RESOLUTION DECLARING AN EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION TO REVERSE CLIMATE
CHANGE AND PROTECT YOLO COUNTY FROM CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

WHEREAS, Yolo County, like other communities across California, is at risk of experiencing the devastating effects of extreme heat and weather events caused by climate change, including increased frequency and magnitude of wildfires and associated air pollution, health impacts, utility and transportation services interruptions, economic disruption, property loss, dislocation, housing shortages, food insecurity, gaps in education due to school closures, impacts on agricultural production; and increased demand on public sector resources and emergency response capacity;

WHEREAS, a 2017 study conducted at UC Berkeley and published in Science Magazine found that California can expect to lose 1 percent of its annual economic output for every 1.0°C (1.8°F) increase in average temperature, which translates into a $26 billion annual hit to the state’s gross domestic product;

WHEREAS, justice and equity require that frontline and marginalized communities, which have historically endured the brunt of adverse environmental and human health impacts, participate actively in the planning and implementation of climate change mobilization efforts and benefit directly from the transition to a climate-safe economy;

WHEREAS, Yolo County actions have made it a leader in proactive climate change response, including:

● 2007 Cool Counties Climate Stabilization participation;
● 2009 adoption of the Yolo County 2030 General Plan with 350+ climate change related policies
● 2011 adoption of a County-level Climate Action Plan (CAP) with strategies and measures to contribute to State and international climate protection efforts,
● 8% decrease in GHG emissions from 2008 to 2016; with a new regional GHG Inventory now underway in partnership between Yolo County and with the cities of Winters, Woodland, and Davis; expected completion date in 2020,
● SACOG Green Region Grant Program funding awarded in 2018 to expand Yolo County electric vehicle charging infrastructure,
● 7 Megawatts of solar renewable energy installed,
● enough clean energy produced to meet 130% of the County’s electricity needs making it the first county government in the U.S. to be "grid positive."
● collaboration with the cities of Davis and Woodland to launch a Community Choice Energy program, Valley Clean Energy (VCE), which the Cities of West Sacramento and Winters joined as Associate Members in 2019,
● Yolo County Division of Integrated Waste Management implementation of a three-part strategy to establish: 1) an organic waste transfer facility, 2) an anaerobic composter facility, and 3) an in-vessel digester (liquid digester) to be by 2022, and
• Yolo County engagement in partnerships to address climate change, including the Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative and the Yolo Resiliency Collaborative.

WHEREAS, many of Yolo County’s agricultural producers have already taken significant steps to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through improved management of nitrogen and irrigation, the use of solar power and other beneficial practices;

WHEREAS, rates of greenhouse gas emissions per acre are significantly lower from agricultural lands than they are from urban lands and Yolo County has been a leader in farmland preservation, helping protect farmland from increasing demand for new residential and commercial developments. Funding and more mechanisms at the state level such as the Williamson Act and The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program are needed;

WHEREAS, Yolo County can act as a global leader through initiating an emergency Climate Mobilization to convert to an ecologically, socially, and economically regenerative local economy at emergency speed, as well as advocating for regional, national, and international efforts necessary to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, Yolo County declares a climate emergency, embarking on a decade of local climate action, community planning, and a just transition to a sustainable, resilient, and healthful future for generations to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Yolo County commits to a countywide mobilization to reverse contributions to climate change and the ecological crisis, which, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from regional, State, and Federal authorities, will enable Yolo County to meet its GHG emissions goals, accelerate implementation of adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying local climate impacts, and facilitate a just transition for all residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Yolo County Supervisors shall recruit and create an Advisory Body made up of County residents to work with already-existing climate collaboratives within Yolo County;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Advisory Body membership shall be drawn from all sectors of the county with representation from the most vulnerable populations, including rural, tribal, low-income, minority, and aging residents; youth, people with disabilities, business and financial institutions, large and small agriculture producers, agricultural workers, academic experts, and Yolo County department staff and city representatives with relevant responsibility and expertise;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, mobilization shall be developed based on valid data, current research and best practices, traditional ecological knowledge and practices, and community-wide collaboration. The process shall be guided by principles of inclusion, equity, and environmental justice;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, mobilization shall consider, but not be limited to, strategies and measures that:

- reduce GHG emissions and sequester carbon;
- increase climate adaptation and resilience;
- identify and advance farming and ranching practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve water, increase groundwater storage, and enhance soil quality;
- increase and support preservation of agricultural lands and open space;
- enhance biodiversity and restore ecosystem function;
- reduce reliance on fossil fuels, transition the County’s energy infrastructure to 100% renewable-energy generation, and achieve a countywide carbon-negative (climate-positive) footprint by 2030;
- improve emergency response and disaster relief systems;
- monitor and strengthen social services and safety net programs to ensure access to food, clean water, and housing before, during, and after local disasters;
- advance economic and environmental sustainability;
- accelerate creation of, training for, and transition to jobs that contribute to a sustainable and carbon-neutral economy; and
- increase public awareness and engagement in climate change mitigation and adaptation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, mobilization shall evaluate, and update as needed:

- Greenhouse gas reduction targets
- building codes, ordinances, and permitting processes
- Five- and ten-year goals
- a timeline for implementation
- outreach and education to the public
- baseline and outcome metrics against which progress and effectiveness will be evaluated and the processes by which such data will be collected and reported;
- a schedule of periodic progress reports to the Board of Supervisors;
- a process for modifying and updating the plan as evolving and emerging needs, best practices, and new technologies are identified;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Yolo County will adopt GHG and co-pollutant carbon-footprint, and ecological impact statements in relevant Yolo County Commission and Board of Supervisor agenda action items in the same manner as fiscal impact statements are currently provided;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Yolo County joins a nationwide call for a regional, national, and international climate emergency mobilization effort, rapidly catalyzing action by all levels of government and sovereign tribal nations to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Yolo County calls on the State of California, the United States Congress, the President of the United States, and all governments and people worldwide to declare a climate emergency, initiate a Climate Action Mobilization to reverse both global
warming and the ecological crisis, and provide maximum protection for all people and species of the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in furtherance of this resolution, Yolo County shall submit a certified copy of this resolution to federal, state, regional, county, city, tribal and other relevant agencies and request that all relevant support and assistance in effectuating this resolution be provided.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Yolo, State of California, this [INSERT DATE], by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

By: Gary Sandy, Chair of the Board

Attest:
Clerk, Board of Supervisors

By:
Julie Dachtler, Deputy Clerk (seal)

Approved as to Form:
Philip J. Pogledich, County Counsel

By:
Megan Stedtfeld, Assistant County Counsel