

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (CM)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE ADOPTING THE INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN – SEPTEMBER 2021, AND AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 9 (ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT) OF THE WATSONVILLE 2005 GENERAL PLAN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

**WHEREAS**, an Initial Study and Negative Declaration has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the CEQA Guidelines for the proposed City of Watsonville Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP); and

**WHEREAS**, the CAAP serves as a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet the state legislative target and provide a framework to ultimately achieve a goal of net-negative emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, to help achieve the GHG reduction and resilience goals in the CAAP, a new policy and implementation measure has been drafted for inclusion in Chapter 9 (Environmental Resource Management) of the City's 2005 General Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, as the lead agency for the proposed project, the City has the principal responsibility for conducting the CEQA environmental review to analyze the potential environmental effects associated with project implementation; and

**WHEREAS**, during the review process, it was determined that potential impacts would be less than significant, without the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate any potentially significant project-related impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 3, 2021, City staff filed a Notice of Intent and copies of the proposed Negative Declaration with the State Clearinghouse, and thereby initiated the 45-day public review period for the document, which closed at 5:00 p.m. on October 18, 2021. Notice was also given to local and regional agencies by mail and

interested parties as part of public hearing notices. Copies of the Initial Study/Negative Declaration were made available for public review online:

<https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/833/Projects>; and at the Public Works and Utilities Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the approval of the City of Watsonville's CAAP and amendment to the *Watsonville 2005 General Plan* can take place only after the Negative Declaration has been adopted by the City; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 11, 2021, the Planning Commission held a public hearing to consider making a recommendation to City Council to adopt the CAAP, approve the General Plan Text Amendment to Chapter 9 (Environmental Resource Management) of the General Plan, and adopt the Initial Study and Negative Declaration, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act. After considering all written and verbal evidence regarding this matter, the Planning Commission adopted Resolution No. 14-21 (PC), recommending the City Council adopt the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the CAAP; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 11, 2021, the Planning Commission also adopted Resolution Nos. 15-21 and 16-21 (PC), recommending the City Council adopt the CAAP and the General Plan Text Amendment to Chapter 9 (Environmental Resource Management) of the *Watsonville 2005 General Plan*; and

**WHEREAS**, the CAAP is a CEQA-qualified GHG reduction plan pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5. The CAAP may be used to streamline the analysis of GHG emissions for future projects; and

**WHEREAS**, a Notice of Determination will be filed in accordance with CEQA Guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, the appropriate public noticing procedures have been followed and a public hearing was held according to Section 14-10.900 of the Watsonville Municipal Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has considered all evidence received, both oral and documentary, and the matter was submitted for decision.

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

Good cause appearing, and upon the Findings, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit “A”, the Council hereby adopts the Initial Study/Mitigated Declaration for the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, and text amendment to Chapter 9 (Environmental Resource Management) of the *Watsonville 2005 General Plan* in compliance with the requirements of CEQA:

1. The City, in its capacity as Lead Agency, has prepared an Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the project. The purpose of the Initial Study is to determine whether the project could have a potentially significant effect on the environment and to identify and impose appropriate project mitigation measures to avoid such impacts or reduce them to a less-than significant level;
2. The Initial Study and Negative Declaration reflects the City of Watsonville’s independent judgment and analysis;
3. The Negative Declaration was prepared in accordance with all legal requirements, including all public notice and comment period requirements, set forth in CEQA;

4. The Initial Study examined all relevant environmental issues associated with the project, and is a complete and adequate environmental document under the requirements of CEQA. Specifically, the City Council supports the conclusions of the Initial Study, as this document is supported by substantial evidence; and
5. There is not substantial evidence in the record that the CAAP will have a significant effect on the environment for areas analyzed in the Initial Study. As discussed in the Initial Study analysis, no mitigation measures have been identified that would need to be implemented to avoid or reduce any potential impacts to less-than-significant levels.

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