

Mendocino County's Commitment and Mission to Fight Climate Change

WHEREAS:

- The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has stated in their 8 October 2018 report that “Limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society”. “We are already seeing the consequence of 1° C of global warming through more extreme weather, rising sea levels, and diminishing Arctic sea ice, among other changes”. “Global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) would need to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching ‘net zero’ around 2050”.
- It is widely recognized and understood that climate change has a disproportionate negative impact on the world's poor and marginalized citizens yet requires the most significant change in behavior from wealthier citizens.
- Among the catastrophic natural disasters facing Mendocino County due to climate change are, and will continue to be, severe drought, devastating wildfires, flooding, severe impacts on coastal near shore ecosystems, and coastal sea level rise. In the past few years Mendocino County has been impacted by the drought of 2015, wildfires of 2017 & 18, and the floods of 2019.
- The cost of reacting to climate change disasters will continue to rise in terms of the loss of tax revenue, increase of staff time managing states of emergency and the need for human services, repairing environmental damage, and removing toxic debris.
- Mendocino County can take proactive steps to reduce the risks associated with climate change and contribute to both California's climate change initiatives and the global need for the reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and increase of carbon storage capacity. Mendocino County's citizens and businesses have proven through ballot initiatives, voluntary sustainability initiatives and corporate sustainability commitments that they are ready and willing to meet the challenges to combat climate change. Mendocino County citizens have voted to reduce the use of herbicides and to eliminate the growing of GMOs. Mendocino County has been on the leading edge of organic and biodynamic farming and natural grass and organically fed food animal production, solar power use, stream and habitat restoration and voluntary forestry certification. Additionally, corporate retailers doing business in Mendocino County have stated commitments to environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors establish a Climate Action Advisory Committee whose mission is to set in motion County-wide goals, policies and actions that will reduce GHG emissions; that will increase carbon storage throughout the County, and that will prepare Mendocino County residents to reduce or prevent, and to recover from or to better cope with climate-caused disasters, and; to serve as a

model, partner, and source of inspiration to other jurisdictions to take on the challenge of confronting the demands of climate change.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MISSION:

1. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors shall establish a Climate Action Advisory Committee. The Committee will:

- Convene public meetings throughout Mendocino County;
- Gather information, and explore and recommend solution-based actions;
- Address comprehensive climate caused disaster-preparedness in coordination with Mendocino County Office of Emergency Service (OES) and Mendocino Fire Safe Council;
- Undertake specific tasks to accomplish these goals, including:
 - Establish a current GHG emissions and carbon storage assessment “baseline” for Mendocino County;
 - Establish priority projects to lower GHG emissions and increase carbon storage based on the assessment;
 - Set short-term and long-term targets for GHG emissions reduction and carbon storage;
 - Develop and implement monitoring protocols;
 - Assist OES in the development of a climate caused disaster preparedness plan;
 - Estimate costs and talent needed to assess and implement the above tasks;
 - Invite businesses, schools, agencies, Tribes, non-profits, communities, neighborhoods, and individuals to participate in the assessments, monitoring and review of project proposals and actions.
- Be comprised of public members who acknowledge that it is a scientific fact that human behavior has accelerated global warming contributing to the Earth’s changing climate, including:
 - Members with Tribal, social, environmental, climate, business and financial background including those with technical expertise in focus areas articulated below, and;
 - Representation from geographically diverse communities and across the social spectrum.
- Focus on the following areas:
 - GHG emissions reduction
 - Energy
 - Transportation
 - Land use
 - Existing and new Development
 - Solid waste
 - Carbon Storage
 - Agricultural land
 - Forests
 - Rangelands
 - Ocean, coastal and near shore ecosystems

- Water courses, riparian and wetlands
- Land uses
- Community climate change preparedness
 - Focus on climate hazard reduction, and disaster recovery preparation solutions;
 - Coordinate with relevant agencies to develop climate hazard preparedness.

2. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors shall provide staff support and expertise and shall allocate funds to support the activities of the Climate Action Advisory Committee when needed.

3. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors shall implement climate action policies that govern activities within the County's authority and initiate a County General Plan Update that will incorporate the recommendations of the Climate Action Advisory Committee into the goals and policies of the County General Plan, including adding one or more additional General Plan Elements, if necessary, to capture the social, economic, environmental and safety demands of a rapidly changing climate.

4. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors shall establish an Office of Sustainability and Climate Action that will oversee and carry forward the recommendations of the Committee, once the Committee's recommendations have been adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

5. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors shall provide County-wide leadership, inspiration and on-going encouragement to achieve the goals, policies and actions established through this process.

6. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors shall prioritize this bold climate strategy to cap and reduce GHG emissions in an immediate timeframe to protect the lives and livelihoods of Mendocino County residents and future generations.