

RESOLUTION NO. NS-28,428

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ SUPPORTING  
REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT

WHEREAS, the decade from 2000 to 2010 was the warmest on record, and 2005 and 2010 tied for the hottest years on record; and

WHEREAS, extreme weather events are striking with increased frequency, with deadly consequences for people and wildlife, in the United States alone; and

WHEREAS, climate change is threatening food security as crop growth and yields diminish and droughts, floods, and changes in snowpack depth are disrupting water supplies; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Massachusetts vs. EPA (2007)* that greenhouse gases are “air pollutants” as defined by the Clean Air Act and the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to regulate them; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act can work immediately to curb greenhouse gas pollution without new climate legislation or in conjunction with new climate legislation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Cruz prides itself on being a leader in the fight against climate change and for clean air and has developed a climate action plan and signed the Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Santa Cruz that it hereby supports reducing greenhouse gas pollution under the Clean Air Act and recognizes that climate change is not an abstract problem for the future or one that will only affect far-distant places, but rather climate change is happening now, we are causing it, and the longer we wait to act, the more we lose, and the more difficult the problem will be to solve.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is directed to transmit a copy of the resolution to the Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson and President Barack Obama and urge them to move swiftly to fully employ and enforce the Clean Air Act to do our part to reduce carbon in our atmosphere to no more than 350 ppm.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Robinson, Beiers, Madrigal, Terrazas, Bryant, Vice Mayor Lane; Mayor Coonerty.

NOES: None.


ABSENT: None.

DISQUALIFIED: None.

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

  
Mayor

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

  
for: City Clerk Administrator