

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

IN THE MATTER OF SUPPORTING THE
POLLUTERS PAY CLIMATE SUPERFUND ACT
LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, climate change has presented a number of reoccurring issues for the County of Santa Barbara, and the State of California as a whole, such as increasing the likelihood of fire weather conditions by intensifying drought and drying vegetation, along with increased risk of other natural disasters including catastrophic debris flows; and

WHEREAS, across the state, local governments and taxpayers are bearing immense and mounting costs of rebuilding from damage caused by climate change, increased insurance premiums, property taxes, and utility bills. State and local budgets are impacted as climate risks rise, jeopardizing public services, and forcing communities to carry the burden to address climate related emergencies; and

WHEREAS, companion bills Assembly Bill 1243 (Addis) and Senate Bill 684 (Menjivar), which both seek to create the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025 (Act), are currently pending before both houses of the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the bills would establish the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Program (Program) to be administered by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and require the largest fossil fuel polluters to pay for environmental and health damage suffered by Californians as a result of their emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Act will direct CalEPA to complete a climate cost study to quantify total damages to the state (through 2045), caused by past fossil fuel emissions, and to identify responsible parties and assess compensatory fees on the largest fossil fuel polluters proportional to their fossil fuel emissions from 1990 through 2024, to address damages quantified in the cost study, and directs that fees collected will fund projects and programs to mitigate disaster-related rate increases for Californians and remedy or prevent climate-related costs and harms; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Act advances California's commitment to equity and environmental justice by directing at least 40% of funds from the Program to go to disadvantaged communities. The funds will support urgently needed projects such as implementing wildfire prevention measures like home hardening, upgrading stormwater management systems to prevent flooding, and installing solar panels and energy storage systems to reduce energy costs and increase resilience during power outages. Additionally, these funds could help develop urban green spaces to mitigate heat islands and improve air quality. It could fund programs to support first responders and additional workers who provide essential services during climate disasters; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbra should support the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act because it proposes to shift the burden of paying for the high costs of climate change recovery from California taxpayers to the businesses that have profited off the fossil fuel industry.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the County of Santa Barbara supports both AB 1243 (Addis) and SB 684 (Menjivar), or the equivalent bills that represent a Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act, which would establish a framework for fossil fuel polluters to pay their fair share of the costs of climate damages, adaptation, and mitigation.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County Santa Barbara, State of California, on this _____ day of _____, 2025 by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

MONA MIYASATO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CLERK OF THE BOARD

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

By: _____
Deputy Clerk of the Board

By: _____
Laura Capps, Chair
Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
RACHEL VAN MULLEM
COUNTY COUNSEL

Signed by:
By: Amber Holderness
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Deputy County Counsel