

Adopted September 2019

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN
SAN MATEO COUNTY THAT DEMANDS ACCELERATED ACTIONS ON THE
CLIMATE CRISIS AND CALLS ON LOCAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERS TO JOIN
TOGETHER TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE**

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, according to the Intergovernmental Plan on Climate Change (IPCC), increasing greenhouse gases (GHG) will cause global temperatures to rise 1.5 degrees Celsius by as early as 2030; and

WHEREAS, for San Mateo County, rising global temperatures will cause sea levels to rise (up to six feet or more by 2100 under certain scenarios), contribute to increasingly extreme weather including intense rainfall, storms and heat events, and heighten risk of large wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of climate change pose risks to life, safety and critical infrastructure in San Mateo County and throughout the world, and threaten physical, social and mental well-being; and

WHEREAS, climate change impacts will be most acutely felt by children, the elderly, those with preexisting physical and mental health conditions, low income or communities of color, and residents with unstable economic or housing situations; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment indicates that in the County over 160,000 children under the age of 18 years, and over 100,000 older adults, are vulnerable to risks posed by sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, the County has taken a number of actions to address climate change, including: helping to launch Peninsula Clean Energy; facilitating the Regional Integrated Climate Action Planning Suite (RICAPS) program that brings together the County and its 20 cities to plan and implement measures to reduce GHG emissions; launching Climate Ready SMC to better prepare San Mateo County for the changing climate; and facilitating the formation of the Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District in partnership with the City/County Association of Governments; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the County reduced GHG emissions by 21.8% below 2005 levels; and

WHEREAS, the current pace of climate actions may still fall short of reducing the projected harm to people and places and accelerated actions need to be taken to reduce our GHG emissions and implement solutions to prepare and protect our communities; and

WHEREAS, by declaring a climate emergency, the County of San Mateo will join the City and County of San Francisco, County of Santa Clara, other Bay area cities, including Berkeley, Alameda, Richmond, Santa Cruz, Hayward and Oakland, and over 1,000 national, international and local jurisdictions with similar declarations that are committed to reducing GHG emissions and planning for climate change; and

WHEREAS, the County invites all cities and other local jurisdictions and agencies to also approve a Climate Emergency Declaration to create a unified Countywide voice around climate change and to strengthen the call for state and federal actions and funds to address the economic, social, public health, and national security threats posed by the climate crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo declares a climate emergency that threatens the economic and social well-being, health and safety, and security of the County of San Mateo.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County will continue to educate residents about the seriousness of climate change, invest in climate solutions, and address the current and future impacts of climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that health, socio-economic and racial equity considerations should be included in policymaking and climate solutions at all levels and across all sectors as the consequences of climate change have significant impacts on all County residents, but especially the young, the elderly, low income or communities of color, and other vulnerable populations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that County commits to completing the Government Operations and Unincorporated Area Climate Action Plans that will include measurable climate-related goals and actions to attain carbon neutrality in advance of the State of California's 2045 goal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County will develop and enact resiliency policies and plans to ensure continuous operation of County services and facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County will achieve its climate action and resiliency goals through cross departmental partnerships within the County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County will collaborate and coordinate with the 20 cities in the County, and other local partners like Peninsula Clean Energy and the Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District, to achieve carbon neutrality throughout San Mateo County and to implement other actions to address climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Office of Sustainability to report annually to the Board, starting in April 2020, on progress towards meeting resiliency goals and achieving carbon neutrality in advance of 2045.

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