

1 [San Francisco Commission on the Environment Support of Clean Air Act]

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3 **RESOLUTION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO COMMISSION OF THE ENVIRONMENT URGING THE BOARD OF**
4 **SUPERVISORS CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO TO SUPPORT EFFORTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL**
5 **PROTECTION AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR LISA P. JACKSON TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION**
6 **UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT.**

7 WHEREAS, The decade from 2000 to 2010 was the warmest on recordⁱ, and 2005 and 2010 tied for the
8 hottest years on recordⁱⁱ; and,

9 WHEREAS, The current level of CO₂ in the atmosphere is approximately 392 parts per millionⁱⁱⁱ;
10 and,

11 WHEREAS, One of the world's leading climate scientists, Dr. James Hansen, stated in 2008: "If humanity
12 wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted,
13 paleoclimate evidence and climate change suggest that CO₂ will need to be reduced from its current 385 ppm to at
14 most 350 ppm^v; and,

15 WHEREAS, The Environmental Protection Agency determined that current and future greenhouse gas
16 concentrations endanger public health^v, and according to the Global Humanitarian Forum climate change is
17 already responsible every year for some 300,000 deaths, 325 million people seriously affected, and economic
18 losses worldwide of U.S. \$125 billion^{vi}; and,

19 WHEREAS, Extreme weather events, most notably heat waves and precipitation extremes, are striking
20 with increased frequency^{vii}, with deadly consequences for people and wildlife; in the United States in 2011 alone, a
21 record 14 weather and climate disasters occurred, including droughts, heat waves, and floods that cost at least
22 \$US 1 billion each in damages and loss of human lives^{viii}; and,

23 WHEREAS, Climate change is affecting food security by negatively impacting the growth and yields of
24 important crops^{ix}, and droughts, floods and changes in snowpack are altering water supplies^x; and,

1 WHEREAS, Scientists have concluded that by 2100 as many as one in 10 species may be on the verge of
2 extinction due to climate change^{xi}; and,

3 WHEREAS, The world's land-based ice is rapidly melting, threatening water supplies in many regions and
4 raising sea levels^{xii}, and Arctic summer sea ice extent has decreased to about half what it was several decades
5 ago^{xiii}, with an accompanying drastic reduction in sea-ice thickness and volume^{xiv}, which is severely jeopardizing
6 ice-dependent animals^{xv}; and,

7 WHEREAS, Sea level is rising faster along the U.S. East Coast than it has for at least 2,000 years^{xvi}, is
8 accelerating in pace^{xvii}, and could rise by one to two meters in this century, threatening millions of
9 Americans with severe flooding^{xviii}; and,

10 WHEREAS, For four decades, the Clean Air Act has protected the air we breathe through a proven,
11 comprehensive, successful system of pollution control that saves lives and creates economic benefits exceeding
12 its costs by many times^{xix}; and,

13 WHEREAS, With the Clean Air Act, air quality in this country has improved significantly since 1970,
14 despite major growth both in our economy and, industrial production; and,

15 WHEREAS, Between 1970 and 1990, the six main pollutants covered by the Clean Air Act — particulate
16 matter and ground-level ozone (both of which contribute to smog and asthma), carbon monoxide, lead, sulfur and
17 nitrogen oxides (the pollutants that cause acid rain) — were reduced by between 47 percent and
18 93 percent, and airborne lead was virtually eliminated; and,

19 WHEREAS, The Clean Air Act has produced economic benefits valued at \$2 trillion or 30 times the cost of
20 regulation; and,

21 WHEREAS, The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Massachusetts vs. EPA* (2007) that greenhouse gases are
22 "air pollutants" as defined by the Clean Air Act and the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to
23 regulate them; and,

24 WHEREAS, The city of San Francisco prides itself on being a leader in the fight against climate change
25 and for clean air: in 2002, the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution committing the City to a greenhouse gas

1 (GHG) reduction goal of 20% below 1990 levels by 2012;^{xx} in 2008 the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance
 2 extending the City's climate goals to establish new GHG reduction targets of 25% below 1990 levels by 2017, 40%
 3 below by 2025, and 80% below by 2050;^{xxi} and as of 2010, San Francisco has already reduced GHG emissions to
 4 14.5% below 1990 levels, making the City one of the first jurisdictions to meet and exceed Kyoto Protocol
 5 targets.^{xxii}

6 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That climate change is not an abstract problem for the future or
 7 one that will only affect far-distant places but rather climate change is happening now, we are causing it, and the
 8 longer we wait to act, the more we lose and the more difficult the problem will be to solve; and we, the Commission
 9 on the Environment urge the Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution on behalf of the residents of San Francisco,
 10 supporting the efforts of the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Lisa P. Jackson, and President
 11 Barack Obama to move swiftly to fully employ and enforce the Clean Air Act to do our part to reduce carbon in our
 12 atmosphere to no more than 350 parts per million.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission Secretary shall forward a copy of this resolution to the
 14 Board of Supervisors.

15 I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Commission on the Environment's Meeting on
 16 September 20, 2012.

17 Monica Fish

18 Monica Fish, Commission Secretary

19 VOTE: Approved (5-0)

20 AYES: Commissioners Tuchow, Gravanis, Arce, Stephenson and Wald

21 NOES: None

22 ABSENT: Commissioners Mok and King

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report/climate-change-impacts-by-sector/agriculture](http://www.globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientificassessments/us-impacts/full-
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- 26 ^x U.S. Global Change Research Program, *Global Climate Change Impacts in the US: Water Resources* (2009),
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