

RESOLUTION NO. 80284

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE SETTING A GOAL OF ACHIEVING CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2030 AND REAFFIRMING THE CITY COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (“IPCC”) Report, released August 9, 2021, finds that greenhouse gas emissions from human activities have already caused approximately 1.1°C (2°F) of warming since 1850-1900, leading to the highest global temperatures of the last 125,000 years; that these increased temperatures are already causing more extreme heat, weather, and droughts, and have already set in motion changes to oceans, glaciers, permafrost, and ice sheets that are irreversible in our lifetimes; and that global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during this century unless deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC special report “Global Warming of 1.5 °C” finds that the impacts of climate change on extreme heat, weather, drought, sea level rise, ecosystems, human health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth will be significantly worse at 1.5°C than at present temperatures, and significantly worse at 2°C than at 1.5°C; and

WHEREAS, the State of the Climate in 2020 report released by the American Meteorological Society on August 25, 2021, shows that CO₂ levels in the atmosphere reached record highs in 2020, higher than any levels in the modern 62-year measurement record or in ice core records dating back 800,000 years; and

WHEREAS, projections from Silicon Valley 2.0 show that San José is vulnerable to multiple effects of climate change, including sea level rise, more frequent and intense

coastal and river flooding, more frequent and extensive wildfires, and longer, more frequent and more severe heat waves; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Public Health states that climate change harms physical and mental health in many ways, including: injuries, displacement, and stress from extreme weather events; heat-related illnesses and worsening of pre-existing conditions such as asthma from extreme heat events and associated air pollution; injuries and respiratory and cardiovascular risks from wildfires and smoke; and food insecurity from increases in food prices and economic disruption; and

WHEREAS, the environmental, health, and social impacts of climate change disproportionately impact people of color and people living in low-income neighborhoods who have experienced historical environmental injustices; and

WHEREAS, communities who have experienced historical environmental injustices in San José are already experiencing greater impacts related to climate change including increased asthma rates, higher energy cost burdens, higher exposure to extreme heat, and higher exposure to air pollution; 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 United States (“U.S.”) 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, taking action on climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience to climate risks has many potential benefits, including the creation of local jobs and new career paths, improved air quality, improved public health and safety, higher property values, reduced traffic congestion, and improved quality of life; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2017, the Trump Administration withdrew from the Paris Climate Agreement (“Paris Agreement”), which the U.S. signed in 2016 along with 194 parties as part of the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C; and

WHEREAS, the City of San José (“City”) joined over 392 municipalities from around the U.S. in adopting and honoring the Paris Agreement, which commits the planet to limit global warming to less than 2°C, and ultimately 1.5°C; and

WHEREAS, Climate Smart San José, one of the first Paris Agreement-aligned climate action plans, indicates that San José will need to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050 compared to 1990 levels to be compliant with the 2°C Paris Agreement pathway; and

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2019, the San José City Council adopted a resolution declaring a climate emergency (“Climate Emergency Resolution”); and

WHEREAS, Mayor Sam Liccardo joined over 733 mayors from around the world in April 2021 to support the United Nations-backed Race to Zero initiative in which pledged cities commit to halving their greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 at the latest; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order N-79-20, signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 23, 2020, requires sales of all new passenger vehicles in California to be zero-emission by 2035; and

WHEREAS, given the severity of climate impacts locally and across the globe, on July 9, 2021 Governor Newsom called for State agencies to expedite the state’s carbon neutrality goal by ten years, and the California Air Resources Board and the California

Public Utilities Commission will now explore pathways to reach carbon neutrality statewide by 2035; and

WHEREAS, the 2021-2022 California state budget together with a package of legislation signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 23, 2021 sets aside \$15 billion in climate funding, including \$3.9 billion to accelerate the transition to zero emission vehicles; and

WHEREAS, zero-emission technologies such as heat pump air and water heaters and electric vehicles are already being used throughout the world and across the U.S. and rapidly becoming more available and affordable in California; and

WHEREAS, the City was one of 25 ambitious cities to receive a \$2.5 million Bloomberg Philanthropies' American Cities Climate Challenge award to demonstrate its climate leadership, and with the support of that award has made great progress in building electrification, vehicle electrification, active transportation, and equitable engagement of environmental justice communities; and

WHEREAS, the City was one of three cities to be awarded the Delivering Zero Emissions Communities grant, which will support data and strategy analysis, engagement with environmental justice communities, and engagement with industry stakeholders about urban freight emissions, and includes an intention of committing to zero emissions from urban freight by 2030; and

WHEREAS, a "carbon neutral city" is defined by C40, an international network of cities committed to addressing climate change, in their April 2019 report, Defining Carbon Neutrality for Cities and Managing Residual Emissions, as a city that has achieved and demonstrated in a given year that it has met net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from at minimum all of the following: 1) fuel use in buildings, transport, and industry, 2) use of grid-supplied energy, and 3) treatment of waste generated within the city boundary; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Center’s Climate-Safe California initiative, endorsed by Mayor Sam Liccardo and a wide range of businesses, labor unions, elected leaders, scientists, nonprofit organizations, and environmental justice groups, provides a plan for reaching net-negative GHG emissions by 2030; and

WHEREAS, a number of other local jurisdictions and governments in the U.S. have already adopted goals of reaching net zero GHG emissions by 2030, including Irvine, Menlo Park, Petaluma, Watsonville, Sacramento County, Ann Arbor (Michigan), Burlington (Vermont), Flagstaff (Arizona), Ithaca (New York), and Park City (Utah), and San José would be the largest city in the U.S. to adopt such a goal;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE THAT:

1. The City of San José sets an ambitious goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030.
2. The City of San José reaffirms its commitment in the City of San José Climate Emergency Resolution, to prioritize the equitable and active engagement of environmental justice communities who have traditionally borne the brunt of environmental degradation including communities of color, monolingual communities, children, the elderly, the physically disabled, low-wage workers, immigrants, indigenous communities, and low-income communities in planning, policy, program development and delivery so that environmental polices benefit all communities in the City.

ADOPTED this 8TH day of November, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: COHEN, DAVIS, ESPARZA, FOLEY, JONES, JIMENEZ,
MAHAN, PERALEZ, LICCARDO.

NOES: NONE.

ABSENT: ARENAS, CARRASCO.

DISQUALIFIED: NONE.



SAM LICCARDO
Mayor

ATTEST:



TONI J. TABER, CMC
City Clerk