



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 8/28/2017

Agenda Placement: 7A

Napa County Legislative Subcommittee Board Agenda Letter

TO: Napa County Legislative Subcommittee

FROM: Molly Rattigan for Minh Tran - Interim County Executive Officer
County Executive Office

REPORT BY: Michael Karath, Staff Assistant - BOS - 299-1477

SUBJECT: Resolution Reaffirming Napa County's Commitment to Climate Change and the Paris Climate Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

County Executive Officer seeks discussion and possible action on a resolution affirming Napa County's support for the 2015 United Nations Paris Climate Accord.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese recently approached Napa County to join the County Climate Coalition, a nationwide coalition of counties leading the fight against climate change and reaffirming support for the 2015 United Nations Paris Climate Accord.

In 2015, all but two countries signed the United Nations Paris Climate Accord ("Paris Accord"), a historic international agreement aimed at reducing carbon emissions, slowing rising global temperatures, and helping countries deal with the effects of climate change. Syria and Nicaragua did not sign the accord. Nicaragua did not sign because it believed the Paris Accord was not stringent enough to combat climate change.

On June 1, 2017, President Donald Trump announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris Accord. That same day, Governor Jerry Brown announced the formation of an alliance, the United States Climate Alliance, with the governors of New York and Washington aimed at meeting the U.S. climate goals, as agreed upon in the Paris Accord.

The County Climate Coalition seeks to buttress the United States Climate Alliance with local support for the fight against climate change.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Consensus exists among the world's leading climate scientists that the world faces a major global climate crisis caused by greenhouse gas emissions, with rising sea levels and melting ice sheets creating increasingly unpredictable and unhealthy living environments as we approach a dangerous threshold of global warming.

Documented impacts of global warming include, but are not limited to, increased occurrences of extreme weather events, significant impacts to human health and safety, destruction of ecosystems, and reduced economic productivity.

In 2015, all but two countries signed the United Nations Paris Climate Accord ("Paris Accord"), a historic international agreement aimed at reducing carbon emissions, slowing rising global temperatures, and helping countries deal with the effects of climate change. Signatories to the Paris Accord committed to enact programs to limit global temperature increase to less than two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with an expectation that this goal would be reduced to one and a half degrees in the future.

The United States ratified the Paris Accord on September 3, 2016 and committed to its own target of reducing carbon emissions by 26 to 28 percent by 2025.

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The County Climate Coalition, led by Santa Clara County, was formed to embrace the Paris Accord and urge the federal government to adhere to its emissions reduction commitments. The Coalition's local governments intend to continue working toward meeting the United States' commitment under the Paris Accord through results-oriented strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By combating climate change through renewable solar energy development, alternative community energy providers, enhanced waste diversion, environmentally friendly vehicles, reduction of water usage, and other local solutions, the undersigned local governments will continue their efforts to slow the dangerous pace of global warming while advancing environmental sustainability, protecting public health, and leading innovation.

Counties that have passed and signed onto the Coalition's resolution for membership include:

- | Santa Clara County, California
- | Charles County, Maryland
- | San Miguel County, Colorado
- | Gilpin County, Colorado
- | San Mateo County, California
- | Summit County, Utah
- | Contra Costa County, California

I Essex County, New Jersey

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . DRAFT RESOLUTION

Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan