

RESOLUTION # ~~59~~ - 2020

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE:**

**WHEREAS** in October 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the largest collaborative, consensus-based effort among the world's scientific community, released a *Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C*<sup>1</sup> stating that "human activities are estimated to have (already) caused approximately 1°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels;

**WHEREAS** an increase in global average surface temperature is already resulting in numerous secondary effects<sup>2</sup> including: rising sea levels; decreased snowpack; accelerated melting of ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica; accelerated melting of Arctic permafrost; increased incidence and intensity of extreme weather events such as heat waves, droughts, hurricanes, and tornadoes; increasing incidence and intensity of wildfires; spread of diseases; and more;

**WHEREAS** the IPCC's *Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5° C* states that in order to have a likely chance of limiting global warming to 1.5° C, our remaining "carbon budget" is equal to only 10 years of current greenhouse gas emissions;

**WHEREAS** restoring a safe and stable climate requires a climate mobilization at all levels of government and society on a scale, scope and speed not seen since World War II;

**WHEREAS** the **current pace and scale** of national, state and local action is far less than adequate to avert substantial damage to our economy, environment and human health over the coming decades;

**WHEREAS** **wildfires** in Northern California in 2017, 2018, and 2019 destroyed over 38,000 structures, killed 118, displaced thousands, and caused serious declines in our area's air quality;

**WHEREAS** the current pace of sea level rise is already impacting California's coastlines, with the possibility of 6 feet or more of total sea level rise by 2100;

**WHEREAS** climate change and the global economy's overshoot of sustainable ecological limits are driving the sixth mass extinction of species;

**WHEREAS** all the nations of the world have signed the 2015 Paris Agreement,<sup>3</sup> vowing to keep warming this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels" and to "pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to no more than 1.5°C;"

**WHEREAS** the IPCC's warnings are echoed by both *California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment*<sup>4</sup> report released in August 2018 and the Fourth National Climate Assessment<sup>5</sup> report issued in November 2018, which underscored the need for immediate climate emergency action at all levels of government;

**WHEREAS** on September 12, 2018, Governor Jerry Brown signed "*Executive Order B-55-18 to Achieve Carbon Neutrality*"<sup>6</sup> committing California to economy-wide "carbon neutrality as soon as possible, and no later than 2045, and achieve and maintain net negative emissions thereafter";

**WHEREAS** on November 5, 2019, more than 11,000 researchers from around the world issued a grim warning of the "untold suffering" that will be caused by climate change if humanity doesn't rapidly change its ways;<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> IPCC Special Report 2018 ([www.ipcc.ch/sr15/](http://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/)).

<sup>2</sup> [www.nrdc.org/stories/are-effects-global-warming-really-bad](http://www.nrdc.org/stories/are-effects-global-warming-really-bad)

<sup>3</sup> 2015 Paris Agreement ([www.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](http://www.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf)) or <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/109r01.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [www.climateassessment.ca.gov](http://www.climateassessment.ca.gov)

<sup>5</sup> [www.nca2018.globalchange.gov](http://www.nca2018.globalchange.gov)

<sup>6</sup> [www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/9.10.18-ExecutiveOrder.pdf](http://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/9.10.18-ExecutiveOrder.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [www.cnn.com/2019/11/05/world/climate-emergency-scientists](http://www.cnn.com/2019/11/05/world/climate-emergency-scientists)

**WHEREAS** the United States has contributed greatly to these climate and ecological crises and bears an extraordinary responsibility to help solve them;

**WHEREAS** **marginalized communities** worldwide — including people of color, indigenous communities, low-income people, those with disabilities, and the homeless — are already disproportionately affected by climate change;

**WHEREAS** a just transition to a safe climate must encourage the active participation and protection of marginalized communities and work to ensure that they benefit first from a sustainable and equitable economy;

**WHEREAS** it is **inexcusable to do too little, too late** — knowingly subjecting our fellow humans now and in the future to societal breakdown, shortages of food and clean water, economic collapse, vast refugee movements, and life on an increasingly uninhabitable planet;

