

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-366

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA TO SIGN U.S. COOL COUNTIES CLIMATE STABILIZATION DECLARATION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda:

Whereas, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution R-2006-204 Establishing County Climate Change Leadership Strategy in June 2006;

Whereas, the President of the Board joined 11 other pioneering counties in the launch of the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration at the National Association of Counties Annual Conference on July 16, 2007, in Richmond, Virginia;

Whereas, Alameda County has a unique opportunity to lead a regional effort on global warming, and the Board has extended an invitation to all 57 other counties in California to sign the Cool Counties Declaration;

Whereas, the Cool Counties initiative seeks to marshal the resources of all 3066 counties across the nation to address the challenges global warming poses to our communities and develop a stronger voice to urge the federal government to realign national energy, transportation, land use, forest conservation, building, waste reduction and recycling, and agriculture policies to stimulate new and existing clean technologies on a large scale;

Whereas, Cool Counties signatories will work cooperatively to disseminate best practices information and develop guidelines for the role of counties in climate protection which take advantage of their unique position and powers;

Whereas, the State of California is currently determining the mechanisms to meet AB 32: Global Warming Solutions Act mandates, including reducing statewide emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 (25% below business as usual), and

Whereas, Bay Area regional agencies under the auspices of the Joint Policy Committee are currently developing a set of initiatives for collective regional action on climate change;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT:

Resolved, that the County of Alameda supports the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration;

Further **Resolved**, that the County of Alameda will work with the National Association of Counties Climate Protection Program to share best practices;

Finally **Resolved**, that the County of Alameda encourages the other 57 counties throughout California to adopt a similar resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda, State of California this 31st day of July, 2007.

AYES: Carson, Lai-Bitker, Miley, Steele & President Haggerty - 5

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

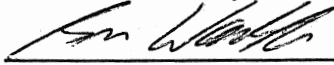
ATTEST:

R. Bailey Deputy
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED:

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution
Was passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors
Of the County of Alameda on the 31st day of July,
2007, by the foregoing vote.

Approved as to Form
Richard E. Winnie, County Counsel

By 

U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration

WHEREAS, there is a consensus among the world's leading scientists that global warming caused by human emission of greenhouse gases is among the most significant problems facing the world today;

WHEREAS, documented impacts of global warming include but are not limited to increased occurrences of extreme weather events (i.e., droughts and floods), adverse impacts on plants and wildlife habitats, threats to global food and water supplies – all of which have an economic impact on communities and their local governments;

WHEREAS, leading scientists have projected that stabilization of climate change in time to minimize such impacts will require a reduction of global warming emissions to 80 percent below current levels by the year 2050;

WHEREAS, currently the United States is responsible for producing approximately 25 percent of the world's global warming pollutants;

WHEREAS, many leading U.S. companies that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs to demonstrate corporate and operational responsibility have also publicly expressed preference for the federal government to adopt precise and mandatory emissions targets and timetables as a means by which to provide a uniform and predictable regulatory environment to encourage and enable necessary and long-term business investments;

WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration have strengthened the U.S. Corporate Average Fuel Economy ("CAFE") standard for cars and light trucks;

WHEREAS, state, regional and local governments throughout the United States are adopting emissions reduction targets and programs and that this effort is bipartisan, coming from Republican and Democratic leadership;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which commits cities to reduction of global warming emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, and calls for a federal limit on emissions;

WHEREAS, the State of California has mandated statewide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050;

WHEREAS, more than 100 county leaders signed a letter written by Dane County, Wisconsin, that was sent to the President in March 2006 calling for increased energy investment and development of jobs focused on clean energy technologies;

WHEREAS, counties have a unique role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change through their regional jurisdiction over policy areas such as air quality, land use planning, transportation,

zoning, forest preservation, water conservation, and wastewater and solid waste management;

WHEREAS, the economic arguments for implementing climate solutions are compelling, from the near-term economic gains of energy efficiency to the long-term climate stabilization that can prevent irreparable harm from catastrophic climate change impacts;

WHEREAS, many counties throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reducing energy bills, preserving green space, implementing better land use policies, improving air quality, promoting waste-to-energy programs, expanding transportation and work choices to reduce traffic congestion, and fostering more economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new technologies;

NOW, THEREFORE WE DECLARE,

We as Cool Counties will take immediate steps to help the federal, state, and our governments within our county to achieve the 2050 climate stabilization goal by making the following commitments:

- i. Create an inventory of our county government (operational) greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions and implement policies, programs and operations to achieve significant, measurable and sustainable reduction of those operational GHG emissions to help contribute to the regional reduction targets as identified in paragraph ii;
- ii. Work closely with local, state, and federal governments and other leaders to reduce county geographical GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050, by developing a GHG emissions inventory and regional plan that establishes short-, mid-, and long-term GHG reduction targets, with recommended goals to stop increasing emissions by 2010, and to achieve a 10 percent reduction every five years thereafter through to 2050.
- iii. Urge Congress and the Administration to enact a multi-sector national program of requirements, market-based limits, and incentives for reducing GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050.

We will take immediate steps to identify regional climate change impacts; we will draft and implement a county plan to prepare for and build resilience to those impacts.