



# Agenda

## Sustainability Task Force

A Committee of the Chico City Council

Meeting of Thursday, February 28, 2019 – 5:30 p.m.

Municipal Center - 421 Main Street, Conference Room No. 1 in the Council Chambers

1. **CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER, AND ROLL CALL**
2. **APPROVE JANUARY 10, 2019 MEETING MINUTES** - Draft 01/10/19 minutes attached.
3. **OVERVIEW OF SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE UPDATE TO CITY COUNCIL AND NEXT STEPS (Chair Stemen)** – STF Chair Stemen presented the STF-approved Council Update to the City Council at its February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. The update highlighted the City's efforts in achieving its GHG emissions reduction goal, new State GHG emission targets, and STF achievements. The Update also included recommendations to Council to adopt new GHG emission reduction targets, prepare a new CAP to achieve the State's latest targets, formalize the STF into a standing committee, and provide staff support. The STF will receive an overview of Council's dialogue and recommendations, discuss options on how best to proceed, and provide direction.
4. **DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY (Chico 350)** – Chico 350 will present a draft of a resolution that it is requesting the Chico City Council adopt. The resolution would declare a climate emergency and initiate an emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate. *Draft Climate Emergency Resolution attached.*
5. **2018/19 CIVICSPARK UPDATE (CivicSpark Fellow Charter)** – The STF will receive an update regarding research conducted regarding recent Climate Action Plans prepared and standing commissions created to address climate change in California communities. The update will be followed by an STF discussion.
6. **REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS** - These items are provided for the STF's information. Although the STF may discuss the items, no action can be taken at the meeting. Should the STF determine that action is required, an item may be included on a subsequent agenda.
7. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR** - Members of the public may address the STF at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda, with comments being limited to three minutes. The STF cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.
8. **ADJOURNMENT** - Next meeting scheduled for April 11, 2019

**ATTACHMENT(S):** 01/10/19 STF Meeting Minutes (Draft)  
Draft Climate Emergency Resolution

Agenda available from the City's website at [www.ci.chico.ca.us](http://www.ci.chico.ca.us) under "**Minutes & Agendas**"

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### **Sustainability Task Force Members:**

Mark Stemen, Chair  
William Loker

Cheri Chastain, Vice Chair  
Molly Marcussen

Danielle Baxter  
Mandi McKay

Dave Donnan

**CITY OF CHICO SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
JANUARY 10, 2019**

Municipal Center  
421 Main Street  
Council Chambers, Conference Rm. 1

STF Members Present:           Mark Stemen, Chair  
  Cheri Chastain, Vice Chair  
  Daniel Baxter  
  Dave Donnan  
  Molly Marcussen  
  Lucas RossMerz

STF Members Absent:           William Loker

Staff Members Present:        Brendan Vieg, Deputy Director, CDD  
  Courtney Charter, CivicSpark Fellow

Guests Present:                 Ann Ponzjo  
  Mary Kay Benson

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Chair Stemen called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. The two new STF members, Molly Marcussen and Daniel Baxter introduced themselves and shared their background and interest in sustainability. STF members, City staff, and guests were present as noted.

**2. APPROVE OCTOBER 11, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

*The 10/11/18 STF Meeting Minutes were approved 4-2-1 (Chastain and RossMerz abstain; Loker absent).*

**3. SUMMARY REGARDING CHICO'S STATUS IN IMPLEMENTING ITS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

STF member Loker prepared a summary report highlighting the City's status in implementing the CAP and achieving its 2020 GHG emissions reduction goal. The STF reviewed earlier drafts of the data at previous meetings and provided comments. The data shows the City is trending strongly towards reaching its 25% reduction goal by 2020, and, as of 2017, had achieved a 23% reduction. The STF reviewed the final version of the report, and discussed using the high level GHG emission data for determining total GHG emissions for Chico moving forward. It was acknowledged that the the STF will incorporate the results of this efforts in the Annual Update Report to Council.

The STF discussed that the significant Camp Fire displacement of residents and uses will result in anomalies to the data moving forward, and it should be noted.

