

DRAFT
RESOLUTION NO. _____
RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CUPERTINO
URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT, WITHOUT
DELAY, LEGISLATION THAT IMPACTFULLY ADDRESSES CLIMATE
CHANGE THROUGH NON-MARKET BASED AND MARKET BASED
SOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions from human activities, including the burning of fossil fuels, are causing rising global temperatures;

WHEREAS, research has shown that the average surface temperature on Earth has been increasing steadily, with seventeen of the eighteen warmest years occurring since 2000, and the hottest of all years to date being 2016; the global atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide (“CO2”) exceeds 400 parts per million (ppm) in 2018, the highest level in at least eight hundred thousand years; and, the average global temperature by the year 2100 is projected to rise as much as 11 degrees Fahrenheit higher than the current average global temperature, depending on the rate of future GHG emissions;

WHEREAS, impacts of global warming can include, but are not limited to, increased occurrences of extreme weather events, significant impacts to human health and safety, destruction of ecosystems, and reduced economic productivity;

WHEREAS, the Paris Agreement, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, calls for the nations of the world to work diligently to prevent average global temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to keep warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius;

WHEREAS, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) commits the State of California to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and the State have further established goals to reduce GHG emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 (SB 32), and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 (Executive Order S-3-05);

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2018 a new California statewide goal was established to achieve carbon neutrality by no later than the year 2045 (Executive Order B-55-18), acknowledging that to do so will require both significant reductions in carbon polluting and removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, including sequestration in forests, soils and other natural landscapes;

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2018, the Cupertino City Council adopted Resolution No. 18-094, declaring a climate emergency calling for an mobilization effort to end citywide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible, educate residents about climate change, and work to advocate for a mass mobilization at the local, state, national, and global levels.

WHEREAS, the environmental, health, and social costs of CO₂ emissions are not currently included in the price paid for fossil fuels, and these negative externalities are borne by all global inhabitants, particularly those in disadvantaged communities;

WHEREAS, there is an immediate need to consider legislative solutions that are innovative and impactful so that reductions in CO₂ emissions are realized, including, but not limited to, market-based solutions such as a national carbon fee on fossil fuel production which serves as a good example of efforts to capture the environmental, health, and social costs of CO₂ emissions not currently included in the price paid for fossil fuels;

WHEREAS, any solution considered should (1) benefit the economy, human health, the environment and national security by correcting market distortions, reducing toxic pollutants, reducing the outflow of dollars to oil-producing countries, and improving the energy security of the United States; (2) be efficient, transparent, and enforceable to drive an effective and fair transition to a renewable energy economy; (3) incentivize manufacturers, businesses, and consumers throughout the economy to produce and use less fossil fuel; and, (4) stimulate investment in alternative-energy;

WHEREAS, any solution considered should aim to secure the United States as a leader in mitigating climate change and in the clean energy technologies of the 21st century, and should incentivize other countries to act similarly in reducing global GHG emissions; and,

WHEREAS, the recent IPCC report finds that in order to minimize the impact of climate change as a global society we must begin aggressive adaptation, mitigation, and CO₂ atmospheric removal.

WHEREAS, extremely large reservoirs of methane are frozen in the form of methane hydrates in deep and cold regions of the Arctic Ocean. If the ocean temperatures rise substantially, these methane hydrates can decompose releasing the equivalent of 100 - 500 times the global warming potential of combusting all the known fossil fuel reserves.

WHEREAS, tons of organic matter are buried beneath the frozen Tundra regions of Canada and Russia. If temperatures rise sufficiently during the summer months, this material might start decomposing causing catastrophic releases of carbon dioxide and methane.

WHEREAS, in consideration of all of the above, immediate steps must be taken to aggressively eliminate greenhouse gas emissions. The recent IPCC report states annual global investments of 2.4 Trillion dollars (US 2010) are required over 2016 to 2035

WHEREAS, the city of Cupertino adopted a climate action plan and is aggressively applying measures to reduce greenhouse emissions within Cupertino, the City is limited in its legal mandate to control much of the emissions. In particular, neither City nor the local Air Resources Board, controls the emissions of private vehicles on our streets. These vehicles emit about half of all the greenhouse gases. The City has joined with others to provide clean electricity to its businesses and residents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Cupertino City Council demands the Congress of the United States to enact measures to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions, to enact measures to sequester greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, and to enact measures that would support the development of technology.

SUCH MEASURES SHOULD CONSIDER:

- Market-based solutions that increase the price of carbon emissions either by a fee or tax at the point of extraction or at the location of emissions.
- Consider that any fees or taxes collected above be returned directly to households.
- Encourage the development of Zero-Emission-Vehicles by research and development of such vehicles, and Federal subsidies.
- Implement an expansion of the National electric grid to allow sources from a wide area to be collected at the places of use.
- This would facilitate the growth of solar and wind electric power generation.
- Research and develop technology to produce lower or zero-emission cement, iron, glass, and other widely used materials.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Cupertino this XX day of XXXXXX, by the following vote:

<u>Vote</u>	<u>Members of the City Council</u>
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AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Grace Schmidt, City Clerk

XXXX, Mayor,

DRAFT