**WHEREAS** the City of Sonoma has often seen itself as a leader in addressing environmental issues including human-caused climate change, having made bold commitments in its Resolution 44-2005 establishing GHG emissions reduction targets for the City by 2015 and later in its participation in the greenhouse gas reduction efforts set forth in the Regional Climate Protection Authority's (RCPA) *Climate Action 2020 Plan*; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Sonoma needs to do everything in its power to convert at emergency speed to a truly sustainable community — economically, socially and ecologically — and participate effectively in a regional just transition through climate mobilization efforts;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Sonoma declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, our Sonoma Valley, our region, our state, and all life on Earth;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Sonoma commits to a city-wide climate emergency mobilization in alignment with current and evolving climate science that includes: (1) mitigation: reduce city-wide greenhouse gas emissions to net zero no later than 2030; (2) drawdown/sequestration: supporting effective carbon negative actions to place carbon underground where it will remain for virtual perpetuity plus supporting similar steps that remove carbon from the atmosphere; and (3) adaptation/resilience: implementing and/or supporting measures to prepare for the inevitable consequences and impacts of a rapidly warming planet; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Sonoma will begin an evaluation of all existing and emerging policies, plans, projects, purchases, and priorities in accordance with our critical goals of mitigation, drawdown, and adaptation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Sonoma will work in partnership with the RCPA to immediately make a comprehensive update to the latest data on citywide GHG emissions — including those associated with residents' consumption of goods and services — and to request RCPA to thereafter track our city's GHG emissions and publicly report annually on our progress towards the goal of net zero emissions; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Sonoma will, during the update of its General Plan, evaluate and include the goals of net zero emissions by 2030 (mitigation), carbon negative action (drawdown), and management of climate-affected impacts (adaptation); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Sonoma commits to ongoing education and active engagement of all city staff, members of boards and commissions, local non-profit organizations, contractors, consultants, residents, and independent community groups in alignment with the adopted emergency goals of mitigation, drawdown, and adaptation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council has established an ad hoc subcommittee tasked with creating a standing Joint Climate Action Subcommittee with two members of the City Council and two members of the Community Services and Environment Commission (CSEC) tasked with determining best courses of action to pursue implementation of the climate emergency mobilization; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Sonoma will ensure that its Sustainability Coordinator will be responsible for overseeing city climate-related efforts and have the authority to form teams as needed to address the climate emergency successfully. Under the direction of the City Council, City Manager, and City Planning Director, in meeting these responsibilities, the Sustainability Coordinator shall work closely with the city's Community Services and Environment Commission (CSEC); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Sonoma acknowledges that full public participation of its residents is essential to the success of this effort; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Sonoma commits to contributing to RCPA's development of a countywide 2030 Climate Emergency Mobilization Strategy focused on identifying key local actions — including RCPA's 10-year Emergency Policy Directive setting out priorities for the most-effective local policies and programs that will drive systems change and identify the key areas for state-level advocacy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Sonoma will support the RCPA coalition of local governments mobilizing for effective and rapid regional climate action; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Sonoma, to set a clear example for the community, commits to reduce the carbon footprint of its municipal operations to net zero no later than 2030; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Sonoma joins a nationwide call for a broader just transition and emergency mobilization at all levels of government to restore a safe climate, and will partner with local, regional and state agencies to implement immediate actions — including implementation of the climate actions adopted by the city in 2016<sup>8</sup> and the Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability 2020-2021 Work Plan.

**APPROVED FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY:**

City of Sonoma Community Services and Environment Commission: 11 December 2019

City of Sonoma City Council: November 2, 2020

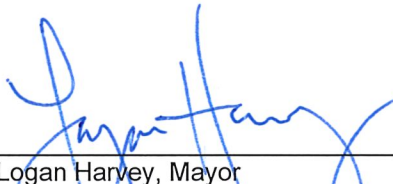
**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Sonoma at its regular meeting held on November 2, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES: **AGRIMONTI, HARRINGTON, HUNDLEY, HARVEY**

NOES:

ABSENT: **COOK**

ABSTAIN:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Logan Harvey, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rebekah Barr, MMC, City Clerk

<sup>8</sup> City of Sonoma Resolution 40-2016 (adopted 11/21/2016).