



September 17, 2021

San Rafael City Council
14 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

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RE: Climate Emergency Mobilization

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

Sustainable San Rafael applauds the City's adoption of a strong Climate Emergency Declaration, tied to the specific actions needed in the near term to do our part to achieve the statewide goal of zero net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2045.

The strengths of this Declaration include:

1. A call for implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan 2030 two-year priority actions identified by the City Council earlier this year to meet State GHG goals by reducing emissions through **building electrification, electric vehicle adoption, and mandatory organics recycling**, thereby addressing the three largest sectors of San Rafael's GHG footprint. If enacted soon, these steps can put the City on track to avoid the 'significant' GHG impacts foreseen by the General Plan 2040 EIR.
2. Adoption of the State's 2045 goal of **zero net GHG emissions**, which together with the previously adopted 2030 goal of 40% reduction below 1990 emissions, and sustained commitment to keep pace with further State goals, establishes a firm framework for beginning to 'draw down' and sequester the dangerous current levels of atmospheric carbon.
3. A clear commitment to enhancing **equity and economic vitality** through the investments and policies needed to transition off fossil fuels and return to a stable climate.
4. **Proactive procedures** to identify necessary funding, maintain annual reporting of key climate metrics, assure that City decision-making is consistent with its climate objectives, and continue to build community-wide actions and awareness.
5. Advocacy to other levels of government and economic institutions for policies and resources that **increase San Rafael's capacity** to reduce greenhouse gas and prepare for climate impacts.

By declaring a Climate Emergency, and backing that declaration with near-term action and on-going attention, San Rafael affirms its place in a growing global mobilization to reverse the increasingly deadly specter of climate change. The declaration

itemizes the severity of our current situation with recent science from the United Nations and other sources. It also points to the threats we are all experiencing firsthand, in accelerating drought, heat waves, wildfires, smoke, storms, and sea level rise. The declaration underlines the urgency of acting now, while clarifying the path forward toward resolving this critical crisis and emerging into a better future.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to realistically address the deepening climate emergency with the full range of powers available to local government.

Sincerely,

William Carney
President

Copies:
Jim Schutz, Cory Bytof