IN THE MATTER OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY MEMBERSHIP IN ICLEI – LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY, CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION CAMPAIGN



RESOLUTION NO. 2006/

WHEREAS, scientific consensus has developed that carbon dioxide (C0²) and other greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere have a profound effect on the Earth's climate and in 2006 the U.S. National Climatic Data Center confirmed clear evidence of human influences on climate due to changes in greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, the State of California Executive Order S-3-05 approved in 2005 establishes greenhouse gas reduction targets for California including reducing emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorsed the 2005 U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement which has been signed by 294 mayors in the United States as of September 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Environmental Accords adopted by local government delegates during UN World Environment Day 2005 call for reduced emissions through energy efficiency, land use and transportation planning, waste reduction, and wise energy management; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 the American Geophysical Union adopted a Statement noting that natural influences cannot explain the rapid increase in near-surface temperatures observes during the second half of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) reviewed and declared global warming a real problem caused in part by the actions of humankind and the Third Assessment Report from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the 2000 U.S. Global Change Research Program's (USGCRP) First National Assessment indicated that global warming has begun; and

WHEREAS, 162 countries including the United States pledged under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, energy consumption, specifically the burning of fossil fuels, accounts for more then 80% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has determined that stabilizing concentrations of climate-altering gases in the atmosphere will require significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the physical consequences of climate change are already evident, including rising sea levels, increased hurricane intensity, and species migration; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency predicts severe impacts from climate change in the State of California, which will affect Contra Costa County on the local scale: increased temperatures threaten to impair air quality, reduce the Sierra snow pack and adversely impact human health; rising sea levels threaten levees and natural habitats; and

WHEREAS, economic impacts of climate change such as higher prices for food, water, and energy as well as health care costs threaten to disproportionately burden low-income households and the productivity of businesses could be undermined by global warming effects such as damage to public infrastructure, higher operating costs, and reduced production in the County's agricultural sector; and

WHEREAS, many of the practices and technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, some of which have been successfully implemented by the County also generate cost savings, and mitigation actions are an investment in reducing future costs of adapting to global warming effects; and

WHEREAS, local governments can lead by example in the operation of governmental facilities and by supporting climate change mitigation strategies which enhance the community's quality of life; and

WHEREAS, local government actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency provide multiple local benefits by decreasing air pollution, reducing energy expenditures, and saving money for the local government, its businesses and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes that climate change is one of the most critical sustainability issues threatening the long-term human and environmental health, social well-being, and economic vitality of the community; and

WHEREAS, by choosing to join over 670 local governments around the world in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign (CCP) sponsored by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (formerly known as the International Council of Environmental Initiatives), the County can learn from the experience and knowledge of other government entities through the network coordinated by ICLEI; and

WHEREAS, participating in the five milestones of the CCP will provide a means of identifying and acting on opportunities to improve community livability, sustainability, and enhance quality of life;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Contra Costa, California will join ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and participate in the CCP Campaign and, as a participant, pledges to take a leadership role in promoting public awareness about the causes and impacts of climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Contra Costa County will undertake the CCP Campaign's five milestones to reduce both greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions throughout the community, and specifically:

 Conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast to determine the source and quantity of greenhouse gas emissions in the jurisdiction;

Establish a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target;

- Develop an action plan with both existing and future actions with when implemented will meet the local greenhouse gas reduction target;
- Implement the action plan; and

Monitor and report progress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Climate Change Working Group, County Administrator's Office and associated entities will use a collaborative cross-agency approach to progress through the milestones and contribute to the successful achievement of County greenhouse gas reduction targets and to prepare for future effects of global warming; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the County requests assistance from ICLEI's CCP Campaign and shall seek the participation, as appropriate, of internal and external stakeholder groups to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage other local governments in the County to adopt a similar resolution.

VOTE OF SUPERVISORS: UNANIMOUS (ABSENT	TV
AYES:ABSENT:	NOES:ABSTAIN:

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Board of Supervisors affixed on this 14th day of November, 2006.

JOHN CULLEN, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator.

: Leve O'

.....