

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION DECLARING SANTA BARBARA)
COUNTY’S PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED STATES)
COOL COUNTIES PROGRAM) RESOLUTION # _____

WHEREAS, there is a consensus among the world’s leading scientists that global warming—whether caused by human emission of greenhouse gases or not—is among the most significant problems facing the world today;

WHEREAS, documented impacts of global warming include but are not limited to increased occurrences of extreme weather events (i.e., droughts and floods), adverse impacts on plants and wildlife habitats, threats to global food and water supplies – all of which have an economic impact on communities and their local governments;

WHEREAS, leading scientists have projected that stabilization of climate change in time to minimize such impacts will require a reduction of global warming emissions to 80 percent below current levels by the year 2050;

WHEREAS, currently the United States is responsible for producing approximately 25 percent of the world’s global warming pollutants;

WHEREAS, many leading U.S. companies that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs to demonstrate corporate and operational responsibility have also publicly expressed preference for the federal government to adopt precise and mandatory emissions targets and timetables as a means by which to provide a uniform and predictable regulatory environment to encourage and enable necessary and long-term business investments;

WHEREAS, state, regional and local governments throughout the United States are adopting emissions reduction targets and programs and that this effort is bipartisan, coming from Republican and Democratic leadership;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which commits cities to reduction of global warming emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, and calls for a federal limit on emissions;

WHEREAS, the State of California has mandated statewide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050;

WHEREAS, counties have a unique role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change through their regional jurisdiction over policy areas such as air quality, land use planning, transportation, zoning, forest preservation, water conservation, and wastewater and solid waste management;

WHEREAS, the economic arguments for implementing climate solutions are compelling, from the near-term economic gains of energy efficiency to the long-term climate stabilization that can prevent irreparable harm from catastrophic climate change impacts;

WHEREAS, many counties throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reducing energy bills, preserving green space, implementing better land use policies, improving air quality, promoting waste-to-energy programs, expanding transportation and work choices to reduce traffic congestion, and fostering more economics development and job creation through energy conservation and new technologies;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, to participate in the *Cool Counties Program* by making the following commitments:

- i. Create an inventory of our county government (operational) greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions and implement policies, programs and operations to achieve significant, measurable and sustainable reduction of those operational GHG emissions to help contribute to the regional reduction targets as identified in paragraph ii;
- ii. Work closely with local, state, and federal governments and other leaders to reduce county geographical GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050, by developing a GHG emissions inventory and regional plan that establishes short-, mid-, and long-term GHG reduction targets, with recommended goals to stop increasing emissions by 2010, and to achieve a 10 percent reduction every five years thereafter through to 2050.
- iii. Urge Congress and the Administration to enact a multi-sector national program of requirements, market-based limits, and incentive for reducing GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050.

DRAFT

The County will take immediate steps to identify regional climate change impacts and will draft and implement a Sustainability Action Plan for County Operations (SAPCO) to prepare for and build resilience to those impacts.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this ____ day of _____ 2009, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

ABSENT:

By: _____
Chair of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara

ATTEST:
MICHAEL F. BROWN
CLERK OF THE BOARD

By: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DENNIS MARSHALL
COUNTY COUNSEL

By: _____
Deputy County Counsel