*STF Member Chastain made a motion that the STF officially use the high level GHG emission data and results for determining total GHG emissions for Chico (with editing changes). Motion seconded by STF Member Marcussen. The motion passed 6-0-1 (Loker absent).*

#### **4. DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE UPDATE TO COUNCIL**

Chair Stemen shared with the STF a draft memo to Council highlighting the City's efforts in achieving its GHG emissions reduction goal, new State GHG emission targets, and STF achievements. The draft memo also includes recommendations to Council to adopt new GHG emission reduction targets, prepare a new CAP to achieve the new targets, formalize the STF into a standing committee, and provide staff support to the STF to implement the CAP. It was acknowledged that the recommendations would require General Fund funding. Chair Stemen will provide the update at the Council's February 19, 2019 meeting. Members of the community present at the STF meeting shared their support for the STF's efforts, the recommendations in the memo, and shared their plans to attend the upcoming Council meeting.

The STF briefly discussed inclusion of additional recommendations.

*STF Member Chastain made a motion that the STF approve the Council Update Memo (with minor editing changes). Motion seconded by STF Member Marcussen. The motion passed 6-0-1 (Loker absent).*

#### **5. 2018/19 CIVICSPARK INITIATIVE: UPDATE**

CivicSpark Fellow Charter provided the STF with an update regarding development of an Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan for Chico, and other CivicSpark initiatives for the upcoming year. Charter shared some of the challenges to the effort associated with the Camp Fire.

The STF discussed the following topics:

- Opportunities for cooling centers, and collaboration with Safe Space and Code Blue efforts
- Coordinating with the County on appropriate temperature triggers
- Ongoing coordination with key City and County departments
- Enhanced methods of notification of extreme heat events (e.g., phone messages, etc.)

Charter also shared her volunteer efforts planting trees and providing adaptation and resiliency information at the Farmers' Market.

#### **6. REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS**

STF member RossMerz shared that he was resigning from the STF, and that he greatly appreciated working with such a great team and that he supports the ongoing efforts of the STF.

7. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

None.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business from the STF, the meeting adjourned at 6:45pm to the meeting of Thursday, February 28, 2019.

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Date Approved

Brendan Vieg, Deputy Director, CDD

## CITY OF CHICO RESOLUTION

### DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY REQUESTING REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND INITIATING AN EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

**WHEREAS**, global warming and climate change are increasing global temperatures more rapidly than previously anticipated, current human activities and technologies are accelerating the pace of global temperature increase which threatens our modern way of life; and

**WHEREAS**, people desire clean water, clean air, clean food and soil, public safety, good health, and to pass on to posterity a sustainable economy and healthy planet; and

**WHEREAS**, adaptation of current technologies and economic investment is necessary to mitigate loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of rapidly rising global temperatures including: increasingly long, more frequent, and widespread drought; a three-fold increase in intensity and magnitude of wildfires; and heat waves which threaten the lives of vulnerable people; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous international agencies have corroborated these dangers, including:

World leaders from 196 nations met in December 2015 to address this threat, signed the Paris Climate Accord, and agreed to keep warming to well below two degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels; and failure to implement these plans has resulted in an increase in global temperature that at the current rate will exceed the goal set by the Accord by 2026 <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/what-is-the-paris-agreement>; and

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report of the world's leading climate scientists (October 2018), warns that there are only 12 years to keep the warming increase at a maximum of 1.5 Celsius and avoid catastrophic breakdown; the authors of the IPCC said urgent and unprecedented changes, which are affordable and feasible; are needed to reach the target <https://www.ipcc.ch/>; and

The 4th Annual National Climate Assessment (November 23, 2018) warns that extreme weather and climate-related events in the U.S. are worsening; this report also predicts increased drought cycles and heat waves in the Western U.S. with a resulting three-fold increase in intensity and magnitude of wildfires, unless greenhouse gas emissions are curbed <https://www.globalchange.gov/nca4>; and

A 2015 special report in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society found the increase in fire risk in California is attributable to human-induced climate change <https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/publications/bulletin-of-the-american-meteorological-society-bams/explaining-extreme-events-from-a-climate-perspective/>; and

