

## CITY OF CHICO RESOLUTION

### DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY REQUESTING REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND INITIATING AN EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

**WHEREAS**, global warming and climate change are increasing global temperatures more rapidly than previously anticipated, current human activities and technologies are accelerating the pace of global temperature increase which threatens our modern way of life; and

**WHEREAS**, people desire clean water, clean air, clean food and soil, public safety, good health, and to pass on to posterity a sustainable economy and healthy planet; and

**WHEREAS**, adaptation of current technologies and economic investment is necessary to mitigate loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of rapidly rising global temperatures including: increasingly long, more frequent, and widespread drought; a three-fold increase in intensity and magnitude of wildfires; and heat waves which threaten the lives of vulnerable people; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous international agencies have corroborated these dangers, including:

World leaders from 196 nations met in December 2015 to address this threat, signed the Paris Climate Accord, and agreed to keep warming to well below two degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels; and failure to implement these plans has resulted in an increase in global temperature that at the current rate will exceed the goal set by the Accord by 2026 <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/what-is-the-paris-agreement>; and

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report of the world's leading climate scientists (October 2018), warns that there are only 12 years to keep the warming increase at a maximum of 1.5 Celsius and avoid catastrophic breakdown; the authors of the IPCC said urgent and unprecedented changes, which are affordable and feasible; are needed to reach the target <https://www.ipcc.ch/>; and

The 4th Annual National Climate Assessment (November 23, 2018) warns that extreme weather and climate-related events in the U.S. are worsening; this report also predicts increased drought cycles and heat waves in the Western U.S. with a resulting three-fold increase in intensity and magnitude of wildfires, unless greenhouse gas emissions are curbed <https://www.globalchange.gov/nca4>; and

A 2015 special report in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society found the increase in fire risk in California is attributable to human-induced climate change <https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/publications/bulletin-of-the-american-meteorological-society-bams/explaining-extreme-events-from-a-climate-perspective/>; and

A 2016 study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found human-caused global warming doubled the area burned by wildfires in the Western U.S. over just the past 30 year  
<https://www.pnas.org/content/113/42/11770>; and

**WHEREAS**, the environmental and human catastrophe caused by the Camp Fire, the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history, had a devastating effect on Chico's health and public safety, air and water quality, taxpayer funded infrastructure and services, economic base, and emotional toll of displaced individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, severe rainfall in February 2017 across northern and central California resulted in at least five deaths and an estimated \$1.5 billion in damage [U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather & Climate Disasters 1980-2018 https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/events.pdf](https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/events.pdf) (see CA Flooding); this accelerated the structural faults in design and construction, damaged the Oroville Dam spillway, and resulted in a multi-day evacuation of 188,000 residents; and  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/15fmj836-EnyYgPgf7\\_a\\_JloK0N8J-mZE/view?usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/15fmj836-EnyYgPgf7_a_JloK0N8J-mZE/view?usp=drivesdk)

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Chico are already experiencing great economic loss and social, emotional and physical impact from climate related disasters, it makes economic sense and good governance policy to be proactive rather than wait for more wildfires, severe storms, heat waves, and floods which threaten public health and safety, create humanitarian crises for our residents before taking the necessary emergency response; and

**WHEREAS**, indigenous communities, low income communities, communities of color, and other marginalized groups in Chico, Butte County, California, the United States, and the world are suffering the gravest consequences of global warming; and

**WHEREAS**, common sense and morality demands the City of Chico must seek measures to ensure a safe climate and ensure protections locally and regionally from climate correlated ecological and social impacts for this and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chico has an opportunity to join the Cities of Berkeley, Richmond, Oakland, Hayward, Santa Cruz, and an increasing number of California communities to be leaders in combating climate change and to work across social and political borders to build transformative networks to combat climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chico already has made significant commitments and progress towards sustainability by implementing its General Plan 2030, by supporting the of work of the Sustainability Task Force, by enacting the Climate Action Plan, by joining the US Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, and by engaging in greenhouse gas audits; and

**WHEREAS**, the report of Data for Progress (January 11, 2019) documents a transition to renewable energy which encourages private sector growth and workforce development and training.

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED:** the City of Chico declares a Climate Emergency threatening our city, region, state, nation, humanity, and the natural world; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to update its Climate Action Plan 2020, to eliminate citywide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and no later than

2030, and accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to establish a staff supported Climate Emergency Commission with a diverse and inclusive representation of residents; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to a just transition, along with any available financial assistance or grants from the Butte County, State, and Federal authorities, with a vision of a 100% reduction of citywide greenhouse gas emissions and to become 100% fossil-free as quickly as possible and no later than 2030; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** to effectuate this transition, the City of Chico commits to an Implementation Plan, either embedded in or in conjunction with Climate Action Plan 2030; which specifies time-lines, benchmarks, and accountability with annual review; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to a just transition through the creation of jobs which guarantee good pay and comprehensive benefits, and to initiate efforts to draw down carbon released into the atmosphere through regenerative agriculture and other carbon sequestration strategies including planting trees and maintaining the City of Chico's designation as a City of Trees; and

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to deliberative democracy, which underscores the need for full community participation, inclusion, and support to plan and implement these measures; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies, such as cooling centers and hydration stations, in preparation for intensifying climate impacts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to involve and inform residents about the climate emergency, through Town Hall meetings, messaging, staff training, and other processes in which citizen deliberation is central to decision-making; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to significantly reduce auto dependency through a robust transportation management program and other measures as appropriate; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to support economic and financial incentives to increase affordable/social housing and transit-oriented development; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to revisit existing policies, priorities, and distribution of resources to enable emergency climate action, resilience and adaptation measures in the City; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico calls on the State of California and the United States as a whole to initiate an emergency mobilization to mitigate climate change, and end greenhouse gas emissions, and immediately draw down carbon from the atmosphere.