

CITY OF HEALDSBURG

RESOLUTION NO. 120-2019

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
HEALDSBURG DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND
AFFIRMING THE CITY'S ONGOING ACTIONS TO RESTORE A
SAFE CLIMATE

WHEREAS, human activities have warmed the Earth to a point that threatens climate stability, and climate change has already set in motion catastrophic changes to the Earth's systems, including fresh water scarcity and droughts, floods, extreme weather events and increased heat, wildfires, accelerating ice mass loss that will result in sea-level rise, and species extinction; and

WHEREAS, the current pace and scale of national climate action is not sufficient to avert substantial damage to the economy, environment, and human health over the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, the October 8, 2018 special report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projected that curtailing warming to 1.5°C to reduce the risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, economic growth and plant and animal life this century, will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 12 years; and

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2018 the Federal Government issued the *Fourth National Climate Assessment* detailing the massive threat that climate change poses to the American economy and underscoring the need for immediate climate emergency action at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, critical tipping points must be avoided, as they will have cascading feedback effects that are predicted to cause an increasingly uncontrollable climate emergency that includes a devastating burden to the global economy, and with current greenhouse gas (GHG) emission levels these tipping points could be passed as soon as 2050; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires an emergency mobilization to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors, to rapidly and safely draw down or remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, and to implement measures to protect all people and species; and

WHEREAS, a just transition away from fossil fuels requires the development of a framework for a fair shift to an economy that is ecologically sustainable, equitable, and just for all its members; and

WHEREAS, marginalized communities worldwide—including people of color, immigrants, indigenous communities, low-income people, those with disabilities, and the unhoused—are already disproportionately affected by climate change and must benefit from a just transition to a sustainable and equitable economy; and

WHEREAS, *California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment*, a report issued by the State of California, warned that extreme weather and climate-related events in the United States are worsening, and predicted increased drought cycles and heat waves in the western U.S. with a resulting three-fold increase in intensity and magnitude of wildfires, declined water supply and snow pack, increased flooding, impacted agriculture, as well as substantial damages to the U.S. economy and human health, unless GHG emissions are curbed; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-3-05 establishing statewide targets for reducing GHG emissions, including reducing GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the State of California through adoption of AB32 and SB32 has set targets for reducing GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020 and 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2018, Governor Brown signed Executive Order B-55-18 establishing a new statewide GHG emissions reduction goal to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible, and no later than 2045; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2018, Governor Brown signed SB100 requiring that all retail electricity in California be carbon-free by 2045; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2018, the City of Healdsburg passed Resolution No. 16-2018 reaffirming its intent to reduce GHG emissions through implementation of measures identified in the coordinated effort led by Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA); and

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2018, the City of Healdsburg passed Resolution No. 99-2018, converting all City buildings and facilities to 100% renewable electricity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Healdsburg can take leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change through regional jurisdiction over policy areas such as air quality, land use planning, transportation, zoning, forest preservation, energy efficiency, water conservation, wastewater and solid waste management; and

WHEREAS, the current scale and rate of expansion of local government action has not resulted in the necessary reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions to enable us to limit global temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and no more than 1.5°C as outlined in the 2016 Paris Climate Accord and recommended by the United Nations IPCC; and

WHEREAS, many of the major climate change drivers - energy generation, fuel standards, consumption patterns, product design and specification and large-scale infrastructure investments – are dispersed across both the private and public sector and are controlled at scales larger than local and regional governments; and

WHEREAS, in order to avoid irreversible, catastrophic climate change impacts, we cannot only focus on reducing emissions but must also dramatically increase and enable meaningful carbon sequestration while preparing communities now for significant climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, continued administrative actions do not constitute a project under California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) guidelines, so this item is therefore exempt from further environmental review.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of Healdsburg declares that a climate emergency threatens humanity and the natural and built environments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Healdsburg joins a nationwide call for a just transition away from fossil fuels and an urgent collaborative climate mobilization effort focused on enacting policies that dramatically reduce heat-trapping emissions, and rapidly catalyzing a mobilization at all levels of government to restore a safe climate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an urgent global climate mobilization effort to reverse global warming is needed to achieve zero net emissions as quickly as possible and that full community participation, inclusion and support is integral to our efforts to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere and accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Healdsburg acknowledges that successful climate action and a just transition at scale requires that we work both within and outside of the City’s borders and across sectors to accelerate the necessary systems change required to address the climate emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Healdsburg, as a priority, will include environmental stewardship in the City’s Strategic Plan and will collaborate with the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority in the establishment and implementation of a 2030 Climate Emergency Mobilization Strategy in alignment with statewide climate goals and integrating climate change considerations into all policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Healdsburg underscores the need for full community participation, inclusion, and support, and recognizes that all people living in Healdsburg, community organizations, faith, youth, labor, business, homeowners' associations, and environmental, economic, science-based, racial, gender, family and disability justice and indigenous, immigrant and women's rights organizations and other such allies will be integral to the leadership of the mobilization effort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Healdsburg commits to educating its employees, residents, visitors, and businesses about the climate crisis and the work

needed to catalyze an equitable emergency climate mobilization effort at the local, regional, state, national and global levels.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED, this 7th day of October 2019, by the following vote:

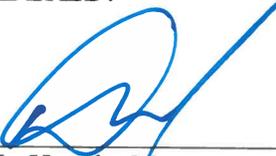
AYES: Councilmembers: (5) Gold, McCaffery, Mitchell, Naujokas and Mayor Hagele

NOES: Councilmembers: (0) None

ABSENT: Councilmembers: (0) None

ABSTAINING: Councilmembers: (0) None

SO ORDERED:



David L. Hagele, Mayor

ATTEST:



Stephanie A. Williams, City Clerk

I, STEPHANIE A. WILLIAMS, City Clerk of the City of Healdsburg, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of Resolution No. 120-2019 adopted by the City Council of the City of Healdsburg on the 7th day of October, 2019.


Stephanie A. Williams, City Clerk