



Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, July 6, 2021

TO: City Council

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR PALMISANO
COUNCIL MEMBER AURELIO GONZALEZ
COUNCIL MEMBER REBECCA GARCIA
COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCISCO ESTRADA

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION ENDORSING CLIMATE SAFE CALIFORNIA GOALS
AND DIRECTING STAFF TO SET A GOAL OF NET-NEGATIVE
EMISSIONS BY 2030 FOR WATSONVILLE

STATEMENT OF ISSUES:

The environmental and climate related challenges of our time demand that local governments join others in actively working for bolder climate policy from the State. The Climate Center (described below) is leading the ambitious Climate-Safe California campaign that calls for net negative emissions by 2030 through policies and programs based on recent science. Net-negative emissions are achieved when more greenhouse gases are removed from the atmosphere than are put into it. It is an urgent advocacy effort to let the Governor and State Legislature know that local elected officials such as this Council demand more.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommend that the City Council approve a resolution:

1. Endorsing the Climate-Safe California Campaign Goals because it calls for solutions at the state level that will support the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) as well as our local community, and
2. Direct staff to establish strategies and actions to meet a goal of net-negative emissions by 2030 for Watsonville in the City's CAAP.

DISCUSSION:

The Climate Center, a nonprofit corporation based in Santa Rosa, California, is partnering with the Local Government Commission and other organizations across the state to lead the Climate-Safe California Campaign. This campaign includes targets and solutions that are consistent with the latest climate science and, if adopted by the State, will support the implementation of the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. A summary of the initiative can be viewed in this 3-minute video: <https://theclimatecenter.org/climatesafeca/>.

The Climate Center has gathered endorsements from over 900 elected officials, business and nonprofit leaders, and community members. It is seeking additional endorsements from

local government agencies to signal to the Governor and State Legislature that local elected officials recognize the urgency of the climate crisis and support more ambitious climate goals and solutions.

Watsonville has been a leader in addressing human caused climate change and we encourage the Council to continue to strengthen our leadership role. Since we at the local level are the ones feeling the brunt of the effects and will be the one's implementing the changes required to address this crisis, it is important that we continue to make our voices heard, and supporting this campaign continues the City's actions to reverse the climate crisis and support a climate-safe future.

One of the key provisions of this suite of goals includes prioritizing additional funding for local and regional governments. As the City develops its CAAP, it is becoming clear that significant additional State and Federal funding will be needed to implement measures at the scale necessary to meet even minimal goals and make meaningful progress in addressing the climate crisis.

The table below summarizes the key endorsement points from the Climate-Safe California Campaign and how these align with the City's Climate Action goals. These goals are discussed in more detail in the attachment.

Climate-Safe California Campaign	Alignment with City Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Strategies
1. BY NO LATER THAN 2022, COMMIT TO 80% BELOW 1990 LEVELS OF GHG EMISSIONS AND NET NEGATIVE EMISSIONS BY 2030, accelerating existing state policy timelines.	The Climate-Safe California goal of net-negative emissions by 2030 is more ambitious than the City's goal of carbon neutrality by 2045. Climate-Safe California will help align state and local goals and advocate for policy and funding at the state level to achieve this more ambitious goal.
2. CLOSE THE CLIMATE GAP WHEN ENACTING CLIMATE-SAFE POLICIES TO ENSURE LOWER-INCOME COMMUNITIES ARE NO LONGER DISPROPORTIONATELY HARMED by the health and economic consequences of fossil fuel development, production, and use, and have equitable access to climate-friendly solutions.	Supports City Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) strategies to integrate equity into climate policies.
3. SECURE A JUST TRANSITION FOR WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHOSE LIVELIHOODS DEPEND ON FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRIES, ensuring their economic well-being.	Supports City CAAP strategies to integrate equity into climate policies.

4. ENACT BY 2025 THE SUITE OF POLICIES REQUIRED BY SCIENCE TO PUT US ON TRACK FOR A CLIMATE-SAFE CALIFORNIA BY 2030	
Climate-Safe California Campaign	Alignment with City Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Strategies
<p>a. ACCELERATE THE PHASE-OUT OF FOSSIL FUEL DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, AND USE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Immediately halt new oil and gas drilling and infrastructure development. ii. Ensure significantly greater GHG-free transportation and mobility, including starting a phase-out of fossil fuel powered vehicles by 2025. iii. Secure 100% clean, distributed, resilient energy production and storage, including mobile sources such as electric vehicles. iv. Ensure significantly greater GHG-reduction in buildings 	Supports CAAP strategies to electrify buildings and the transportation system.
<p>b. INCREASE CARBON SEQUESTRATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Sequester from the atmosphere an additional 100+ MMT of CO2e annually by 2030 through major investments in healthy soils; forest, wetland, agricultural and other habitat and vegetation management. 	Supports CAAP sequestration strategies and calls attention to the need for investment in these practices in order to implement at the scale required.
<p>c. INVEST IN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Fund and support every California community by 2025 to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement resilience measures such as community resilience centers to reduce deleterious climate impacts on human health, from increased heat, fire and smoke exposure to flooding, drought, and spread of disease. 2. Establish clean energy community microgrids and battery storage linked to electric transportation, empowering communities to keep the lights on for critical facilities such as fire stations and hospitals during planned or unplanned outages 	Supports CAAP, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), energy grid and climate resilience strategies.

<p>d. GENERATE THE FUNDS NEEDED FOR SPEED AND SCALE CLIMATE ACTION</p> <p>i. Generate by no later than 2025 an estimated \$20 billion per year in new state funds to pay for this urgently needed suite of policies from progressive financing mechanisms, such as frequent flyer fees, green bonds, and a carbon fee and dividend type program</p>	<p>Watsonville has identified funding as a critical need for the success of the CAAP.</p>
---	---

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This action supports the Strategic goals of:

03-Infrastructure & Environment

04-Economic Development

05-Community Engagement & Well-Being

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact to the City associated with this action.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

The Council could decide not to endorse the Climate-Safe California Goals. The Council could decide not to direct staff to establish strategies and actions to meet a goal of net-negative emissions by 2030 for Watsonville in the City’s Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP).

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

- 1) Climate-Safe California Campaign Endorsement Platform