



DATE: November 26, 2018

TO: Council Sustainability Committee

FROM: Director of Utilities & Environmental Services

SUBJECT: Declaration of a Climate Emergency

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee reviews and comments on the proposed Declaration of a Climate Emergency and directs staff to forward to Council for consideration and adoption.

SUMMARY

Cities around the world are declaring a climate emergency. The City of Berkeley is organizing Bay Area jurisdictions and convening a task force to take action. Staff has drafted a resolution endorsing the declaration (see Attachment II). If the Committee supports the attached resolution, staff will present it to Council for consideration and adoption.

BACKGROUND

The City of Hayward has been working to address global climate change for more than a decade. In 2009, Hayward adopted its first Climate Action Plan (CAP), which included aggressive goals for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The CAP was amended and incorporated into the General Plan in 2014.

In October 2018, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a “special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. It states that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate. While previous estimates focused on estimating the damage if average temperatures were to rise by 2°C, this report shows that many of the adverse impacts of climate change will come at the 1.5°C mark.” The UN’s Fifth Assessment Report¹ on climate change states that as of 2012, the average global temperature had already increased by 0.85 °C since 1880.

In *Rising Seas in California – An Update on Sea-Level Rise Science*², published in April 2017, scientists project a conservative estimate of between one and 3.4 feet of sea level rise in the San Francisco Bay by 2100.

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/>

² <http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/docs/rising-seas-in-california-an-update-on-sea-level-rise-science.pdf>

Relevant General Plan policies:

General Plan Policy HQL-9.9: Reduce Impacts of Climate Change on Vulnerable Populations
The City shall support plans, standards, regulation, incentives, and investments to reduce the impacts of climate change on those populations most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

DISCUSSION

The Climate Emergency Declaration is a call to action initiated by climate action advocates in Australia in 2016³. Since then, cities and organizations around the world have signed petitions and adopted resolutions supporting the declaration. Locally, the declaration (Attachment II) has been adopted by the cities of Richmond, Oakland and Berkeley. LA County and several cities within it have also adopted the declaration. The cities of Cupertino, Half Moon Bay, San Francisco, Albany and Emeryville are considering adopting the declaration. The City of Berkeley is leading efforts in the Bay Area and has convened task force to plan a regional summit to take place in the Spring on “Climate Mobilization – Forward Together Faster”.

The declaration provides many reasons for the need for immediate action and includes calls for:

- A citywide just transition and urgent climate mobilization effort to reverse global warming. A “Just Transition” is a framework for a fair shift to an economy that is ecologically sustainable, equitable and just for all its members.
- Appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from the County of Alameda and State and Federal authorities.
- Reduction of citywide GHG emissions as quickly as possible towards zero net emissions.
- A commitment to educate the community about the climate emergency and work to catalyze a just transition and urgent climate mobilization effort at the local, state, national, and global levels.

The draft resolution references the Green New Deal, which was first called for by Thomas Friedman in 2007⁴. In 2009, the United Nations issued a report detailing the Global Green New Deal⁵, which “calls on governments to allocate a significant share of stimulus funding to green sectors and sets out three objectives: (i) economic recovery; (ii) poverty eradication; and (iii) reduced carbon emissions and ecosystem degradation; and proposed a framework for green stimulus programs as well as supportive domestic and international policies.” The original template for the declaration included language calling for an end to “citywide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and no later than 2030”. The attached resolution, which is similar to the one adopted by the City of Oakland, does not include the 2030 deadline, but references already-adopted GHG reduction goals, including an 82.5% reduction by 2050. That being said, staff intends to work toward achieving the goal set forth

³ <http://climateemergencydeclaration.org/>

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/19/opinion/19friedman.html>

⁵ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=670&menu=1515>

by Governor Brown's Executive Order 55-18, which is to achieve carbon neutrality no later than 2045.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

In the short term, staff does not expect the declaration to have a significant impact on the local economy. Successful implementation of the Global Green New Deal, which would require significant resources from outside Hayward, would lead to economic growth and poverty eradication.

FISCAL IMPACT

There would be no impact on the City's General Fund as implementation of the attached declaration would be accomplished with existing, budgeted staff. However, implementation would require significant staff time educating and working with the community as well as collaborating with other participating jurisdictions, which may result in reduced work on other, lower priority programs.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

This item does not directly relate to any of the City's Strategic Initiatives.

SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

Adoption of the climate emergency declaration would renew Hayward's commitment to addressing climate change and would result in increased efforts to reduce community-wide GHG emissions.

NEXT STEPS

Depending on direction from the Committee, staff will present the attached draft resolution to Council and will participate on the task force convened by the City of Berkeley.

Prepared by: Erik Pearson, Environmental Services Manager

Recommended by: Alex Ameri, Director of Utilities & Environmental Services

Approved by:



Kelly McAdoo, City Manager