

Benicia Climate Emergency Resolution – REDLINE VERSION (by Roger Straw 5/26/20)

RESOLUTION NO. 20-48

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON AN IMMEDIATE MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

WHEREAS, in April 2016, world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep warming “well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C”; and

WHEREAS, more than 40 mayors in the greater San Francisco Bay Area have committed to adopt, honor, and uphold the Paris Agreement, noting “We will intensify efforts to meet each of our cities’ current climate goals, push for new action to meet the 1.5 degrees Celsius target, and work together to create a 21st century clean energy economy....The world cannot wait, and neither will we”; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information, in 2017, “the US was impacted by 16 separate billion dollar disaster events, tying 2011 for the record number of billion dollar disasters for an entire calendar year,” with a cumulative cost of \$309.5 billion, shattering the previous US annual record of \$219.2 billion in 2005 due to hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, Benicia is particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise, storm surge, and coastal erosion, exacerbated by extreme weather events with increased flooding and increased temperatures causing evaporation on land; and

WHEREAS, we in Benicia can rise to the challenge of this great crisis with the active consultation, participation, and benefit of workers, business and residents, creating well-paying local jobs in building and installing renewable energy infrastructure, growing and supporting healthy plant-based food grown in the community and county, restoring ecosystems, and retrofitting and redesigning our current environmental electric grid and transportation systems.

WHEREAS, as outlined in the Benicia Climate Action Plan it is the goal of the City to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create green jobs, and prepare for the impacts of climate change on public health, infrastructure, the economy, ecosystems, and public spaces in our community, and Benicia has repeatedly upheld this mission through resolutions to protect the environment and divest from extractive industries

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Benicia does hereby declare that an existential climate emergency threatens our City, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world and that time is of the essence; and that the City of Benicia endorses a just, Citywide emergency mobilization effort to reverse global warming, affirming City policy and priorities and appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from the County of Solano and State and Federal authorities to ~~end~~actively reduce Citywide greenhouse gas emissions and safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere as quickly as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Benicia, in order to ensure a just transition, will consult with the community and Benicia businesses and/or the Benicia Industrial Park, labor, environmental justice, economic justice and racial justice organizations at every step of the climate emergency mobilization process, and will call on the Solano Transportation Agency (STA), SolTrans, and other appropriate local agencies and cities in Solano County to participate in this regional emergency mobilization effort- without putting undue burden on local businesses

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the intent of the City Council of Benicia to continue our effort to address the climate emergency locally by, among other things, transitioning to a primarily electric vehicle fleet as the technology develops where economically feasible.

On motion of Council Member Largaespada , seconded by Council Member Young, the above Resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Benicia at a regular meeting of said Council held on the 19th day of May, 2020 by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members Campbell, Largaespada, Strawbridge, Young, and Mayor Patterson

Noes: None

Absent: None

Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa Wolfe, City Clerk

Date