

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION APPROVING THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO 2020 GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: PATHWAY TO CARBON NEUTRALITY

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, the County has updated the Government Operations Climate Action Plan (GOCAP) to set specific greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets for County government operations to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035, ten years before the State of California's target; and

WHEREAS, to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035, the GOCAP focuses on electrifying County buildings, reducing employee commute emissions, and electrifying County fleet vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the County adopted the first GOCAP in September 2012 (Resolution No. 072149) providing a foundation to reduce GHG emissions from the County's operations; and

WHEREAS, the State has adopted two landmark policies calling for accelerated climate action since 2012 including Senate Bill 32 in 2017 which establishes a revised statewide GHG emissions reduction target of 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, and the State passed Executive Order B-55-18 setting the target to achieve carbon neutrality statewide by 2045; and

WHEREAS, the County has further taken steps to reduce GHG emissions by declaring a Climate Emergency in 2019 (Resolution No. 076887) to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045; and

WHEREAS, staff analyzed the climate impact of the County's government operations through the 2017 Government Operations GHG Emissions Inventory finding that the County's total emissions from 2017 was 35,785 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e) quantifying the global warming potential of all GHGs with one standard unit; and

WHEREAS, the largest sources of GHG emissions generated by government operations that contribute to climate change are from the combustion of natural gas in buildings and facilities (44.5%) and the use of gasoline in vehicles from employee commutes (41.8%) and from County vehicle fleet (12.7%); and

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo is already experiencing the harmful impacts of climate change including rising temperatures, heatwaves, wildfires and hazardous air quality, extreme storms, sea level rise, and coastal erosion; and

WHEREAS, climate change impacts will be most acutely felt by children, older adults, those with pre-existing physical and mental conditions, low income communities, communities of color, and residents with unstable economic or housing situations; and

WHEREAS, to protect County residents, especially those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, the County strives to demonstrate leadership to accelerate climate action by achieving carbon neutrality; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has reviewed the County of San Mateo's GOCAP.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors adopt the 2020 San Mateo County Government Operations Climate Action Plan: Pathway to Carbon Neutrality in order to significantly reduce County government-generated emissions, mitigate the impacts of climate change, achieve carbon neutrality, and inspire jurisdictions in San Mateo County to accelerate climate action.

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