A 2016 study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found human-caused global warming doubled the area burned by wildfires in the Western U.S. over just the past 30 year  
<https://www.pnas.org/content/113/42/11770>; and

**WHEREAS**, the environmental and human catastrophe caused by the Camp Fire, the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history, had a devastating effect on Chico's health and public safety, air and water quality, taxpayer funded infrastructure and services, economic base, and emotional toll of displaced individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, severe rainfall in February 2017 across northern and central California resulted in at least five deaths and an estimated \$1.5 billion in damage [U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather & Climate Disasters 1980-2018 https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/events.pdf](https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/events.pdf) (see CA Flooding); this accelerated the structural faults in design and construction, damaged the Oroville Dam spillway, and resulted in a multi-day evacuation of 188,000 residents; and  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/15fmj836-EnyYgPg7\\_a\\_JloK0N8J-mZE/view?usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/15fmj836-EnyYgPg7_a_JloK0N8J-mZE/view?usp=drivesdk)

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Chico are already experiencing great economic loss and social, emotional and physical impact from climate related disasters, it makes economic sense and good governance policy to be proactive rather than wait for more wildfires, severe storms, heat waves, and floods which threaten public health and safety, create humanitarian crises for our residents before taking the necessary emergency response; and

**WHEREAS**, indigenous communities, low income communities, communities of color, and other marginalized groups in Chico, Butte County, California, the United States, and the world are suffering the gravest consequences of global warming; and

**WHEREAS**, common sense and morality demands the City of Chico must seek measures to ensure a safe climate and ensure protections locally and regionally from climate correlated ecological and social impacts for this and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chico has an opportunity to join the Cities of Berkeley, Richmond, Oakland, Hayward, Santa Cruz, and an increasing number of California communities to be leaders in combating climate change and to work across social and political borders to build transformative networks to combat climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chico already has made significant commitments and progress towards sustainability by implementing its General Plan 2030, by supporting the work of the Sustainability Task Force, by enacting the Climate Action Plan, by joining the US Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, and by engaging in greenhouse gas audits; and

**WHEREAS**, the report of Data for Progress (January 11, 2019) documents a transition to renewable energy which encourages private sector growth and workforce development and training.

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED:** the City of Chico declares a Climate Emergency threatening our city, region, state, nation, humanity, and the natural world; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to update its Climate Action Plan 2020, to eliminate citywide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and no later than

2030, and accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to establish a staff supported Climate Emergency Commission with a diverse and inclusive representation of residents; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to a just transition, along with any available financial assistance or grants from the Butte County, State, and Federal authorities, with a vision of a 100% reduction of citywide greenhouse gas emissions and to become 100% fossil-free as quickly as possible and no later than 2030; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** to effectuate this transition, the City of Chico commits to an Implementation Plan, either embedded in or in conjunction with Climate Action Plan 2030; which specifies time-lines, benchmarks, and accountability with annual review; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to a just transition through the creation of jobs which guarantee good pay and comprehensive benefits, and to initiate efforts to draw down carbon released into the atmosphere through regenerative agriculture and other carbon sequestration strategies including planting trees and maintaining the City of Chico's designation as a City of Trees; and

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to deliberative democracy, which underscores the need for full community participation, inclusion, and support to plan and implement these measures; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies, such as cooling centers and hydration stations, in preparation for intensifying climate impacts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to involve and inform residents about the climate emergency, through Town Hall meetings, messaging, staff training, and other processes in which citizen deliberation is central to decision-making; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to significantly reduce auto dependency through a robust transportation management program and other measures as appropriate; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to support economic and financial incentives to increase affordable/social housing and transit-oriented development; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico commits to revisit existing policies, priorities, and distribution of resources to enable emergency climate action, resilience and adaptation measures in the City; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** the City of Chico calls on the State of California and the United States as a whole to initiate an emergency mobilization to mitigate climate change, and end greenhouse gas emissions, and immediately draw down carbon from the atmosphere.