

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**“CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION”**

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2016, world leaders recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need for climate mobilization by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep global warming well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2018, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (“IPCC”) released a special report, which demonstrated that we must limit global warming to 1.5 Celsius in order to avoid irreversible and catastrophic impacts; and

WHEREAS, California’s 4<sup>th</sup> Climate Change Assessment warned that extreme weather and climate related events in the United States are worsening, predicted increased heat waves and drought cycles resulting in a three-fold increase in magnitude of wildfires, declining water supply and snow pack, increased flooding, impacted agriculture, and additional negative impacts to the economy and vitality of the state, unless GHG emissions are curbed.

WHEREAS, in order to avoid the aforementioned impacts, worldwide Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions must decline by approximately 45% by 2030 and reach effective next zero in 2050; and

WHEREAS, the extreme weather that global warming has brought about increased and intensifying wildfires throughout California and across the planet, floods, rising seas, diseases, which clearly demonstrates the need for collective action to combat climate change; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America Federal Government repeatedly obstructs global efforts to transition toward a green economy, and thus local governments and municipalities have a greater responsibility to rapidly address these existential threats; and

WHEREAS, marginalized populations, such as indigenous communities, low-income individuals and the homeless are the first to bear the brunt of climate change and are already disproportionately affected by the worsening of our climate and air quality; and

WHEREAS, justice requires that frontline communities, which have borne the brunt of the intensive fossil-fuel economy, participate actively in the implementation efforts of climate mobilization and that they benefit from the transition to a renewable energy economy; and

WHEREAS, core to this transition is equity, self-determination and the belief that all people have a fundamental human right to clean, healthy and adequate air, water, land, food education and shelter; and

WHEREAS, close to 400 cities, districts and counties across the world representing over 35 million people collectively have recently declared or officially acknowledged the existence of a global climate emergency, including San Francisco, Berkeley, Los Angeles, Oakland, Santa Cruz and New York City; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the City of Riverside signed onto the United States Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to reduce carbon emissions in line with the Kyoto Protocol; and

WHEREAS, the City of Riverside, with its own public utility, has a unique opportunity to act as a trailblazer in regard to the ability of local governments to combat the effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City of Riverside recognizes that human-imposed global warming and climate change is an existential threat to residents of Riverside, the State of California and the planet; therefore.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council, the City of Riverside declares a climate emergency threatens the city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Riverside commits to a citywide transition and climate mobilization effort to reverse the effects of global warming, reduce citywide GHG emissions with the goal of reaching zero net emissions, and accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation of worsening climate impacts, recognizing that these goals are only feasible through collaboration with regional partners and state and federal authorities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Riverside commits to engaging vulnerable and frontline communities in the planning processes of all climate mobilization efforts and encourages such communities to actively participate in advocacy for their needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Riverside commits to educating all residents about the climate emergency and underscores the need for full community participation, including our academic institutions, our faith communities, labor and business groups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Riverside will continue to advocate for and participate in mobilization efforts at the regional, state, national and global levels with the ultimate goal of mitigating climate change, ending GHG emissions and drawing carbon from the atmosphere.