



Travis County Commissioners Court Voting Session Agenda Request

Meeting Date: August 20, 2019

Agenda Language:

Approve resolution declaring a climate emergency and calling for immediate and coordinated mobilization by Travis County to address the causes and consequences of climate change and directing staff to take appropriate action.

Prepared By/Phone Number: Lani Oglewood, 512-854-1144

Elected/Appointed Official or Department Head: Commissioner Shea

Commissioners Court Sponsor(s): Commissioner Shea

Background/Summary of Request and Attachments:

Staff Recommendations:

Recommend approval.

Issues and Opportunities: N/A

Fiscal Impact and Source of Funding: N/A

Required Authorizations:

Brigid Shea, County Commissioner

AGENDA REQUEST & BACKUP MATERIALS DEADLINE: Agenda requests and backup materials must be submitted in PDF format via email to agenda@traviscountytx.gov by **12 noon on Tuesday** in order to be considered for inclusion in the following week's voting session.

Travis County Commissioners Court



Resolution

FILED FOR RECORD
2019 SEP -4 AM 7:13
DANA DEBEAUVOIR
GOBILITY CLERK
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

TRAVIS COUNTY RESOLUTION TO DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY, AUGUST 2019

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2016, 174 countries and the European Union signed the Paris Climate Agreement, recognizing the threat of climate change and agreeing to pursue efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2017, Travis County agreed to join the We Are Still In Coalition as a sign of ongoing local commitment to combating the threat of climate change by supporting the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2018 the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projected that limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius will require unprecedented transitions in all aspects of society over the next 12 years; and

WHEREAS, over 700 governmental jurisdictions across the world have recently declared or officially acknowledged the existence of a global climate emergency; and

WHEREAS, the impacts and risks of the climate crisis include increased and intensifying extreme weather events, including those that Travis County is particularly vulnerable to, such as wildfires, flooding, and drought; and

WHEREAS, NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies reported global temperatures in 2018 were .83 degrees Celsius warmer than the average temperature between 1951 and 1980, and the past five years are collectively the warmest in modern history; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2019 more than 70 health organizations including the American Medical Association and the American Public Health Association declared climate change to be a health emergency and issued a call to action for government, business, and civil society leaders to recognize climate change as a health emergency; and

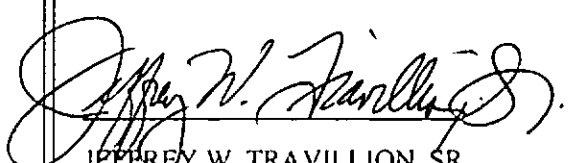
WHEREAS, building a climate-resilient and adaptive society will have a positive impact on the health and well-being of residents, and will offer protections from the adverse potential consequences of climate change to Travis County's ecosystems and economies;

THEREFORE, The Travis County Commissioners Court declares a climate emergency and calls for an immediate emergency mobilization to restore a safe climate.

Be It Further Resolved that the Travis County Commissioners Court charges relevant staff to develop a Climate Action Plan that will address ways to reduce the County's impact on climate and how best to engage with residents of Travis County with actions they can take to reduce their impact on the environment and prepare for increasingly deadly and destructive weather.

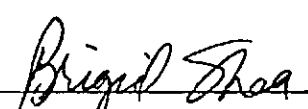
SIGNED AND ENTERED ON THE 20TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2019.

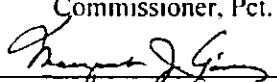

SARAH ECKHARDT
Travis County Judge


JEFFREY W. TRAVILLION, SR.
Commissioner, Pct. 1

AGAINST

GERALD DAUGHERTY
Commissioner, Pct. 3


BRIGID SHEA
Commissioner, Pct. 2


MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
Commissioner, Pct. 4