

## Congressional inaction on CO2 prompts cities to push for regulation

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By Jean Williams  
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On Tuesday, the Center for Biological Diversity announced that San Francisco has become the latest city to join more than three dozen other cities in urging national leaders to use the Clean Air Act to reduce greenhouse gas pollution in order to head off catastrophic climate change.

Tuesday afternoon, the city's board of supervisors unanimously passed a resolution sponsored by Supervisors David Chiu and Jane Kim, making San Francisco the 38th U.S. city to join the Center for Biological Diversity's national Clean Air Cities campaign.

"San Francisco's Climate Action Plan has made our city a leader in the battle against global warming, but we also support strong federal action to combat the problem," said David Chiu, president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, who introduced the Clean Air Cities resolution. "We're proud to join Los Angeles and more than 35 other cities in backing use of the Clean Air Act to reduce greenhouse gas pollution."

The Center's statement asserted that San Francisco is extremely vulnerable to the effects of sea-level rise driven by climate change. Most of the California



coast will experience more than three feet of sea-level rise within this century.

According to a recent report from the U.S. National Research Council, a large earthquake could cause sea level to rise suddenly by another three feet or more.

"Climate change poses major risks to our city's economy and public health," said Jane Kim, who cosponsored the resolution. "We must continue to protect our most vulnerable residents from extreme heat dangers, in addition to protecting key infrastructure like our airport from sea-level rise. That's why we support the Clean Air Act, which controls carbon pollution — the root of this dangerous problem."

Furthermore, a white paper released in early 2012 by the California Energy Commission warned that sea-level rise

threatens the state's water supply, San Francisco Airport, as well as low-land waste water treatment plants, power plants, coastal wetlands, wildlife and highways around the Bay Area.

The Center's Clean Air Cities campaign also includes Albany, N.Y., Berkeley, Santa Monica, Arcata, Oxnard, Santa Cruz, Richmond, Los Angeles, Seattle, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Tucson, Boone, N.C., Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Madison, Cambridge and Northampton, Cincinnati, Oberlin, Ohio; Santa Fe, Kansas City, Salt Lake City, Miami, Pinecrest, Tampa, Gulfport, Chicago, Teton County, Eugene, Boulder, Burlington, Detroit, Wilmington, Providence, Gary, Ind., and Woodbridge, N.J.

Several other cities around the country will be considering resolutions over the next few months.