

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-90

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ENCINITAS CITY COUNCIL DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep warming “well below 2°C (3.6°F) above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C (2.7°F)”;

WHEREAS, over 1400 jurisdictions around the world have declared Climate Emergencies, including 73 in the United States;

WHEREAS, 483 Mayors of US cities, have committed to adopt, honor, and uphold the Paris Agreement, noting, “We will intensify efforts to meet each of our cities’ current climate goals, push for new action to meet the 1.5 degrees Celsius target, and work together to create a 21st century clean energy economy ...The world cannot wait — and neither will we”;

WHEREAS, the number of weather disasters causing over \$1 Billion in damage in the US in the years 2016-2018 was twice the long-term average due to increased exposure, vulnerability, and frequency of perilous weather attributed to climate change;

WHEREAS, due to increased drought, heat, and extended extreme conditions, the wildfire season in California is now continuous and year-round, with over 9,600 fires scorching over four million acres in 2020, destroying over 10,000 structures, and causing 31 deaths and an estimated cost of \$10 billion dollars;

WHEREAS, the horrific 2019-2020 conditions in Australia, characterized by unprecedented drought, widespread temperatures frequently exceeding 45°C (113°F) or even 50°C (122°F), wildfires burning to the beaches, engulfing entire towns, and starting months before normal fire season, the deaths of an estimated one billion wildlife animals, possibly causing the extinction of many species, are aggravated by climate change and are a portent of conditions that will inevitably encompass many other locations in the world, including California;

WHEREAS, copious data shows that our current 1.0°C (1.8°F) rise above pre-industrial levels does not include the temperature rise expected from recent emissions, which take 7 to 31 years to be realized, meaning that even if we stopped emitting greenhouse gases today, we have already committed ourselves to an additional 0.15°C (0.3°F) to 0.6°C (1.1°F) of temperature rise;

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects that a critical point in our temperature rise is between 1.5°C (2.7°F) and 2.0°C (3.6°F), beyond which unstable tipping points will be breached, positive feedback mechanisms will be triggered, and uncontrollable temperature rise is likely to commence;

WHEREAS, IPCC detailed analysis shows that a rise of 2.0°C (3.6°F) will be far worse than 1.5°C (2.7°F);

WHEREAS, the best climate models show that limiting our temperature rise to 1.5°C (2.7°F) may be possible, but only with widespread immediate and determined effort;

WHEREAS, in spite of the fact that knowledge of the danger imposed by unmitigated greenhouse gas emission is an existential threat to mankind and life as we know it has been known for decades, the world has taken insufficient meaningful action and our emissions are increasing rather than decreasing;

WHEREAS, climate change is driving species extinction rates that may lead to extinction of 37 percent of all plant and animal species by 2050;

WHEREAS, indigenous and low-income communities and communities of color in the United States

and abroad have suffered the gravest consequences of global warming in spite of the fact that they contributed little to the causative factors;

WHEREAS, justice requires that those that have contributed the most to this global climate and ecological cataclysm must carry a commensurate burden in reversing it;

WHEREAS, it is an act of unspeakable injustice and cruelty to knowingly subject our fellow humans now and in the future to societal disintegration, food and clean water shortages, economic collapse, and early death on an increasingly uninhabitable planet;

WHEREAS, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, whose governing board includes 13 Nobel- Prize-winning scientists, and who have traditionally used only the threat from nuclear weapons as a factor in setting their Doomsday Clock, have now added the climate crisis as an additional existential threat to mankind, and have set its Clock the closest it has ever been to Doomsday since it was created in 1947;

WHEREAS, any meaningful action that stands a chance of success at mitigating our climate crisis requires mobilization without delay on a scale not seen since World War II; and

WHEREAS, we in the City of Encinitas can rise to the challenge of this great crisis with the active consultation, participation, and benefit of workers and disadvantaged communities, creating many well-paying local jobs in building and installing renewable energy infrastructure, growing healthy plant-based food that stays in the community, restoring ecosystems, and retrofitting and redesigning our current environment, electric grid, and transportation systems.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Encinitas that:

1. The City of Encinitas declares that an existential climate emergency threatens our cities, towns, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world;
2. The City of Encinitas commits to update its existing plans, policies, and distribution of resources as it determines to be necessary to recognize the emergency climate situation such that climate impacts are considered in decision making;
3. The City of Encinitas commits to ensure environmental, economic, and social justice in its climate actions by actively seeking input from all community stakeholders;
4. The City of Encinitas commits to including the considerations of vulnerable communities in all climate action planning processes and to inviting and encouraging such communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs;
5. The City of Encinitas, in order to ensure a just transition, will invite and encourage community, labor, environmental justice, economic justice, and racial justice organizations to actively participate in all climate action planning processes, as appropriate;
6. The City of Encinitas commits to reducing automobile dependency by actively working with regional, state, and federal organizations such as SANDAG, NCTD, MTS, Amtrak, CARB, EPA, and bike and pedestrian groups to increase the viability of alternative transportation;
7. The City of Encinitas commits to support climate smart development, including transit;
8. The City of Encinitas commits to increased attention, as resources allow, on its Climate Action Plan, updating it with new strategies and goals when timely and propitious, and prioritizing the implementation of its strategies;
9. The City of Encinitas commits to continue educating our residents about the climate emergency and working to catalyze a just climate mobilization effort at the local, regional, state, national, and global levels to protect our residents as well as all the people and species of the world;

10. The City of Encinitas commits to working with Encinitas business and community groups, including but not limited to, the Encinitas Chamber of Commerce and the Mainstreet associations of Cardiff 101, Encinitas 101, and Leucadia 101, to bring increased emphasis on climate awareness to their members;
11. The City of Encinitas commits to working with local school districts, colleges, and universities to bring attention to their students about the severity of the climate crisis, the potential impacts on them and their lives, and the opportunities for them to take action, since they will be most affected;
12. The City of Encinitas underscores the need for full community participation, support, and partnership, and recognizes that collaboration with the residents of Encinitas, along with local and regional communities of academia, climate science, environmental innovation, climate advocacy, civic engagement, and non-profits, will be integral to climate action mobilization efforts;
13. The City of Encinitas endorses a just, countywide emergency climate action mobilization effort to reverse global warming to reduce drastically citywide greenhouse gas emissions and safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere as quickly as possible;
14. The City of Encinitas shall work with larger jurisdictions (e.g. county, state, federal) to increase concern about the severity of the climate crisis and shall lobby for prompt and positive action; and
15. The City of Encinitas calls for a regional emergency climate action mobilization collaborative effort, forming synergistic and strategic alliances with nearby jurisdictions to take advantage of economy of scale and for united engagement against the common threat of our climate crisis.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of December, 2020 by the City Council of the City of Encinitas, State of California.

Catherine S. Blakespear, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathy Hollywood, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Leslie E. Devaney, City Attorney