

RESOLUTION 2019-52

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND ENDORSING EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORTS TO RESTORE A SAFE AND STABLE CLIMATE

WHEREAS, consensus exists among the world's leading climate scientists that global warming caused by emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) from human activities is among the most significant problems facing the world today; and

WHEREAS, documented impacts of climate change include but are not limited to increased occurrences of extreme weather events (e.g. droughts and floods), adverse impacts on ecosystems, demographic patterns, and the flow of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, El Cerrito, like the Bay Area and the state of California, is already suffering impacts of climate change in the form of droughts, wildfire danger, air pollution, heat stress, and increased risk of lowland flooding, and these impacts will grow more severe if global GHG emissions are not significantly reduced; and

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it 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, the State of California has mandated a statewide reduction of GHG emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Cerrito has adopted a Climate Action Plan with GHG emission reduction targets of 15% below 2005 levels by the year 2020 and 30% below 2005 levels by 2035, and anticipates updating the Plan beginning next year; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Cerrito has adopted six (6) previous resolutions supporting state, local, and global actions to reduce GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, for these efforts and the implementation of the Climate Action Plan and associated initiatives, the City will receive the prestigious Beacon Award in 2019 from the Institute for Local Government, a Statewide honor recognizing the City's achievements in reducing GHG emissions and addressing climate change; and

WHEREAS, local government actions to reduce GHG emissions provide multiple benefits by decreasing air pollution, creating jobs, reducing energy expenditures, and saving money for City government, its businesses, and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, addressing climate change requires an emergency mobilization on a global scale to reach zero GHG emissions across all sectors, to rapidly and safely drawdown excess carbon from the atmosphere, and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of climate change; and

WHEREAS, in developing and carrying out the emergency mobilization to address climate change, justice requires the active consultation, participation with, and benefits for communities that have historically borne the brunt of the fossil fuel extractive economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of El Cerrito does hereby declare that a climate emergency threatens our City, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of El Cerrito endorses and will support and participate in climate emergency mobilization and collaboration efforts to reverse global warming at the City, region, state, national, and global levels to protect our residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of El Cerrito reiterates its commitment to further reducing GHG emissions through active implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of El Cerrito supports an increase in our Citywide GHG emissions reduction rate and will strive for zero GHG emissions Citywide as quickly as possible within the forthcoming Climate Action Plan update.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of El Cerrito will continue working with various agencies to actively educate our residents, businesses, and visitors about the climate emergency and inform residents about local actions they can take to transition to a zero GHG emissions existence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of El Cerrito will continue to educate and inform residents, businesses, and visitors on preparedness actions we can all take to address impacts of the climate emergency in the form of disasters including droughts, wildfire, air pollution, heat stress, power outages, increased risk of lowland flooding, and other climate-related disasters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of El Cerrito supports full public participation toward GHG reduction goals—including input from and participation by disenfranchised communities—and recognizes that El Cerrito residents, community organizations, labor organizations, businesses, and schools are integral to leading this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of El Cerrito commits to keeping the concerns of vulnerable communities central to all climate emergency mobilization planning processes and to inviting and encouraging such communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of El Cerrito calls on the State of California and the United States of America to initiate an emergency mobilization effort to reverse global warming, reducing GHG emissions as quickly as possible.

I CERTIFY that at a regular meeting on August 20, 2019 the City Council of the City of El Cerrito passed this Resolution by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Pardue-Okimoto; Councilmembers Abelson, Fadelli, Lyman and Quinto
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on August 28, 2019.



Holly M. Charléty, City Clerk

APPROVED:



Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto, Mayor