



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name:  
Department No.:  
For Agenda Of:  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Time:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Board Member(s) Das Williams, (805) 568 2155  
Contact Info: Joan Hartmann, (805) 568 2192

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation of Supervisors Williams and Hartmann that this Board adopt the attached Resolution declaring that the County of Santa Barbara will continue to support climate action to meet the Paris Agreement; Direct the CEO to register the County of Santa Barbara as a signatory to the “We Are Still In” open letter to the international community and parties to the Paris Agreement from U.S. State and Local Governments, Universities, and Businesses

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

- a) Adopt the attached Resolution (Attachment A) in support of the Paris Climate Agreement and the “We Are Still In” effort (Attachment B)
- b) Direct the CEO to register the County of Santa Barbara as a signatory to the “We are Still In” effort (Attachment B)
- c) Determine that the above actions are organizational or administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines.

**Summary Text:**

The attached Resolution declares the County of Santa Barbara’s commitment to continue our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move forward with our strategies to support climate action. Further, it states that the County of Santa Barbara will join forces with more than a thousand future-thinking businesses, cities, counties, and universities throughout our nation who have stepped forward

affirming their commitment to the goals of the Paris Agreement and protect public health, protect the environment, and reap the economic benefits of a clean-energy economy.

Local and state governments and businesses are principally responsible for the impressive decrease in the greenhouse gas emissions in recent years. Many of these entities have already declared that they will be undeterred in their effort to reduce greenhouse emissions and combat climate change and have signed on to the “We Are Still In” letter.

**Background:** World leaders signed the first global commitment to fight climate change in December 2015 in Paris, France. The agreement is a commitment to take action to curb the threat that climate change poses to our health, our environment, and our economy and is signed by every eligible nation on earth, except Syria and Nicaragua. The agreement allows each country to set its own emission reduction targets and adopt its own strategies for reaching them.

On June 1, 2017, President Trump announced that the United States will withdraw from that agreement and renege on our nation’s commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emission 26-28% by 2025.

It’s a false choice to imply that we must choose between jobs and protecting the environment. These businesses, universities, cities, counties and states are speaking in a unified voice in response to the first withdrawal of a country from the Paris Agreement. They are communicating to the administration, our fellow citizens, and international community that major subnational leaders in the United States continue their commitment to move forward with their efforts to reduce carbon pollution and support a transition to a low-carbon economy.

Here in Santa Barbara County, some of the impacts from climate change we can anticipate are storms of greater magnitude which will create flooding and major public and private property loss, critical infrastructure interruption, urban forest die-off, and longer and hotter heat waves that are a public health concern, especially for seniors. We are a county that abuts a National Forrest so the increased danger from wildland fires as a real threat will require major resources to eliminate. We will see rising seas, with storm surge associated with the El Niño oceanic weather pattern that has already shown the potential to cost billions of dollars in damage.

**Performance Measure:**

- None

**Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:**

- N/A

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Narrative: N/A

**Key Contract Risks:**

- None

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**

**FTEs:**

- No staffing impacts

**Special Instructions:**

- None

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A – “Resolution in Support of the Paris Climate Agreement and Pledging to Continue County Government’s Efforts to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions”
- Attachment B – “We Are Still In” Press Release with background information and list of other signatories

**Authored by:**

- Cameron Schunk (805) 416 6179

**cc:**