

**RESOLUTION NO. 251-21 (CM)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING COLLABORATION TOWARD AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE**

**WHEREAS**, global warming has now raised the average global air temperature about one degree Celsius, and scientists have documented that this extra heat is already having a dramatic impact on the environment, as demonstrated through larger and stronger hurricanes, megadroughts and flooding, shifting rain patterns, more and larger wildfires, a hotter and more acidic ocean, signs that the Gulf Stream is collapsing, bleaching of reefs, and damaged ecosystems, both marine and terrestrial, across the planet; and

**WHEREAS**, in April 2016, world leaders recognized the urgent need to combat climate change by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep global warming "well below 2°C (3.6°F) above pre—industrial levels" and to "pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C (2.7°F)"; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, over fifteen thousand scientists published a "Warning to Humanity", declaring that greenhouse gases produced from human activities have "pushed Earth's ecosystems to their breaking point"; and

**WHEREAS**, 13,784 scientists from one hundred fifty—six countries have signed a declaration, unequivocally affirming that "planet Earth is facing a climate emergency" and it will now take "an immense increase of scale in endeavors to conserve our biosphere" to avoid untold suffering; and

**WHEREAS**, in the absence of action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reports indicate that warming is likely to accelerate in the next decade and reach 1.5

degrees Celsius by 2030 — ten years earlier than projected by the 2014 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and two degrees Celsius by 2045; and

**WHEREAS**, in August 2021, the most recent IPCC report declared a “CODE RED” for Humanity because climate chaos and its irreversible impacts now threaten to undermine the foundations of civilization; and

**WHEREAS**, based upon the scientific information and expertise available, California remains particularly vulnerable to the dangers of disastrous occurrences as a result of the effects of global warming, thereby endangering the health, safety, and welfare of the people, warranting preemptive and protective action; and

**WHEREAS**, as of January 26, 2021, 1,864 jurisdictions in thirty—three countries have already declared a climate emergency.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That the Council acknowledges that an existential climate emergency threatens humanity and the natural world, declares a climate emergency, and requests statewide collaboration toward an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate; and
2. That Governor Gavin Newsom is requested to declare a climate emergency for the entire state; and
3. That the California Legislature pursue the following climate mitigation and adaptation efforts and mobilize at the necessary scale and speed:
  - (a) A statewide commitment to a just transition toward a decarbonized economy that invests in and ensures clean energy, quality jobs, and a statewide

commitment to a climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse the climate crisis, which, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from state authorities, will transform the economy at emergency speed to zero emissions and meet the emission targets as set forth by the IPCC report to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius;

(b) A prohibition against any further public or private investment or subsidies in projects that will make the climate emergency worse, such as coal, oil, gas, and tree—burning projects, and redirecting and channeling subsidies toward low climate impact energy projects and workforce retraining;

(c) Facilitation of investments in beneficial projects and infrastructure such as zero emissions energy; electric vehicles, including clean fleet transitions for the State and counties; energy efficiency; reforestation; afforestation; climate-smart agriculture; and climate—friendly land use; and

(d) Organization and tracking of a time—phased implementation plan that assigns state government agencies' responsibilities and timetables; establishment of task dependencies between departments with a priority to plan and coordinate, at a statewide level, all climate and resilience responses, including emergency mitigation of climate change effects, resilience, adaptation, engagement, education, advocacy, and research and development programs, all of which begin with a robust climate emergency public education and stakeholder outreach process; and requirements of all departmental reports that utilize a lifecycle greenhouse gas analysis to include a climate impacts section, which will provide meaningful information on how proposed actions will impact greenhouse gas reduction efforts; and

4. That public and private entities are urged to commit to statewide action that is rooted in equity, self—determination, culture, tradition, and the belief that people

locally and around the world have the right to clean, healthy, and adequate air, water, land, food, education, and shelter; and

5. That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the State Legislature, and the Attorney General.

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The foregoing resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Watsonville, held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021, by Member Montesino, who moved its adoption, which motion being duly seconded by Member Hurst, was upon roll call carried and the resolution adopted by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **Estrada, García, Hurst, Montesino, Parker, Dutra**

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **None**

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **None**

DocuSigned by:  
*Jimmy Dutra*  
49273AB2E4924F0  
Jimmy Dutra, Mayor

ATTEST: DS

DocuSigned by:  
*Beatriz Flores*  
26A00ECA80A14E3  
City Clerk

9/21/2021 | 7:45 AM PDT

Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DocuSigned by:  
*Alan J. Smith*  
0B41522C009B4D8  
City Attorney

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I, Beatriz Vázquez Flores, City Clerk of the City of Watsonville, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 251-21 (CM) was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the Watsonville City Council at a meeting thereof held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021, and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of said Resolution.

DocuSigned by:  
*Beatriz Flores*  
26A00ECA80A14E3  
Beatriz Vázquez Flores, City Clerk

Date 9/21/2021 | 7:45 AM PDT