

## RESOLUTION NO. 2023-209

### RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA ADOPTING CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND OPERATIONS THROUGH 2026 AND STATE-ALIGNED GREENHOUSE GAS NET NEUTRALITY TARGET FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND OPERATIONS

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda:

**WHEREAS**, the County of Alameda has a long history of taking action to maintain a healthy environment and safe communities and is committed to climate action;

**WHEREAS**, global climate disruption, as one of the most significant threats facing the region, increases the need for County government services including fire protection and other emergency services, flood control and public works projects, and health care and social services;

**WHEREAS**, climate-amplified disasters such as wildfires, smoke, extreme temperatures, and flooding have negatively affected County residents and also affect employees and their ability to deliver services to residents;

**WHEREAS**, the International Panel on Climate Change in its Sixth Assessment Report found that even temporarily exceeding a global warming level of 1.5°C will result in additional severe impacts, some of which will be irreversible;

**WHEREAS**, greater efforts are needed to strengthen preparations for climate disasters and build community-wide climate resilience to address the direct impacts of climate change that affect all residents and exacerbate health risks for vulnerable populations;

**WHEREAS**, frontline communities, or groups disproportionately burdened by climate change, such as older adults, outdoor workers, people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, and people without health insurance, often have the fewest resources to recover from climate impacts;

**WHEREAS**, the County can contribute to decreasing the severity of climate impacts, reduce operating costs, and encourage more efficient service delivery through climate action;

**WHEREAS**, the Climate Action Plan for Government Services and Operations Through 2010 (R-2010-170) resulted in successful outcomes such as eliminating electricity-related emissions from County-owned facilities, initiating the conversion of the County fleet to electric and hybrid vehicles, cutting office paper purchases in half, implementing composting and expanded recycling programs in County-owned facilities, expanding access to County services by making them available online, assessing vulnerability to climate change impacts, creating materials and programs to support preparedness for heat and smoke, promoting regional collaboration on climate adaptation issues such as extreme heat and sea level rise, and building partnerships to advance sustainable procurement and electric vehicle usage in the region;

**WHEREAS**, the County exceeded the greenhouse gas reduction target adopted in 2010 of reducing emissions from government services and operations at least 15 percent below 2003 levels by 2020 and achieved a 31 percent reduction by 2019;

**WHEREAS**, the County established the County Climate Change Leadership Strategy (R-2006-204), adopted the County Principles for Climate Action (R-2012-368), and reaffirmed climate action commitments and support of the Paris Climate Agreement (R-2017-185);

**WHEREAS**, recognizing the urgency of the climate action and the importance of regional leadership and coordination at scale, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Climate Emergency Declaration Resolution (R-2019-375), reaffirming Alameda County's commitment to developing further mitigation and resiliency plans and supporting resilience efforts within our most vulnerable communities who are the first and most affected;

**WHEREAS**, the Climate Emergency Declaration Resolution committed the County to set new carbon reduction targets, aggressively pursue emission reduction strategies in its own operations and invest in resilient service delivery to County residents, leverage regional collaboration to meet the unprecedented challenges and consider how the County can support a just transition to a carbon-free economy, and contribute as a local government to meet global goals for greenhouse gas emissions reductions;

**WHEREAS**, to fulfill these directives, the Alameda County Climate Action Plan for Government Services and Operations was developed through a two-year collaborative process involving 16 County agencies, under the guidance of a cross-agency group with staff from 10 agencies;

**WHEREAS**, the County of Alameda is committed to advancing environmental justice and has sought guidance and feedback in the development of this plan from communities most likely to be affected by climate change, including residents with limited English proficiency, residents with pre-existing health conditions, unhoused residents, and uninsured and underinsured residents;

**WHEREAS**, many of the actions and strategies recommended in the Climate Action Plan are already underway, such as environmentally preferable purchasing, green building design, energy efficiency projects, renewable energy use, fleet electrification, clean commuting and telework programs, green information technology initiatives, materials reuse and recycling, vendor sustainability, local food purchasing, consideration of climate risks in investing, fire risk reduction, and community resilience initiatives;

**WHEREAS**, taking action on climate protection contributes to the achievement of priority goals held by the County and other jurisdictions in the region, including engagement with and support for communities most affected by climate change, energy security and cost reduction, mobility and transportation choices, clean air, solid waste reduction and recycling, sustainable economic and green workforce development, neighborhood and community emergency response and resilience to climate shocks; and

**WHEREAS**, implementing the Climate Action Plan will encourage wise investments of taxpayer dollars to create long-term savings, prioritize inclusivity and community connectedness through climate resilience and equity, keep dollars in our local economy, support new green jobs, improve air quality, and attract and retain dedicated public servants, ultimately supporting quality of life for County residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT:**

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Alameda adopts and will implement the Alameda County Climate Action Plan for Government Services and Operations Through 2026

(<https://www.acgov.org/sustain/next/plan.htm>; Executive Summary attached as Attachment A);

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County of Alameda sets a carbon neutrality target in alignment with the State of California's goal (Executive Order B-55-18) to eliminate or offset all greenhouse gas emissions from government services and operations by 2045;

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors will continue to provide strategic direction through policy directives necessary to support the County's proposed actions outlined in the Climate Action Plan and will consider the allocation of resources for accomplishing specific initiatives, where needed;

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a group of cross-agency staff advised by agency directors will provide leadership and guide implementation, set priorities, seek solutions to challenges, identify resources, and monitor progress;

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors directs the County agencies identified in the plan as key agencies leading or supporting plan actions to begin implementation of the actions identified in the Climate Action Plan by prioritizing actions to implement, identifying resources needed, coordinating regularly with each other, and developing metrics to track progress;

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors directs all County agencies to fulfill the goals of the plan by supporting the actions identified in the plan as relevant to their operations, referencing climate change impact projections and incorporating climate action in their own strategic planning, collaborating with the agencies leading implementation when their collaboration is requested, and encouraging and facilitating the participation of their employees;

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that County divisions, programs, and individual employees are encouraged to identify opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resilience;

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Climate Action Plan cross-agency staff leadership group with the support of the GSA Office of Sustainability shall provide an annual progress report to the Board of Supervisors and the public on the implementation of the Alameda County Climate Action Plan for Government Services and Operations Through 2026, including recommendations to improve implementation;

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Climate Action Plan implementation approach and actions will be reviewed and updated periodically to take advantage of the most current information and technologies; and

**FINALLY RESOLVED**, that climate protection and climate resiliency will be an ongoing focus of the County of Alameda, which will lead by example, collaborate, and share key learnings with frontline community groups and representatives, community-based organizations, businesses, the public, and other government agencies.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by a majority vote of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors this ninth day of May 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: 4 Supervisors Carson, Haubert, Marquez & Tam

NOES: 0

EXCUSED: 1 President Miley



Nate Miley

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

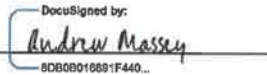
ATTEST: Clerk, Board of Supervisors



Approved as to Form:

DONNA R. ZIEGLER

County Counsel

By: 

Andrew J. Massey

Deputy County Counsel