

October 13, 2020

RESOLUTION NO. 20-114

BY 
DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

A Resolution Declaring a Climate Crisis Requiring an Urgent and Inclusive Mobilization in Yolo County

WHEREAS, Yolo County, like other communities across California, is at risk of experiencing the devastating effects of extreme heat and weather events caused by climate change, including increased frequency and magnitude of wildfires and associated air pollution, health impacts, utility and transportation services interruptions, economic disruption, property loss, dislocation, housing shortages, food insecurity, gaps in education due to school closures, impacts on agricultural production; and increased demand on public sector resources and emergency response capacity;

WHEREAS, the COVID19 pandemic has spurred a health and economic crisis that has exposed and amplified pervasive social and economic disparities that will be further amplified by the climate change crisis;

WHEREAS, historically Yolo County actions have put it in the forefront of the green movement including adoption in 2009 of the Yolo County 2030 General Plan with more than 350 climate change related policies; among them: the 2011 adoption of a Climate Action Plan(CAP) to: reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, 27% below 1990 levels by 2030, 53% below 1990 levels by 2040, and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; address economic and social adaptation to the effects of climate change; and implement detailed strategies and measures to achieve these goals and contribute to State and international climate protection efforts;

WHEREAS, Yolo County can continue its leadership by initiating with urgent speed, a Climate Mobilization of countywide resources to effect a just transition to an inclusive, equitable, sustainable, and resilient local economy while also supporting and advocating for regional, national, and international efforts necessary to reverse the climate, social justice, and economic crises.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Yolo County declares climate change a crisis requiring urgent and immediate mobilization of public and private resources to develop and implement a climate and sustainability plan that identifies and integrates current and future actions needed to achieve a just economic recovery and transition to a countywide carbon-negative (climate-positive) footprint by 2030.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Yolo County commits to an inclusive plan development and implementation process that engages and empowers all stakeholders, including historically under-represented and disproportionately impacted communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Yolo County shall, by March 1, 2021 create a working advisory body to develop and propose a new Climate Action Plan (Yolo County 2022 Climate Action Plan) designed to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions in Yolo County and achieve a carbon negative footprint by 2030. The advisory body shall include, but not limited to, in addition to appropriate county staff, one or more county supervisors, representatives from cities and other appropriate jurisdictions, community organizations, experts in the field of climate

change, and representation from vulnerable, marginalized, and underserved communities. The advisory body shall be charged with engagement with the broader Yolo County community, including public meetings, to ensure all voices are heard. The proposed Yolo County 2022 Climate Action Plan shall be delivered to the Board of Supervisors by March 1, 2022. Upon adoption, the advisory body will advise Yolo County and the cities regarding the implementation of the plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Yolo County staff will work with the Yolo Climate Coalition and other stakeholders to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors as to the composition of a working advisory body, consistent with the paragraph above. That recommendation shall include the number of members, the length of time a member may serve, the procedure for applying for membership, categories of membership, and approval of members by the Board of Supervisors. The intent is to create an advisory body that includes, in addition to appropriate county staff, a county supervisor liaison; representation from cities and other appropriate jurisdictions that agree to participate; representation of community organizations; one or more experts in the field of climate change or environmental science, and representation from vulnerable, marginalized, and underserved communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that development and implementation of the plan shall be guided by science, data, best practices, equity, and justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Yolo County will consider and adopt sustainability, greenhouse gas (GHG) and co-pollutant carbon-footprint and ecological impact statements for relevant Yolo County Commissions and Board of Supervisor agenda action items in the same manner as fiscal impact statements are currently considered and adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Yolo County calls on the State of California, the United States Congress, the President of the United States, and all governments and people worldwide to declare a climate emergency, initiate a Climate Action Mobilization to reverse both global warming and the ecological crisis, and provide maximum protection for all people and species of the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in furtherance of this resolution, Yolo County shall submit a certified copy of this resolution to federal, state, regional, county, city, tribal organizations, and other relevant agencies and request that all relevant support, funding, and assistance in effectuating this resolution be provided.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors this 29th day of September 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Provenza, Villegas, Saylor, Sandy.

NOES: Chamberlain.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.



Gary Sandy, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Attest: Julie Dachler, Senior Deputy Clerk
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

By: 

Deputy (Seal)



Approved as to Form:



Philip J. Pogledich, County Counsel