



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: 1st District Supervisor
Department No.: 011 – Board of Supervisors
For Agenda Of: December 10, 2019
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Board Member(s) 1st District Supervisor Das Williams
Contact Info: Kadie McShirley, 805-568-2186

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution of Concern Regarding the Current Climate Emergency

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt the attached resolution of concern (Attachment A) regarding the current climate emergency; and
- b) Determine that the recommended actions do not constitute a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), finding that the project is an organizational or administrative activity of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The attached resolution declares the County of Santa Barbara's concern regarding our current climate emergency, outlines the many reasons that this Board of Supervisors must take action on climate immediately, and reinforces our County's commitment to fighting climate change.

Background:

On April 22, 2016, world leaders from 175 countries joined together to sign the first global commitment to fight climate change 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. To date, 194 countries and the European Union have signed the agreement – every eligible party. In June 2017, U.S. President Donald Trump announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the agreement. Under the

agreement, the earliest effective date of withdrawal for the U.S. is November 2020; however, changes in federal policy that are contrary to the goals of the Paris Agreement have already been put in place. On July 11, 2017, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution declaring that the County of Santa Barbara will continue to support climate action to meet the Paris Agreement.

On October 8, 2018, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its “Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C,” which found that “limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared with 2°C would reduce challenging impacts on ecosystems, human health, and well-being” and that a 2°C temperature increase would exacerbate extreme weather, rising sea levels and diminishing Arctic sea ice, coral bleaching, and loss of ecosystems. In addition the report determined that limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require global human-caused carbon emissions to decrease by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030.

On August 13, 2019, the Washington Post released a report that identifies Santa Barbara County as one of seventy-one counties that have already seen temperature increased over the absolute critical mark of 2°C.

On top of all this, our Board received a distressing update on the County Energy and Climate Action Plan, stating that we would not meet the goal of greenhouse gas reduction by 15% below 2007 levels by 2020 and, in fact, our greenhouse gas emissions actually increased by 14% above 2007 levels as of 2016. It is clear that we must take expedite action to deal with the climate emergency unfolding before us in our own county.

This Board of Supervisors has taken unprecedented proactive steps forward to address our climate emergency including joining a community choice aggregate, voting to electrify our county fleet of vehicles, and adopting the County’s first ever adoptive Strategic Energy Plan.

Adopting this resolution celebrates the steps we have taken while restating our understanding as the Board of elected leaders ultimately responsible for countywide policy adoption and implementation, that the impacts we see from climate change constitutes an emergency, which weight we do not take lightly and will continue to take bold steps to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as a county.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

N/A

Key Contract Risks:

N/A

Staffing Impacts:

N/A

Legal Positions: N/A

FTEs: N/A

Special Instructions:

Attachments:

(A) Resolution of Concern Regarding the Current Climate Emergency

Authored by:

Kadie McShirley