

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Kanishka Karunaratne Cheng, Liaison to the Board of Supervisors, Mayor's Office
Deborah Raphael, Director, Department of the Environment

FROM: Erica Major, Assistant Clerk, Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: March 6, 2019

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Mandelman on February 26, 2019:

File No. 190222

Resolution declaring a climate emergency in San Francisco; and requesting immediate and accelerated action to address the climate crisis and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

If you have comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: erica.major@sfgov.org.

c: Rebecca Peacock, Mayor's Office
Peter Gallota, Department of the Environment
Charles Sheehan, Department of the Environment

1 [Declaring a Climate Emergency in San Francisco]

2
3 **Resolution declaring a climate emergency in San Francisco; and requesting immediate**
4 **and accelerated action to address the climate crisis and limit global warming to 1.5**
5 **degrees Celsius.**

6
7 WHEREAS, Climate change is an urgent unfolding crisis that presents a serious threat
8 to global stability and human existence; and

9 WHEREAS, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a special
10 report on the impacts of global warming and the need to reduce global greenhouse gas
11 emissions well before 2030 to hold warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avoid the most
12 catastrophic impacts of climate change; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2018, the United States' Fourth National Climate Assessment made
14 clear that climate change will wreak havoc across the United States, and the current pace and
15 scale of national climate action is not sufficient to avert substantial damage to the economy,
16 environment, and human health over the coming decades; and

17 WHEREAS, Throughout the United States, communities of color and low-income
18 communities have been on the frontline of longstanding environmental injustices, and have
19 historically borne the brunt of the fossil-fuel economy; and

20 WHEREAS, San Francisco, like the Bay Area and the state of California, is already
21 suffering impacts of climate change in the form of droughts, air pollution, extreme heat, and
22 lowland flooding, and these impacts will grow more severe if global greenhouse gas
23 emissions are not significantly reduced; and

1 WHEREAS, Climate change will continue to make basic human necessities such as
2 food, housing and energy more expensive and difficult to obtain, adding additional pressure to
3 the Bay Area’s affordability crisis; and

4 WHEREAS, To stay within 1.5 degrees Celsius, major cities throughout the world will
5 need to significantly reduce their per capita emissions by 2030, and as a city on a rapid
6 growth trajectory, San Francisco has an obligation to lead by example; and

7 WHEREAS, San Francisco continues to remain a global climate action leader having
8 reduced greenhouse gas emissions 30% from 1990 levels while growing its economy by
9 111% and population by 20%; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Public Health’s Climate and Health
11 Adaptation Framework (2017) the direct and indirect impacts of climate change will
12 disproportionately affect San Francisco communities least able to prepare for, cope with, and
13 recover from them, such as communities of color and low-income communities; and

14 WHEREAS, San Francisco, having joined Bay Area cities Berkeley, Richmond,
15 Hayward and Oakland in declaring a climate emergency, will continue to coordinate its efforts
16 with these cities as well as other local, regional, and state governments to accelerate
17 immediate and near-term actions to rapidly eliminate the use of greenhouse gas producing
18 fossil fuels, such as gasoline, diesel and natural gas; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby declares a state of climate
20 emergency, given that the climate crisis poses a serious and urgent threat to the well-being of
21 San Francisco, its inhabitants, and its environment; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of the
23 Environment, in collaboration with the Mayor’s office and all other relevant City agencies, to
24 develop and deliver a report within 100 days; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors intends to schedule a public
2 hearing to hear presentations from the Department of the Environment and to consider high
3 priority actions that the City can take to achieve deep emission reductions at emergency
4 speed; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That to meet the City and County of San Francisco's
6 ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, the Department of the Environment is
7 urged to review the City's Environment Code and recommend updates or new policies to
8 advance the City's Climate Action Strategy; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That frontline environmental justice communities must be
10 equitably and actively engaged in the City's transition to a fossil-fuel free economy and
11 prioritized through local climate action planning, policy, and program delivery; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors will work with the Mayor's office
13 to develop a budget that supports action to address the climate emergency, avoid further
14 investment of public dollars in fossil-fuel reliant infrastructure, and ensure a climate resilient
15 future for all San Franciscans.