

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO.: 2017 - 07 - 184

July 5, 2017

**RESOLUTION DECLARING THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT'S COMMITMENT  
TO UPHOLD THE PARIS CLIMATE ACCORD GOALS**

WHEREAS, there is widespread scientific consensus that climate change is occurring and is caused by human activity, especially the combustion of fossil fuels which create greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, climate change has been widely recognized by governments, business and academic leaders as a threat worldwide to our natural world, economy, safety, public health and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, 195 countries, including the United States, vowed to address climate change in the Paris Climate Accord; and

WHEREAS, the recent announcement by the President seeking to withdraw the United States from the Paris Accord undermines the global effort to confront one of the greatest challenges facing our planet; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of inaction to address climate change may be irreversible and affect all regions around the world resulting in loss of natural and cultural resources, mass migration and loss of lives, as well as economic, ecological and social losses; and

WHEREAS, the East Bay Regional Park District's sole mission is the preservation and conservation of natural and cultural resources for present and future generations to enjoy through outdoor recreational opportunities that are guided by an environmental ethic; and

WHEREAS, the East Bay Regional Park District's 2013 Master Plan states the District will monitor the effects of climate change on District resources and utilize adaptive management techniques to adjust stewardship methods and priorities to preserve natural, cultural and scenic values of the parks and trails; and

WHEREAS, the District has developed a policy framework to address the effects of climate change including building to resiliency, quantifying green infrastructure benefits, considering climate in all policies, and being a national leader in climate smart practices which also contribute to the advancement of science; and

WHEREAS, the District is a national leader in green / active transportation by cooperating with and working to connect all 33 East Bay cities with paved trails which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, relieve traffic congestion, and create more walkable and bikeable communities; and

WHEREAS, as stewards of over 55 miles of Bay-Delta shoreline, the District provides the first line of defense and resiliency against sea level rise for millions of people in the East San Francisco Bay region; and

WHEREAS, the District has developed innovative, adaptive restoration strategies to Bay and Delta shorelines – such as the Dotson Family Marsh wetlands restoration investment in Richmond and the sand beach in Alameda – which provide buffer zones for homes and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the District plays a vital role in climate resiliency, a 2016 study estimates the Park District's forests, grasslands, shrub lands and wetlands managed by the Park District store nearly 300,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents which is similar to taking 60,000 vehicles off of East Bay roads each year; and

WHEREAS, the District will be energy net neutral by the end of 2017 – producing enough renewable energy from solar panels to offset the amount of energy the District uses; and

WHEREAS, the District is working to mitigate for the impacts of climate change by restoring creek habitat and improving water quality, enhancing wetlands and protecting the East Bay shoreline, reducing the use of paper and plastic, improving the fuel efficiency of the fleet, reducing water usage and diverting more solid waste; and

WHEREAS, the District's actions and activities reflect the State of California's leadership on addressing climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of California, working with the Legislature, has set ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas emission by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the California's cap-and-trade carbon market is a national model and should be extended; and

WHEREAS, the East Bay Regional Park District stands with the State of California in calling on the President to reconsider our national participation in the Paris Climate Accord.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park supports and endorses the Paris Climate Accord; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the East Bay Regional Park District hereby states its commitment to reducing greenhouse gases through implementation of the District's Climate Smart Initiative and climate change strategy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the East Bay Regional Park District calls upon other special districts and cities within California and throughout the United States of America to adopt and support the goals of the Paris Climate Accord and to commit to the reduction of gas emissions responsible for global climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the General Manager is hereby authorized and directed on behalf of the District and its name, to execute and deliver such documents and to do such acts as may be deemed necessary or appropriate to accomplish the intention of this resolution.

Moved by Director Coffey, seconded by Director Corbett, and adopted this 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017 by the following vote:

FOR: Ellen Corbett, Colin Coffey, Beverly Lane, Whitney Dotson, Dee Rosario, Dennis Waespi, Ayn Wieskamp.

AGAINST: None.  
ABSTAIN: None.  
ABSENT: None.

*Beverly Lane*  
Beverly Lane, Board President

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Yolande Barial Knight, Clerk of the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2017-07-104 adopted by the Board of Directors at a regular meeting held on July 5, 2017

*Yolande Barial Knight*

