

**Health Commission
City and County of San Francisco
Resolution No. 17-8**

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING SAN FRANCISCO'S CLIMATE AND HEALTH ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK AND
AFFIRMING THE COMMISSION'S COMMITMENT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE**

WHEREAS, climate change is happening now and the current warming trend on earth is unprecedented; and

WHEREAS, the increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere is the main reason for climate change primarily caused by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil; and

WHEREAS, according to the Lancet Commission, climate change is the biggest global health threat of the 21st century, while tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, climate change has already affected San Francisco to varying degrees including drought and flooding and is projected to increase the number of extreme heat days, increase sea level rise and flooding, increase the frequency and severity of droughts and extreme storms and worsen air quality; and

WHEREAS, by the year 2100, climate scientists project up to 90 extreme heat days locally and the San Francisco Bay to rise 108 inches above current levels from the combination of sea level rise and storm surge; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change threaten human health and well-being in many ways: increases in rates of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases; increases in water and foodborne illnesses; greater incidence of vector-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus; multiple injuries and preventable injuries due to extreme weather events; increases in incidence of heat-related illnesses such as heat stroke, heat exhaustion, or even death – all which can lead to impaired mental health and stress; and

WHEREAS, the elderly, the poor, young children, those with pre-existing medical conditions and communities of color are the most likely to suffer the greatest health impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, climate change will likely magnify health disparities and inequities due to a reduced ability to respond to stressors; and

WHEREAS, climate change is a public health issue and it is the responsibility of public health departments around the country and the world to take action to reduce the impacts of climate change and prepare for potential risks; and

WHEREAS, since 2010 the San Francisco Department of Public Health's Climate and Health Program has been part of nation-wide effort to build capacity to address the health impacts of climate change through research and assessment, outreach and engagement, and planning and policy development; and

WHEREAS, the Climate and Health Program has developed: vulnerability assessments such as the Extreme Heat Vulnerability Assessment (2013), Climate and Health Profile (2014) and Flood Health Vulnerability Assessment (2016); innovation tools, such as the Community Resiliency Indicator System (2014); plans, such as hazard-specific annexes to the Emergency Operation Plan; outreach and

engagement materials, trainings, and presentations; and has worked interdepartmentally on citywide initiatives to address health, demographic and environmental factors linked to climate change; and

WHEREAS, on March 7th, 2017, a Climate and Health Program presentation to the Health Commission detailed the importance of local health department involvement in climate change, provided information about current Department and citywide climate change initiatives, and summarized the Climate and Health Program's planned strategic activities including the Climate and Health Adaptation Framework; and

WHEREAS, on March 9th 2017, the Department's Climate and Health Program released San Francisco's Climate and Health Adaptation Framework, the first comprehensive health adaptation plan for the City and County of San Francisco that describes the connection between climate change and local health impacts and outlines a set of potential strategic solutions. Each set of strategies offers opportunities to promote actions that yield health benefits and protect against climate; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration is seeking to dismantle environmental protections by rolling back Clean Air and Clean Water policies and defunding critical Federal programs that protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, on June 1st 2017, the Trump Administration withdrew the United States from Paris Climate Agreement which the United States signed in 2016 along with 194 other nations as part of the global effort to hold global warming to well below 2 Celsius; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco, in joining the State of California in the fight against climate change, has set ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction targets of 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2025, and 80 percent by the year 2050 (Board of Supervisors Ordinance No. 81-08); and,

WHEREAS, in the wake of President Trump's decision on the Paris Climate Agreement, San Francisco joined more than 211 U.S. mayors representing more than 54 million Americans in reaffirming their cities' commitments to climate action as part of the Mayors' National Climate Action Agenda;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Health Commission affirms that climate change threatens the health and well-being of our residents and the patients we serve, with disproportionate negative impacts to underserved communities and communities of color; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission endorses the implementation on Department's San Francisco Climate and Health Adaptation Framework, which includes such actions as working collaboratively with communities and City departments on strategic climate initiatives and educating our clients, patients and the medical community regarding the potential adverse health effects of global climate change; and be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Health Commission encourages the Department to support the City's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, the Mayors' National Climate Action Agenda and to review and improve their carbon footprint regardless of actions taken by the Trump administration; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission supports efforts to communicate with our local, state, and national legislators, and request that they take action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change in order to protect public health.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of June 20, 2017 adopted the foregoing resolution.

Mark Morewitz
Health Commission Executive Secretary