

RESOLUTION NO. BOS-2017-85

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA  
AFFIRMING ITS COMMITMENT TO THE PARIS CLIMATE ACCORD,  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, AND COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE**

**WHEREAS**, consensus exists among the world's leading climate scientists that we face a major global climate crisis caused by greenhouse gas emissions, with rising sea levels and melting ice sheets creating increasingly unpredictable and unhealthy living environments as we approach a dangerous threshold of global warming; and

**WHEREAS**, documented impacts of global warming include but are not limited to increased occurrences of extreme weather events, significant impacts to human health and safety, destruction of ecosystems, and reduced economic productivity; and

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations Paris Climate Accord ("Paris Accord") is a historic international agreement reached in 2015 aimed at reducing carbon emissions, slowing rising global temperatures, and helping countries deal with the effects of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, all but two countries in the world have signed the Paris Accord, committing to enact programs to limit global temperature increase to less than two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with an expectation that this goal would be reduced to one and a half degrees in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States ratified the Paris Accord on September 3, 2016 and committed to its own target of reducing carbon emissions by 26 to 28 percent by 2025;

**WHEREAS**, on June 1, 2017, President Trump announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris Accord; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States' withdrawal could result in an additional three billion tons of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere each year, and an additional increase of as much as 0.3 degrees Celsius in global temperatures by end of the century; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of California is leading the effort to combat climate change and has mandated a statewide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 by reducing petroleum use in cars and trucks by up to 50%; increasing our electricity derived from renewable sources from one-third to one-half; doubling the energy efficiency savings achieved at existing buildings and making heating fuels cleaner; reducing the release of methane, black carbon, and other short-lived climate pollutants; managing farm and rangelands, forests, and wetlands so they can store carbon; and periodically updating the state's climate adaptation strategy; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Santa Clara’s geographic location makes it particularly vulnerable to the devastating impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, drought, flooding, and the concomitant adverse impacts on human health and the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the County takes sharp exception to President Trump’s unilateral intention to withdraw from the Paris Accord despite the dire consequences of the planet’s rising temperatures and opposition from communities across the country and world; and

**WHEREAS**, proactively responding to climate change provides opportunities to be at the forefront of innovation with respect to a broad range of technology, products, services, and know-how that transitioning to a climate-compatible future brings; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has been and will continue to be a leader in addressing climate change at the local level, having adopted a Climate Action Plan in 2009 and a Sustainability Policy in 2010 and implemented results-oriented strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, resulting in a 32.5 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions since 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has developed over 17 megawatts of renewable solar energy at 15 sites, which will produce an estimated 26.5 million kilowatt-hours of clean electricity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 5,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide during 2017 (equivalent to removing over 1,000 passenger cars from the road for one year); and

**WHEREAS**, the County has partnered with 11 additional communities to form the Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority, which has begun providing 100% carbon-free electricity to enrolled customers; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has achieved a nearly 70% waste diversion rate as of 2015, saving roughly 8,100 tons from landfill disposal and avoiding over 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions (equivalent to removing 5,300 passenger cars from the road for a year); and

**WHEREAS**, the County has adopted LEED Silver certification as the baseline standard for new County buildings, which requires even greater energy efficiency reductions than those already required in California’s stringent Title 24 building code; and

**WHEREAS**, the County is one-third of the way to its goal of transitioning 50% of its fleet away from standard internal-combustion engines, to include hybrid-electric, battery-electric, compressed natural gas, and hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has reduced annual water usage at County facilities by over 65 million gallons since 2009, a reduction of nearly 20%, saving approximately 260,000 kilowatts of electricity per year (equivalent to removing nearly 50 passenger cars from the road each year);

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, California:

1. The County opposes President Trump's intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris Accord and urges the federal government to maintain and actively work to achieve its commitment to the emissions reductions under the Paris Accord.
2. The County joins cities, counties, and states across the country in committing to the goals of the Paris Accord to combat climate change and promote environmental sustainability.
3. The County will continue its efforts to further the commitment made by the United States under the Paris Accord to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including through its Climate Action Plan, regardless of President Trump's stated intention to revoke the United States' ratification of the Paris Accord.
4. The President of the Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized, on behalf of the County, to join with other groups and coalitions and sign onto other documents supporting the Paris Accord and reflecting the County's continued commitment to combating climate change.
5. The County calls upon all counties, cities, and local governments across the United States to adopt similar commitments to reaffirm the Paris Accord and commit to environmental sustainability and to combat climate change.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, on June 20, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES: **CHAVEZ, CORTESE, SIMITIAN, WASSERMAN, YEAGER**

NOES: **NONE**

ABSENT: **NONE**

ABSTAIN: **NONE**



DAVE CORTESE, President  
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



MEGAN DOYLE  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:



JAMES R. WILLIAMS  
County Counsel

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