



**AGENDA ITEM
CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE – MAY 19, 2020
BUSINESS ITEMS**

TO : City Council

FROM : City Manager

SUBJECT : **CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At its September 3, 2019 meeting, the City Council agreed to discuss a request from Mayor Patterson as part of the two-step process to consider adopting the Climate Emergency Resolution. This was discussed at the February 4, 2020 Special City Council meeting, and the Council established a subcommittee to revise the resolution. This subcommittee has completed its revisions and the Climate Emergency Resolution has been brought for the Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

Move to adopt the Climate Emergency Resolution (Attachment 1), endorsing the declaration of a climate emergency and requesting regional collaboration on an immediate mobilization effort to restore a safe climate.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

There are no financial or budgetary impacts associated with the adoption of this resolution.

BACKGROUND:

On September 3, 2019, City Council agreed to discuss a two-step request submitted by Mayor Patterson (Attachment 2), requesting that the City Council consider adopting the Climate Emergency Resolution. This request was discussed at the February 4, 2020 Special City Council meeting. Council voted to establish a subcommittee, consisting of Council Members Campbell and Young, to revise the resolution and bring it back to Council for consideration. The subcommittee has made their revisions and the resolution has been brought back before the Council.

The two-step request submitted by Mayor Patterson explains that cities are adopting this Climate Emergency Resolution to mobilize cities to end city-wide greenhouse gas emissions. The resolution points out the urgent need to combat climate change, and the fact that Benicia is particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise, storm surge, and coastal erosion, exacerbated by extreme weather events with increased flooding and temperatures causing evaporation on land.

The proposed Climate Emergency Resolution declares 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 Citywide greenhouse gas emissions and safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere as quickly as possible.

The proposed resolution also declares that the City will consult with community, 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 to participate in this regional emergency mobilization effort. The City will continue its effort to address the climate emergency locally by, among other things, transitioning to a primarily electric vehicle fleet as the technology develops.

NEXT STEPS:

If the resolution is adopted, staff will proceed with the regional collaboration effort to restore a safe climate.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS:

Council could choose to not adopt the resolution.

General Plan	Goal 4.9: Ensure clean air for Benicia residents
	Goal 4.10: Support improved regional air quality.

Priority Based Budgeting	Strategic City Result Impacted by this Agenda Item
	The City Council and community identified six (6) key “Results” that establish the key goals for which the City of Benicia aspires to achieve with our programs and services. Agenda Items often influence multiple Results, the primary Result impacted by this Agenda Item is (please check one):
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect Community Health & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain & Enhance A High Quality of Life <input type="checkbox"/> Preserve & Enhance Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> Strengthen Economic & Fiscal Conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect & Enhance the Environment <input type="checkbox"/> High Performing Government
	City Programs Impacted by This Agenda Item (Top 3):
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation 2. Planning for Natural Hazards 3. Public Education – Community Outreach
	Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) Website:

	Coming soon in Spring 2020 will be a link to the City of Benicia's PBB website to learn more about these programs and their costs.
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CEQA Analysis	Pursuant to Title 14, the California Code of Regulations, Section 15378(b)(5) of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") guidelines, the proposed action is an administrative activity of the City that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment
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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution - Climate Emergency
2. Two Step Request, Mayor Patterson

For more information contact: Lorie Tinfow, City Manager

Phone: 707.746.4200

E-mail: LTinfow@ci.benicia.ca.us