

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL, CALIFORNIA, STATING ITS OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, The effects of climate change — extreme storms, wildfires and drought; sea level rise and storm surge; choking air pollution in cities; disruption of agricultural supply chains and jobs in rural heartlands; and coastal erosion, to name a few — are a clear and present danger to American interests at home and abroad and scientists overwhelmingly agree to these facts; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Climate Accord, known as the "Paris Agreement" by the United Nations, is an historic international agreement reached in 2015 aimed at reducing carbon emissions, slowing rising global temperatures and helping countries deal with the effects of climate change.

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump announced the United States will withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement, the 2015 landmark international accord at combating climate change;

WHEREAS, under the terms of the agreement, signatories committed to holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2° C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels;

WHEREAS, the agreement requires countries to set their own targets for reducing emissions by 2020. The Obama administration committed the U.S. to reducing carbon emissions by 26 to 28 percent by 2025;

WHEREAS, the agreement also established a \$100 billion fund to help vulnerable countries deal with the effects of climate change and these countries are in grave need of this money in order to combat climate change;

WHEREAS, the Obama administration committed the U.S. to the agreement without seeking ratification in the Senate, meaning Mr. Trump can withdraw support unilaterally, which he has. The U.S. joins Nicaragua and Syria as the only countries not participating in the agreement;

WHEREAS, the process of the U.S. withdrawing from the agreement could take at least three years, and scientists warn such a decision could have dire consequences for the planet;

WHEREAS, the Associated Press recently asked two dozen climate scientists what would happen if the U.S. reneges on its commitments under the Paris Agreement. They said that doing so would make it much more difficult to prevent crossing a dangerous threshold in global temperatures;

WHEREAS, the U.S. could contribute to an increase of as much as 0.3 degrees Celsius in global temperatures by end of the century if it abandons the deal, according to one simulation;

WHEREAS, withdrawing from the deal could result in an additional 3 billion tons of carbon dioxide

being released into the atmosphere each year, speeding up the rate of rising sea levels and melting ice sheets creating dangerous and life threatening conditions; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has mandated statewide reduction of the 2030 GHG emissions target by reducing today's petroleum use in cars and trucks by up to 50%; increasing from one-third to 50% our electricity derived from renewable sources; doubling the energy efficiency savings achieved at existing buildings and making heating fuels cleaner; reducing the release of methane, black carbon and other short-lived climate pollutants; managing farm and rangelands, forests and wetlands so they can store carbon; and periodically updating the state's climate adaptation strategy; and

WHEREAS, responding to the climate change provides communities an opportunity to access first mover advantage in the range of products, services and know-how that transitioning to a climate-compatible future brings; and

WHEREAS, The City of Sebastopol will continue to pursue climate goals, working together to take action and to ensure that we continue to make policy decisions to reach our emissions and will continue to work on the Climate Action 2020 and Beyond plan developed through the Sonoma County Climate Action Authority and which builds a path for future emission reductions by taking advantage of opportunities to work with the cities and Council together to meet and exceed our greenhouse gas reduction goal; and

WHEREAS, The City of Sebastopol will honor and uphold the commitments to the goals enshrined in the Paris Agreement and work to intensify efforts to meet and exceed our current climate goals and protect the planet from devastating climate risks for our generation and generations to come; and

WHEREAS, The City calls upon President Trump and the federal government to help cities leverage funds for the hundreds of billions of dollars in transit, energy, infrastructure and real estate development necessary to upgrade our infrastructure for the 21st century and embrace the Paris Climate Agreement and make U.S. cities your partner in doing so; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sebastopol takes sharp exception to President Trump's unilateral action to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement because of the environmental effects on its community with the effects of climate change being the most deleterious.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION 1. That the City Council of the City of Sebastopol opposes the withdrawal by President Donald Trump of the United States from the 2015 landmark international accord combating climate change, the Paris Climate Agreement.

SECTION 2. That the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement would have deleterious effects and scientists warn such a decision could have dire consequences for the planet.

SECTION 3. That the City of Sebastopol urges the President of the United States to work with us in partnership to continue our fight to work to clean our air, strengthen our economy, and ensure that our children inherit a nation healthier and better prepared for the future than it is today.

IN COUNCIL DULY PASSED, APPROVED, and RESOLVED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017.

VOTE:

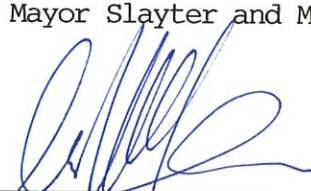
Ayes: Councilmembers Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Slayter and Mayor Glass

Noes: None

Abstain: Councilmember Carnacchi

Absent: None

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Mayor Una Glass

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Mary Gourley, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC

APPROVED AS TO FORM: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Larry McLaughlin, City Attorney