

September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Protecting Marin Since 1934

Mayor Colin and City Councilmembers  
City of San Rafael  
1400 Fifth Avenue  
San Rafael, CA. 94901

RE: Agenda item 6.a: Resolution Adopting a Climate Emergency Declaration and Establishing a New Long-term Target for Greenhouse Gas Reductions

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

Marin Conservation League (MCL) supports adoption of the proposed resolution adopting a climate emergency declaration (CED) to address the accelerating threats posed by climate change. We also support San Rafael's commitment to increasing climate action by aligning its long-term greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets with the 2018 State Executive Order B-55-18 goal of achieving carbon neutrality by or before 2045.

Since 1934, MCL has worked to protect and preserve Marin's natural environment. We recognize that there is a new magnitude of threat to disruption of the Earth's ecosystems due to climate change and global warming. One of MCL's recently adopted Guiding Principles is to "Act knowing that global climate change has profound local and regional environmental effects. Recognize that actions and policies for local mitigation and adaptation—especially innovative ones—can have regional or national impacts."

We appreciate and applaud the City's previous commitments in setting GHG reduction targets and its success in reaching those targets.

It is estimated that cities are responsible for 70 – 80% of the world's GHG emissions. Though Marin's cities and county contribute a small fraction to the world's emissions, state and national Legislative Acts and Executive Orders would be ineffective without commitments and contributions from local jurisdictions. The enormity of the climate crisis and the speed with which we are approaching climate tipping points requires all jurisdictions working with a unified purpose of achieving or surpassing state and national targets and an emergency mobilization towards these goals.

We appreciate that by adopting the Resolution, the City commits to lead and mobilize municipal and community actions to meet the growing climate emergency. We are encouraged by San Rafael's recently adopted General Plan Policy C-5.2 that ensures that decisions regarding future development, capital projects and resource management are "consistent with San Rafael's CCAP and other climate goals, including greenhouse gas reduction and adaptation." This is evidence of the City's commitment to include climate considerations in all its major decision-making as well as its

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Marin Conservation League was founded in 1934 to preserve, protect and enhance the natural assets of Marin County.

commitment to implementation of its climate goals in an inclusive and equitable manner protecting the City's most vulnerable as well as future generations who will inherit the legacy of either commitment to climate action, or inaction, at this critical time.

Please adopt the Resolution before you.

Sincerely,



Robert Miller  
President



Kate Powers  
Director