



Staff Reports

File #: 121-2022, **Version:** 1

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Steve Potter, City Manager

Prepared By: Liz Habkirk, Assistant City Manager

TITLE:

Resolution Declaring a Climate Emergency

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt a resolution declaring a climate emergency.

DISCUSSION:

There is broad scientific consensus that climate change caused by human activity represents a growing danger to human health, safety, and economic prosperity, and the window for long term climate preservation is rapidly closing. In response to climate change impacts, 195 countries signed the "Paris Agreement" acknowledging the threat of climate change and urgent need to combat it, agreeing to keep global mean temperature "well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels" and to pursue "efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius."

The City Council recently adopted combating Climate Change as one of its priority areas and has recognized the important role that governments, including local governments, must play in leading these efforts.

Although there has been a focus on climate change issues in the past, the Council has recognized the urgency around actions related to combating climate change and the direct threat to the citizens of Napa. The Napa Valley has experienced dramatic adverse effects from climate change, including prolonged wildfire seasons, firestorms, rising temperatures, severe droughts, damage to property and infrastructure, and loss of life.

The proposed resolution would add the City of Napa to a growing list of communities committed to a goal of Net Zero Climate pollution by 2030, and support efforts that are currently underway in the drafting of the City's General Plan. This long range planning document will include a climate change and sustainability element, along with climate related goals throughout multiple elements. The draft Climate Change and Sustainability Element outlines goals and policies to combat climate change and provides the planning framework for implementation of greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction initiatives, sustainable mobility systems, recycling and composting goals and more. Today's action will further demonstrate the City's commitment to implementing these goals through actionable tasks and projects.

Additionally, the proposed resolution will call upon the City Council and the City Manager to evaluate

all planning and policy decisions with the lens of this commitment to climate change initiatives.

This resolution does not constitute a proclamation of a “local emergency” as outlined in Section 2.89.060 of the Napa Municipal Code (NMC) nor confer any emergency powers to the City Manager/Director of Emergency Services. However, it does affirm the City Council’s commitment to urgent actions and recognizes that a climate emergency exists, that it threatens our city, state, country and world.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS:

There is no immediate fiscal impact from the Recommended Action. However, the Resolution does call upon the City to actions in the future and the cost of those actions is not immediately known.

CEQA:

The City Manager has determined that the Recommended Action described in this Agenda Report is not subject to CEQA, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c).

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:

ATCH 1 - Resolution

NOTIFICATION:

None