

RESOLUTION NUMBER R-_____

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SAN DIEGO AFFIRMING THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO'S
COMMITMENT TO LIMIT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT.

RECITALS

The Council of the City of San Diego (Council) adopts this Resolution based on the following:

A. On February 12, 2026, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Trump Administration finalized its rescission of the Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases Under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act (74 Fed. Reg. 239 (2009)) (Endangerment Finding), the scientific finding which established that current and projected concentrations of six well-mixed greenhouse gases (GHG) threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations, and that emissions from motor vehicles cause and contribute to climate change. 91 Fed. Reg. 32 (2026). The Endangerment Finding was based on more than 200 pages of research and evidence, including decades of research done by scientists globally, and Supreme Court precedent. According to the Environmental Defense Fund, the rescission of the Endangerment Finding is expected to increase the country's GHG emissions by ten percent over the next 30 years.

B. In 2015, the City of San Diego (City) passed its first Climate Action Plan (CAP), committing to cutting GHG emissions in half by 2035. The intent was to satisfy the General Plan Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program requirement set forth in General Plan Policy CE-A.13 to update what was then the City's Climate Protection Action Plan to be in "compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws." The CAP further intended to meet the requirements set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15183.5, whereby a lead agency may analyze

and mitigate the significant effects of GHG emissions at a programmatic level, such as in a general plan or a separate plan to reduce GHG emissions.

C. On March 10, 2020, the Council passed San Diego Resolution R-312891 (Mar. 25, 2020), declaring a climate emergency and the need for accelerated action to address the climate crisis. The resolution acknowledged the need for accelerated local action to address the climate crisis and is the foundation for the ambitious net zero goal laid out within the 2022 CAP. The City's CAP demonstrates to San Diegans that the City acknowledges the existing and potential impacts of a changing climate and is committed to keeping it in the forefront of decision-making.

D. California legislation set a state GHG avoidance goal of returning to 1990 emissions levels by 2020, reducing a further 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, and achieving targets for carbon neutrality and reducing anthropogenic GHG emissions by 85 percent below 1990 levels no later than 2045, requiring the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop a scoping plan that lays out California's strategy for meeting these goals. Assem. Bill 32 (2005-2006 Reg. Sess.), Sen. Bill 32 (2015-2016 Reg. Sess.), and Sen. Bill 1279 (2021-2022 Reg. Sess.). CARB's Scoping Plan, last updated in 2022, lays out a path to achieve these goals.

E. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in part two of their sixth assessment report (AR6) released in February 2022, sounded the alarm on climate change more urgently than before. AR6 reinforces the growing body of scientific evidence showing that climate change is caused by human activity and it is accelerating at a pace beyond previous predictions. Additionally, the effects of climate change, such as poor air quality, extreme heat, and infrastructure degradation, disproportionately impact communities of color and the City's Communities of Concern.

F. As we face a rapidly worsening climate crisis, the City remains committed to reducing municipal and community-wide GHG emissions despite changing federal initiatives and actions.

G. The Office of the City Attorney prepared this Resolution based on the information provided by City staff, with the understanding that this information is complete and accurate.

ACTION ITEMS

Be it resolved by the Council of the City of San Diego:

The Council affirms the City's commitment to limit greenhouse gas emissions to protect the public health and environment.

APPROVED: HEATHER FERBERT, City Attorney

By _____
Alma Robbins
Deputy City Attorney

AR:nja
March 30, 2026
Or. Dept: Council District – 1
Doc. No. 4381233

I certify that the Council of the City of San Diego adopted this Resolution at a meeting held on _____.

DIANA J.S. FUENTES
City Clerk

By _____
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: _____
(date)

TODD GLORIA, Mayor

Vetoed: _____
(date)

TODD GLORIA, Mayor