

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-078

ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

October 25, 2019

WHEREAS, the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) seeks to improve, enhance, and preserve the environment by providing high quality, reliable and sustainable transportation for Bay Area residents that encourages bicycling, walking and transit as opposed to single-occupant vehicle usage in the Golden Gate corridor;

WHEREAS, the District agrees with the consensus among climate scientists that the climate crisis is happening now;

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C”;

WHEREAS, global warming of approximately 1°C has already increased and intensified wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather;

WHEREAS, a recent state report, *Rising Seas in California*, projects a conservative estimate of between 1 and 3.4 feet of sea level rise in the San Francisco Bay by 2100;

WHEREAS, the range of projections in the state report includes the possibility of up to 10 feet of sea level rise in the San Francisco Bay by 2100, a scenario consistent with rapid Antarctic ice sheet mass loss that would be catastrophic to the Bay Area and every other coastal community;

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires an emergency mobilization to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors, to rapidly and safely draw down or remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt climate change;

WHEREAS, in 2019, the United Nations Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services found that human-induced climate change is pushing the planet toward the sixth mass species extinction, which threatens the food security, water supply, and well-being of billions of people;

WHEREAS, according to climate scientists, limiting warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and likely lower, is most likely necessary to avoid irreversible and catastrophic climate change;

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WHEREAS, even with global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the planet is projected to experience a significant rise in sea levels, extraordinary loss of biodiversity, intensified droughts, prodigious floods, devastating wildfires, and other extreme weather events;

WHEREAS, according to climate scientists, addressing the climate emergency caused by global warming will require an economically just and managed phase-out of oil, gas, and coal to keep fossil fuels in the ground;

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has determined that limiting global warming through emissions reductions and carbon sequestration will require rapid and immediate acceleration and proliferation of “far-reaching, multilevel, and cross-sectoral climate mitigation,” and “transitions in energy, land, urban and rural infrastructure (including transport and buildings), and industrial systems”;

WHEREAS, the term “Just Transition” is a framework for a fair shift to an economy that is ecologically sustainable, equitable, and just for all its members; and,

WHEREAS, the Governmental Affairs and Public Information Committee, at its meeting of October 25, 2019, has so recommended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the District declares that a climate emergency threatens our cities, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the District commits to a just transition and urgent effort to mitigate global warming, which, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from local, regional, State and Federal authorities, reduces greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible towards zero net emissions; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the District commits to the continued evaluation and assessment of initiatives that reduce emissions and expand sustainable transportation options between San Francisco and the North Bay, including the following initiatives, as feasible: Transitioning to zero-emission buses and maintenance vehicle fleets, operating renewable-fuel ferries, including an assessment of zero-emission ferries when technology and reliability allows, incentivizing increased average occupancy of the vehicles crossing the Bridge, as well as enhanced carbon-neutral mobility devices, including bicycle access across the Golden Gate Bridge; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the District will continue working with cities across the Bay Area, regional agencies, state agencies, federal agencies and community stakeholders to develop policies that take into account historically underserved communities, low-income communities, workers and jobs in order to ensure a just transition to a clean energy economy for all people and communities.

ADOPTED this 25th day of October 2019, by the following vote of the Board of Directors:

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AYES (16): Directors Arnold, Belforte, Fewer, Fredericks, Garbarino, Grosboll, Hernández, Hill, Mastin, Moylan, Sears, Sobel, Walton and Yee; Second Vice President Cochran; President Pahre.

NOES (0): None.

ABSENT (3): Directors Brown and Rabbitt; First Vice President Theriault.



Barbara L. Pahre
President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Amorette M. Ko-Wong
Secretary of the District

Reference:

October 25, 2019, Governmental Affairs and Public Information Committee, Agenda
Item No. 3

<http://goldengate.org/board/2019/agendas/documents/2019-1025-GAPIComm-No3-ClimateChangeResolution.pdf>