

RESOLUTION NO. 23-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ATHERTON ADOPTING THE 2023 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

WHEREAS, climate change is already affecting the Town of Atherton, and impacts such as more frequent heat waves, power outages, flooding, wildfire, and unhealthy air quality are felt most acutely by our communities most vulnerable members including children, and older adults; and

WHEREAS, in October 2016, the City Council adopted its first Climate Action Plan to mitigate climate change to limit these impacts; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Climate Action established a greenhouse (GHG) emissions reduction goal that was consistent with California State Assembly Bill 32, passed in 2018, to achieve 1990 GHG emissions levels by 2020, which the Town reached and exceed three years exceeded two years early through the establishment of Peninsula Clean Energy and implementation of other climate actions; and

WHEREAS, additional state climate legislation has been passed since the first Climate Action Plan was adopted including California State Senate Bill 32 (2016) which establishes a statewide goal to reduce GHG emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, and Executive Order 55-18, issued in 2018, which calls for carbon neutrality by 2045; and

WHEREAS, adopting the 2023 Climate Action Plan Update will further align the Town with achieving statewide goals by establishing emission reduction targets of 45% below 1990 levels by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2045 by making investments in building energy, transportation, waste reduction, and natural areas; and

WHEREAS, meeting the Climate Action Plan's goals will bring numerous communitywide benefits including, but not limited to improved public health, resilience to power shutoffs, reduced energy and transportation costs, increased community cohesion, and maintaining a vibrant park; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Programs Committee reviewed and informed the strategies in the Climate Action Plan during their meeting on May 18; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Climate Action Plan Update would become a guiding document to inform sustainability programs and policies in order to achieve 2030 and 2045 emission reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, the Town Staff will continue to update annual greenhouse gas emission inventories to track progress and will provide an annual update to the City Council on progress; and

WHEREAS, the Town has found the Climate Action Plan is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines 15262 (Planning and Feasibility Studies), 15061(b)(3) (No Possibility of Significant Effect), 15306 (Information Collection), 15307 (Protection of Natural Resources) and 15308 (Protection of the Environment); and

WHEREAS, a Notice of Exemption has been prepared pursuant to Section 15062 of CEQA. The Town will file the Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk following the adoption of the CAP pursuant to Section 15062 of CEQA.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the Town of Atherton hereby adopts the 2023 Climate Action Plan Update to become the current guiding framework for sustainability programs and policies further implemented by staff at the City Council and authorizes the City Manager to file the Notice of Exemption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a meeting of the City Council of the Town of Atherton held on the 4th day of October by the following vote:

AYES: Council members:
NOES: Council members:
ABSTAIN: Council members:
ABSENT: Council members:

Bill Widmer, MAYOR
Town of Atherton

ATTEST:

Anthony Suber, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Andreas Booher, Assistant City Attorney