

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO BOARD of SUPERVISORS

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RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO'S COMMITMENT TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

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**RESOLVED**, by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors that

**WHEREAS**, climate science indicates greenhouse gas emissions should be limited to prevent global average temperatures from rising above 2 degrees Celsius to prevent potentially devastating effects worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015 by 195 countries to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the United States, in a shared commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to slow the advance of global climate change by preventing average global temperatures rise; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 1, 2017, President Donald Trump announced the United States' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, San Mateo County is already witnessing the effects of climate change and is among the most vulnerable counties in the State of California and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, San Mateo County is a known leader in addressing the issue of climate change and has taken significant steps to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and build resilient and sustainable communities; and

**WHEREAS**, San Mateo County has developed and adopted Climate Action Plans for both internal government operations and the unincorporated San Mateo County community with a goal of achieving a 15 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels by 2020 for government operations; and

**WHEREAS**, San Mateo County has achieved an 18 percent reduction below 2005 levels for the unincorporated community; and

**WHEREAS**, San Mateo County is proactively taking decisive action and committing significant resources to reduce its carbon footprint; and

**WHEREAS**, San Mateo County is laying the groundwork for a resilient future for all who live and work in the County; and

**WHEREAS**, San Mateo County created an Office of Sustainability to focus on numerous initiatives to combat climate change, including: energy efficiency through the San Mateo County Energy Watch and Home Upgrade programs, the County's Commute Alternatives program, Green Business program, Peninsula Clean Energy, Sea Change SMC, Active Transportation program, diversion of waste (especially food and plant materials) from landfills, and other collaborative efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, San Mateo County declares its commitment to continue its efforts, thereby affirming the intent of the Paris Agreement, believing that the withdrawal of the United States from this important and groundbreaking climate change agreement is inconsistent with the environmental, collaborative, and forward-thinking principles and values of San Mateo County's vision and leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, at this historical moment, when collaboration and coordination among cities, counties, states, and nations in confronting climate change is of great importance, San Mateo County stands united with other communities throughout the world that are imminently threatened by rising seas, flooding, heat waves, drought, and other climate change effects.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the County of San Mateo affirms its commitment to the Paris Agreement, by:

1. Continuing its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the unincorporated areas, in internal County operations, and throughout the County;
2. Encouraging the incorporated cities within the County to adopt similar commitments to environmental sustainability; and
3. Authorizing the President of the Board of Supervisors to join with other groups and coalitions supporting the Paris Agreement and reflecting the County's commitment to combating climate change.

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