

1 [Declaring a Climate Emergency in San Francisco]

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, Climate change will continue to make basic human necessities such as
24 food, housing, healthcare, transportation and energy more expensive and, along with a living
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1 wage, difficult to obtain, adding additional pressure to the Bay Area’s affordability crisis and
2 wealth inequality; and

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

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

9 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Public Health’s Climate and Health
10 Adaptation Framework (2017) the direct and indirect impacts of climate change will
11 disproportionately affect San Francisco communities least able to prepare for, cope with, and
12 recover from them, such as communities of color, low-wage workers, immigrants and other
13 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 greenhouse gas emissions from fossil
18 fuels, such as gasoline, diesel and natural gas, refrigerants, and other sources; now,
19 therefore, be it

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

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

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors intends to schedule a public
2 hearing for the Department of the Environment in coordination with partner City agencies, to
3 present high-priority strategies to achieve deep emission reductions at emergency speed;
4 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 Chapter 9 of the City's Environment Code and recommend updates or new
8 policies to the City's Climate Action Strategy, and to take into account the impact on workers
9 and jobs in San Francisco that these policies will have; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That labor unions and frontline environmental justice
11 communities must be equitably and actively engaged in the City's transition to a fossil-fuel
12 free economy and prioritized through local climate mitigation and adaptation planning, policy,
13 and program delivery, ensuring a just transition for all people; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That any legislation or projects started through the climate
15 emergency process should consider union career opportunities, including training and
16 retraining, and investments in working-class, low-income communities, and communities of
17 color historically and disproportionality impacted by pollution, high unemployment, poverty and
18 environmental injustice; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That as the City works on climate mitigation, it shall continue
20 to advance climate adaptation efforts to address unavoidable current and future climate
21 change impacts; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors will work with the Mayor's
23 office, the Controller, and the Capital Planning Committee to develop a budget that enables
24 urgent climate action, avoids further investment of public dollars in fossil-fuel reliant
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1 infrastructure when there are clean energy alternatives, supports public sector employees,
2 and ensures a climate resilient future for all San Franciscans.

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