

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

**IN THE MATTER OF CONCERN
REGARDING THE CURRENT
CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, on April 22, 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°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C,” which is in itself not safe for humanity; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2018, the United Nations released a special report, criticized by many leading climate scientists as overly conservative, which projected that limiting warming to the unsafe 1.5°C target this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 12 years; and

WHEREAS, climate change and the global economy’s overshoot of ecological limits are driving the sixth mass extinction of species, which has caused a 60% decline in global wildlife populations since 1970, and could devastate much of life on Earth for the next 10 million years, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has disproportionately contributed to the climate and extinction emergencies and has repeatedly obstructed global efforts to transition toward a green economy, and thus bears an extraordinary responsibility to rapidly address these existential threats; and

WHEREAS, the climate crisis is consistently recognized by our military leaders as the preeminent national security threat as incidences of conflict or violence increase from waves of refugees crossing sovereign borders due to displacement by weather-related disasters, extreme temperatures, weather and rising sea-levels negatively impact military operations; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires a societal “Climate Mobilization” at all levels of government on a scale not seen since World War II to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors at emergency speed; and

Resolution of Concern Regarding the Current Climate Emergency

WHEREAS, marginalized populations in the County of Santa Barbara, California and worldwide, including people of color, immigrants, indigenous communities, low-income individuals, and people with disabilities, and the unhoused are already disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change, and will continue to bear an excess burden as temperatures increase, oceans rise, and disasters worsen; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2018, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors received a distressing update on the County Energy and Climate Action Plan, stating we would not meet the goal of greenhouse gas reduction by 15% below 2007 levels by 2020. In fact, our greenhouse gas emissions actually increased 14% above 2007 levels as of 2016. Additionally, a recent Washington Post article identifies Santa Barbara County as one of seventy-one counties that have seen temperature increases over the critical mark of two-degrees Celsius; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbara shows solidarity with the existing California city and county governments, representing over 6 million California residents, who have recognized and/or made Declarations of Climate Emergency including the California cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chico, Berkeley, Oakland, Richmond, and Santa Cruz; as California leads the nation in climate crisis awareness and corrective policies; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbara has taken bold steps to reduce greenhouse gases such as joining the Monterey Bay Community Choice Energy (CCE) Program, voting to electrify our county fleet of vehicles, and adopting a Strategic Energy Plan; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbara can continue to act as a global leader by both converting to an ecologically, socially, and economically regenerative economy at emergency speed, and by rapidly organizing a regional just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara declares that a climate emergency threatens our region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world.

Resolution of Concern Regarding the Current Climate Emergency

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California this 10th day of December, 2019 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

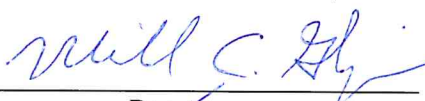
ABSENT:

STEVE LAVAGNINO, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:
MONA MIYASATO
CLERK OF THE BOARD

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
MICHAEL C. GHIZZONI
COUNTY COUNSEL

By _____
Deputy

By 
Deputy