



SAN RAFAEL CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Department: City Manager

**Prepared by: Bernadette Sullivan
Senior Management Analyst**

City Manager Approval: _____

TOPIC: JUSTICE40 INITIATIVE

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF THE JUSTICE40 INITIATIVE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The proposed resolution recognizes the environmental and social challenges posed by climate change and affirms the City of San Rafael's support of the goals of the Justice40 Initiative, a federal effort to deliver significant environmental and economic benefits to disadvantaged communities. This resolution also underscores the City's continued commitment to policies and programs that promote sustainability, equity, and social justice.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution supporting the goals of the Justice40 Initiative.

BACKGROUND:

Climate change has become a significant global issue, impacting the environment, economy, and human health, with effects including rising sea levels, increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, and loss of biodiversity. These impacts disproportionately affect disadvantaged communities.

The impacts of climate change are already evident globally and locally, with changes in weather patterns, sea-level rise, and increased frequency of extreme weather events. These changes disproportionately affect disadvantaged communities, compounding existing socio-economic challenges. By placing disadvantaged communities at the forefront of planning, the City acknowledges the systemic inequities that communities have experienced. This commitment can help rectify past injustices and build a more equitable community.

The Justice40 Initiative is a federal policy introduced by the Biden-Harris administration, with a commitment to ensuring at least 40% of federal investment benefits in climate and clean energy are directed to disadvantaged communities. It is designed to address economic inequality, environmental injustice, and the broader impacts of climate change.

FOR CITY CLERK ONLY

Council Meeting: _____

Disposition: _____

Recognizing these challenges, the City of San Rafael places historically disadvantaged communities at the forefront of our neighborhood planning processes, further demonstrating our commitment to equity, sustainability, and social justice. These efforts are consistent with the goals of the Justice40 Initiative and aim to help dismantle the legacy of systemic racism and discrimination.

ANALYSIS:

The adoption of this resolution would further strengthen the City's commitment by showing public support for the goals set forth by the federal government's Justice40 initiative. Supporting the Justice40 Initiative not only aligns with the City's principles but also offers potential benefits. By formally supporting this federal initiative, the City may qualify for additional funding or resources to address climate change, improve energy efficiency, and enhance the resilience of disadvantaged communities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with accepting this resolution.

OPTIONS:

The City Council has the following options to consider on this matter:

1. Staff's recommended action adopt the resolution
2. Adopt resolution with modifications.
3. Direct staff to return with more information.
4. Take no action.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt the resolution

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Justice40 Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF THE JUSTICE40 INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, climate change is a global issue affecting the environment, economy, and human health; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change are already being felt around the world, including rising sea levels, increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, and loss of biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Rafael recognizes the urgent need to address the challenges posed by climate change, economic inequality, and environmental injustice; and

WHEREAS, the Justice40 Initiative is a whole-of-government effort to ensure that Federal agencies work with states and local communities to make good on President Biden’s promise to deliver at least 40 percent of the overall benefits from Federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Rafael is engaged in multiple planning and infrastructure projects that would address climate-related vulnerabilities of disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, the Justice40 initiative has the potential to create meaningful opportunities for our community and our government to address these issues; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Rafael commits to placing historically disadvantaged communities at the forefront of our planning processes. Doing so aligns with our City commitment to equity as well as the Justice40 initiative. City departments and community partnerships share resources and work from a shared analysis and understanding of power, privilege, oppression, and racial justice. Equitable representation and racial inclusion in the public sector are a result of our community’s shared commitment to becoming anti-racist; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Rafael City Council supports the goals of the Justice40 initiative and commends the Biden-Harris Administration for their leadership in addressing the challenges of climate change and environmental injustice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the San Rafael City Council will continue to prioritize policies and programs that promote sustainability, equity, and social justice, and will seek opportunities to collaborate with the federal government to advance these shared goals.

I, LINDSAY LARA, Clerk of the City of San Rafael, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly introduced and adopted at a special meeting of the City Council of the City of San Rafael, held on Monday, the 10th day of July 2023, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS:

Lindsay Lara, City Clerk