

RESOLUTION NO. 047-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARTINEZ, DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, anthropogenic activities have caused the instability of the Earth's climate to the extent that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has declared that "continued emission of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems," and over 19,000 scientists have signed a "Second Warning to Humanity" calling for serious reevaluation of ecological resource management; and

WHEREAS, climate change acts as a "threat multiplier" of social and ecological issues including political instability, poverty, droughts, famines, and diseases; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America bears significant responsibility for the climate change crisis, including the dangers to Bay Area communities through severe storms, lasting droughts, and increased wildfires and which must be acknowledged and addressed by leadership in communities including the City of Martinez; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinez recognizes the importance to declare a climate emergency in order for the City to provide additional emphasis on things that the City of Martinez can do to further advance its commitment to its own conservation, resilience, and sustainability programs; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Contra Costa Climate Leaders (4CL) challenge, the City of Martinez has recently been ranked 7th out of 19 Contra Costa agencies on the Climate Leaders Scoreboard which represents a culmination of relevant environmental actions or factors completed with plans to improve and continue to strive higher on the scale; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinez was the one of the first cities Contra Costa County to establish a Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance to foster sustainable consumer practices by replacing single-use carryout bags with reusable bags. The ban continues to help the community meet the City's litter reduction requirements and improve the health of the local and greater environment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinez has also adopted the ban on polystyrene takeout packaging which is known to have a negative health impact associated with the styrene component; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinez is recognized as a "Tree City USA," by the National Arbor Day Foundation which demonstrates the City's commitment to urban forestry, enhancing quality of life and enjoying the benefits of trees; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinez is a member of Sustainable Contra Costa, a community of citizens, educators, innovators, and organizations designing and building pathways to ecologically sustainable, economically vibrant, and socially just communities for all; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinez is a Certified Contra Costa Green Business that conserves energy and water and recycles and reduces waste to prevent pollution, according to standards set by a team from PG&E, Contra Costa Water District, local solid waste and recycling hauler Republic Services, and agencies protecting storm water, wastewater, air, and soil; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinez continues its collaborations with New Leaf Collaborative and Republic Services to provide a comprehensive education and outreach program within the Martinez Unified School District. This program strives to increase eco-literacy and inspire the sustainability leaders of tomorrow through fun, interactive lesson plans across all MUSD elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, by declaring a climate emergency, the City of Martinez will join the over 1,000 national, international, and local jurisdictions, including many in the Bay Area, that have made similar declarations that commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and planning for climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Martinez hereby declares a climate emergency that threatens the long-term economic and social well-being, health, safety, and security in our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity, and the natural world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Martinez calls on local and regional partners to join together by identifying additional actions, policies, and programs that jurisdictions can undertake to reduce and adapt to the impacts to address climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Martinez invites and encourages all community members to directly advocate the reduction of food waste through coordination with area non-profits and food generators which will lower the carbon footprint, conserving energy and resources, and prevent from increasing the landfill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Martinez supports the State of California's recent goals to reduce greenhouse gases and will work to convert all the City's electrical accounts by July 1, 2021, to MCE Clean Energy Deep Green, which reflects 100% renewable-sourced energy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Martinez recognizes the need to plan for an economy that is less dependent on fossil fuels and will develop strategies to assist commercial shopping center property managers with information regarding available

rebates and incentives for procurement/installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in these commerce centers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Martinez will continue to provide community education workshops on numerous sustainability and conservation-related topics, and work to advocate for environmental stewardship at the local level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that City of Martinez should develop policies to require all new construction to be fully electric through the adoption of REACH building codes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that health, socio-economic, and racial equity considerations should be included in policymaking and climate solutions at all levels and across all sectors as the consequences of climate change have significant impacts on all County residents, especially the young, the elderly, low-income or communities of color, and other vulnerable populations.

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Martinez at a Regular Meeting of said Council held on the 21st day of April, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Lara DeLaney, Mark Ross, Brianne Zorn;
Vice Mayor Debbie McKillop, Mayor Rob Schroder

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None


RICHARD HERNANDEZ, CITY CLERK
CITY OF MARTINEZ