



September 16, 2021

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

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415.457.7656

RE: Climate Emergency Mobilization

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

Sustainable San Rafael applauds 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.

The strengths of this Declaration include:

1. A call for implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan 2030 two-year priority actions identified by the City Council earlier this year to meet State GHG goals by reducing emissions through **building electrification, electric vehicle adoption, and mandatory organics recycling**, thereby addressing the three largest sectors of San Rafael's GHG footprint. If enacted soon, these steps can put the City on track to avoid the 'significant' GHG impacts foreseen by the General Plan 2040 EIR.
2. Adoption of the State's 2045 goal of **zero net GHG emissions**, which together with the previously adopted 2030 goal of 40% reduction below 1990 emissions, and sustained commitment to keep pace with further State goals, establishes a firm framework for beginning to 'draw down' and sequester the dangerous current levels of atmospheric carbon.
3. A clear commitment to enhancing **equity and economic vitality** through the investments and policies needed to transition off fossil fuels and return to a stable climate.
4. **Proactive procedures** to identify necessary funding, maintain annual reporting of key climate metrics, assure that City decision-making is consistent with its climate objectives, and continue to build community-wide actions and awareness.
5. Advocacy to other levels of government and economic institutions for policies and resources that **increase San Rafael's capacity** to reduce greenhouse gas and prepare for climate impacts.

By declaring a Climate Emergency, and backing that declaration with near-term action and on-going attention, San Rafael affirms its place in a growing global mobilization to reverse the increasingly deadly specter of climate change. The declaration

itemizes the severity of our current situation with recent science from the United Nations and other sources. It also points to the threats we are all experiencing firsthand, in accelerating drought, heat waves, wildfires, smoke, storms, and sea level rise. The declaration underlines the urgency of acting now, while clarifying the path forward toward resolving this critical crisis and emerging into a better future.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to realistically address the deepening climate emergency with the full range of powers available to local government.

Sincerely,

William Carney
President

Copies:
Jim Schutz, Cory Bytof

From: Responsible Growth Marin <info@rgmarin.org>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 2:59 PM
To: Distrib- City Clerk <City.Clerk@cityofsanrafael.org>
Cc: Lindsay Lara <Lindsay.Lara@cityofsanrafael.org>
Subject: Public Comments for 9.20.21 City Council Meeting

Please forward the letter below to Mayor Colin and City Council members.

Thank you,
Grace Geraghty



Responsible Growth in Marin

September 20, 2021

Honorable Mayor Kate Colin and City Council members

City of San Rafael

1400 Fifth Ave. Room 203

San Rafael, CA 94901

Re: Climate Emergency Declaration

Honorable Mayor Kate and City Council members:

Responsible Growth in Marin Supports the resolution to adopt a Climate Emergency Declaration and establish a new long-term target for greenhouse gas reductions.

This action is consistent with the Climate Change Action Plan and San Rafael's GP2040 which you adopted and is consistent with your goals to focus on sustainability, climate change and disasters.

CED and the reduction of greenhouse gas needs to be at the forefront of all decisions that the City Council makes going forward. This is critical for the health and safety of our community, the country and mother earth.

Sincerely,

Grace Geraghty

Executive Director

cc: RGM Team Leaders

-----Original Message-----

From: Sarah Spengeman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 3:10 PM
To: Distrib- City Clerk <City.Clerk@cityofsanrafael.org>; Mayor Kate <Kate.Colin@cityofsanrafael.org>; Maika Llorens Gulati <Maika@cityofsanrafael.org>; Maribeth Bushey <Maribeth.Bushey@cityofsanrafael.org>; Rachel Kertz <Rachel.Kertz@cityofsanrafael.org>; Eli Hill <Eli.Hill@cityofsanrafael.org>
Subject: public comment - Climate Emergency Declaration

Dear San Rafael City Council,

My name is Sarah Spengeman and I am a resident in San Rafael living in Terra Linda. I also work for a climate and clean energy think tank based in San Francisco, and I am a mother who is increasingly anxious about my daughter's future.

As someone who has studied the science, I know we have very little time left to get it right on climate change. In California, we are facing extreme wildfires, worsening drought, and the transformation of our landscape. If we don't act quickly, these extreme events will worsen, costing lives and livelihoods, and eventually forcing migration away from our coastline. We must act now.

I also know that not one single government entity or policy can solve the climate crisis. All levels of government at the local, state, and federal levels must enact ambitious policies to rapidly reduce our reliance on fossil fuels for energy. That means adopting policies that support a rapid transition to clean electricity like solar, wind, and battery storage; adopting policies that get gas out of our buildings like all-electric building codes; and policies that support clean electric vehicles like equitable access to vehicle charging in our communities.

Every policymaker and every jurisdiction has a vital role to play.

I hope the San Rafael City Council will adopt the Climate Emergency Declaration at its next meeting. This is a vital step forward in demonstrating the city's seriousness in tackling this crisis head-on, protecting San Rafael residents, and creating cleaner air in the process.

In line with what the best available science is telling us, I would urge the Council to adopt a new greenhouse gas reduction goal of net-zero by 2050 and strong interim targets along the way. We should aim to slash emissions in half by the end of this decade to align with a global target of 1.5 degrees of warming under the Paris Agreement.

I welcome any questions and greatly appreciate your leadership on climate.

Thank you,

Sarah Spengeman, PhD
San Rafael, CA