

CITY OF OJAI

RESOLUTION NO. 19-30

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA
ENDORING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the climate crisis is causing immense human suffering and damage to the natural world and threatens to destroy civilization and kill billions of people. We hereby declare that overcoming the climate emergency is the great moral imperative of our time; and

WHEREAS, Human activities have warmed the Earth to a point that threatens climate stability and human existence; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a dire warning in a special report on the impacts of global warming and the need to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions before 2030 to hold warming to 1.5°C and avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, the United States' Fourth National Climate Assessment made clear that climate change will wreak havoc across the United States, and the current pace and scale of national climate action is not sufficient to avert substantial damage to the economy, environment, and human health over the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, In 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"; and

WHEREAS, Climate change has already set in motion catastrophic changes to the Earth system including accelerating ice mass loss that will result in sea level rise. According to NASA scientists, complete melting of the Greenland Ice Sheet, which is likely at 1.6°C warming, would lead to 23 feet of sea-level rise, billions of climate refugees, and a "global-scale catastrophe" according to; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that sustained 1.5°C warming could cause a long-term, "continuous thaw" of the Arctic permafrost, which could turn the tundra from carbon sink into source in the 2020s; and

WHEREAS, Such tipping points must be avoided at all costs, as they will have positive feedback effects on the climate system, causing further and increasingly uncontrollable global warming; and

WHEREAS, Climate-fueled extreme weather events, wildfires, droughts, floods, rising seas, famines, and diseases fueled have already killed millions of people and displaced millions more; this death and destruction demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice; and

WHEREAS, Climate change and the global economy's conflict with ecological limits are contributing to the sixth mass extinction of species; and

WHEREAS, National and international security experts have identified climate change as a significant threat to the security of the United States and the stability of the international community; and

WHEREAS, It is an act of unspeakable injustice and cruelty to knowingly subject our fellow humans now and in the future to societal disintegration, food and clean water shortages, economic collapse, and early death on an increasingly uninhabitable planet; and

WHEREAS, Common sense and morality indicate that humanity must seek to draw down the excess carbon from the atmosphere in order to restore a safe level of greenhouse gas concentrations and global average temperatures; and

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WHEREAS, Indigenous communities, communities of color, and low-income communities have suffered the gravest consequences of climate change, and justice requires that those that have contributed the most to this global crisis carry a commensurate burden in reversing it and protecting those most impacted.

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, to implement measures to preserve the Earth's biodiversity and protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt climate change; and

WHEREAS, Our region, including the City of Ojai, is already facing the consequences of climate change in the form of drought, extreme heat, wildfires and flooding, and these impacts will grow more severe if global greenhouse gas emissions are not significantly reduced; and

WHEREAS, The 2017 Thomas Fire resulted in what was at the time the largest wildfire in recorded California history, displacing many people; and

WHEREAS, We cannot wait for more devastation, public health and humanitarian crises that threaten local residents, ecologies, businesses, and the broader Southern California population to begin the necessary emergency response; and

WHEREAS, The City of Ojai has a responsibility to support an equitable transition to a stable climate; and

WHEREAS, The City of Ojai and residents of the Ojai Valley have the knowledge, capacity and moral obligation to do all we can to restore a safe climate within our own boundaries and on behalf of the global community; and

WHEREAS, The City of Ojai strives to be a leader in combatting climate change, and committed to uphold the Paris Climate agreement and support a transition to 100% clean energy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ojai can model leadership by transitioning to an ecologically and socially responsible economy, and by catalyzing a regional climate emergency mobilization effort.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Ojai City Council that the City of Ojai declares that we face an existential Climate Emergency that threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Ojai commits to help educate our residents about the climate emergency to protect our residents as well as all the people and species of the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Ojai underscores the need for full community participation and support, and recognizes that the residents of Ojai and community organizations will be integral to this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Ojai commits to keeping the consideration of disadvantaged communities central to all climate emergency actions and to inviting and encouraging such communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Ojai will form a Climate Emergency Mobilization Committee to present high-priority strategies to achieve emission reductions at emergency speed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Ojai seeks to partner with local and regional agencies to participate in a regional emergency effort and to intensify support of a comprehensive just transition to restore a safe climate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Ojai calls on the County of Ventura to initiate a just county-wide emergency mobilization effort to reverse global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere as quickly as possible.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Ojai calls on the State of California to initiate a just state-wide emergency mobilization effort to reverse global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere as quickly as possible.

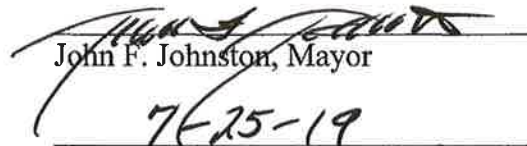
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Ojai calls on the United States of America to initiate a just national emergency mobilization effort to reverse global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere as quickly as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Ojai calls on all governments and peoples worldwide to initiate a just global emergency mobilization effort to reverse global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere as quickly as possible.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 22nd day of July, 2019 by the following vote:

AYES: Blatz, Francina, Johnston
NOES: Haney, Weirick
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None


CITY OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA



John F. Johnston, Mayor
7-25-19

Date signed

ATTEST:



Gail Davis, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Matthew Summers, City Attorney