

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-6331

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL APPROVING AND ADOPTING
CLIMATE SAFE CALIFORNIA GOALS

WHEREAS California is experiencing a climate emergency with climate-change-fueled, record-breaking heat waves, drought, wildfires, smoke storms, rainfall and flooding occurring more regularly; and

WHEREAS climate change impacts are rapidly worsening with nine of 15 global tipping points already activated and on par with the United Nations climate scientist panel's worst case scenario; and

WHEREAS the economic cost of maintaining the status quo is much greater than the cost of action, with damages from delayed greenhouse gas reductions in the US costing an estimated \$600 billion per year as of 2020, and insured and uninsured losses totaling \$80 billion in California in 2019 alone due to wildfires; and

WHEREAS the Paris Agreement of 2015 calls for preventing average global temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to keep warming below 1.5 Celsius; and

WHEREAS attempting to remain below 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming requires massive and rapid reductions in greenhouse gases as well as major progress on sequestration of warming compounds already in the air; and

WHEREAS to reach the necessary targets California must invest in providing comparable jobs with transferable skills and workforce training to those currently working in the fossil fuel sectors; and

WHEREAS the State must also commit to creating training and employment pathways for frontline communities disproportionately impacted by climate change including low-income communities and communities of color, the young, the disabled, the elderly and indigenous communities who suffer grave consequences from climate change impacts with significantly lower life expectancy as well as higher rates of asthma, cancer and other diseases than those in wealthier communities and remediation of these impacts requires the active consultation and protection of vulnerable and historically exploited populations; and

WHEREAS California has taken numerous steps to reduce greenhouse emissions and successfully reached its 2020 target of 1990 levels of emissions four years early; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2018, the State of California's Governor Brown issued an executive order establishing a 2045 State-wide target to achieve carbon neutrality, and on the same day,

Senate Bill 100 was passed, which sets a 100% clean electricity goal for the State by 2045; and

WHEREAS the State has initiated investments in pilot programs on natural land management and restoration for sequestration; and

WHEREAS these efforts, although recognized nationally and globally, are inadequate to meet the existential climate change threats; and

WHEREAS California can lead the nation and the world towards a more sustainable, equitable and vibrant climate-safe future; and

WHEREAS, Sebastopol has a long history of incorporating innovative sustainability actions in greenhouse gas reductions, transportation, energy, water, waste and municipal policies, frequently through both City Council action and community engagement and activism; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sebastopol has taken a number of important actions to enhance the quality of life in our community, including long-term commitments to alternative transportation options (bicycling, walking and public transit); advanced energy efficiency building standards; sustainable land use planning; 'green' management of public facilities, and commitment to zero waste goals; and

WHEREAS the City of Sebastopol has been a leader in addressing human-caused climate change, having made significant investments in municipal solar building requirements, and having made bold commitments in its participation in the greenhouse gas reduction efforts enumerated in the Regional Climate Protection Authority's (RCPA's) Climate Action 2020 Plan; and

WHEREAS the City of Sebastopol must continue to strengthen its leadership role by converting to an ecologically, socially, and economically regenerative economy at emergency speed and by helping to rapidly organize a regional just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort; and

WHEREAS on December 3, 2019, the City Council of the City of Sebastopol signed a Resolution Declaring a Climate Emergency and Committing to Ongoing Actions to Restore a Safe Climate (Resolution Number 6274-2019), which committed the City of Sebastopol to contributing to the RCPA's development of a countrywide 2030 Climate Emergency Mobilization Strategy; and

WHEREAS at its meeting on January 11, 2021, the Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA) endorsed the Climate Safe California platform, recognizing that its importance in advocating for State level policy solutions and funding which would support implementation of the RCPA Climate Mobilization Strategy; and

WHEREAS the City of Sebastopol's Climate Action Committee has reviewed and endorsed the Climate Safe California platform.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Sebastopol endorses the overarching goals and concepts of the Climate Safe California platform and calls on Governor Newsom and California legislators and regulators to enact the following:

1. No later than 2022, commit to accelerating existing State policy timelines to achieve 80% below 1990 levels of green-house gas emissions and net-negative emissions by 2030;
2. Secure a just transition for workers and their families whose livelihoods depend on fossil fuel industries;
3. Close the climate gap when enacting climate-safe policies to ensure lower-income communities are no longer disproportionately harmed;
4. Enact by no later than 2025 the suite of policies required by science to achieve net-negative emissions by 2030 including:
 - a. Accelerating the phase-out of fossil fuel development, production and use;
 - b. Increasing carbon sequestration;
 - c. Investing in community resilience; and
 - d. Generating the public and private funds needed for speed and scale climate action.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the City of Sebastopol City Council encourages everyone to take personal actions to reverse the climate crisis and support a climate-safe future.

The above and foregoing Resolution was duly passed, approved, and adopted at a meeting by the City Council on the 2nd day of March 2021.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by City of Sebastopol City Council following a roll call vote:

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers Hinton, Rich, Slayter, Vice Mayor Gurney and Mayor Glass
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

APPROVED: 
Mayor Una Glass

ATTEST: 
Mary Gourley, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC

APPROVED AS TO FORM: 
Larry McLaughlin, City Attorney