Declaration for the City.

San Rafael has been a leader in proactively planning for climate impact mitigation and adaptation, as evidenced by the adoption of San Rafael’s first Climate Change Action Plan in 2009. However, as we know conditions have only dramatically worsened since then. Joining with other Marin jurisdictions, as well as cities and counties throughout California, in adopting a Climate Emergency Declaration demonstrably reinforces our local commitment to do what needs to be done to address our collective climate emergency.

The Declaration commits San Rafael to meet the our new CCAP goals in ways that also build an equitable society and a thriving economy.

Most importantly, the Declaration includes specific processes for keeping climate action front and center in City decision-making —through the lens of climate change.

Your constituents, supporters, and advocates are counting on you to step up. The time for hesitation or half measures is long gone. Please adopt this Climate Emergency declaration.

Thank you.

Kiki La Porta  
Vice President  
Sustainable Marin  
Co-founder, Sustainable San Rafael



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