

Attachment B – Climate Emergency Declaration Draft, Version 2, 9/22/2020

DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND CLIMATE MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

WHEREAS, by including a declaration of a Climate Emergency within the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP), the City of Redmond joins the growing global community that has recognized this Climate Emergency as a threat to human survival and must take actions that match the scale of this existential threat, as climate-warming consequences escalate; and,

WHEREAS, ESAP is expressly considered as a means for findings of fact of the imminent and growing threats to the public health and safety of the people of Redmond, a danger shared with the entire world population, on an already dangerously hot planet; and,

WHEREAS, our first duty as city government is to protect the people, their well-being and livelihoods, by mitigating as well as preparing our community for the disasters that are unfolding, and the threats to our region that include unpredictable water supplies, sea level rise, acidity, increased wildfires, extreme weather, insect outbreaks, and widespread tree die-off; and,

WHEREAS, scientific warnings of more extreme consequences such as a “Hot House Earth” scenario, a planetary threshold that may exist at a temperature rise as low as 3.6°F, in which further warming becomes self-sustaining; and,

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders recognized the urgent need to combat climate change by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep global warming “well below 3.6°F above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 2.7°F;” and,

WHEREAS, the death and destruction already wrought by current average global warming of 1.8°F demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather; and,

WHEREAS, in October 2018, the United Nations released a special report which projected that limiting warming to even the dangerous 2.7°F target this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy by 2030; and,

WHEREAS, climate change and the global industrialized economy’s overshoot of ecological limits are already driving the Sixth Mass Extinction of species, and could devastate much of life on Earth for many millennia, and may pose as great a risk to humanity as climate change, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; and,

WHEREAS, justice requires that frontline and marginalized communities, which have historically borne the brunt of the extractive fossil-fuel economy, participate actively in the planning and implementation of this mobilization effort and that they benefit from the transition to a climate-safe economy; and,

WHEREAS, the massive scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate and biosphere will require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address the climate emergency; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Redmond can act as a global leader through initiating an emergency Climate Mobilization within the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan to convert to an ecologically, socially,

and economically regenerative local economy at emergency speed, as well as advocating for regional, national, and international efforts necessary to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis; and, **NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, the City of Redmond declares that a climate and ecological emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City of Redmond commits to the initiatives established, or as in the future are established, in the ESAP as a city-wide mobilization effort to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, which, with appropriate city resources, as well as financial and regulatory assistance from State and Federal authorities, nongovernment community and business partners and ends greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and no later than 2030 and immediately initiates an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere, ensuring a just transition for residents and accelerating adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying local climate impacts; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Redmond Council requests and authorizes the Mayor of Redmond with all necessary powers to coordinate the City of Redmond climate and environment programs including the development of a 10-year “Climate Mobilization Action Plan” to guide the climate emergency response, as well as all climate mitigation, resilience, adaptation, engagement, education, advocacy, and research and development programs that will:

- Work for a rapid, just, managed phase-out of fossil fuels;
- End greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible to establish a zero-emissions economy;
- Work to understand and help prevent climate change tipping points
- Seek supplemental assistance and develop strategic partnerships,
- Implement resilience measures and economic restructuring needed to restore a safe climate and repair ecosystems
- Educate staff on the latest climate science and the mobilization of resources needed for maximum emergency reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from their operations feasible by the end of 2030
- Review progress and work closely in partnership with the council by including greenhouse gas and co-pollutant impact statements, greenhouse gas and co-pollutant reduction, and greenhouse gas drawdown statements in all relevant Council motions, much as it currently included in fiscal impact statements; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Redmond commits to engaging our residents in public deliberations on the climate emergency, which will directly inform the creation of the City of Redmond Climate Mobilization Action Plan in order to accomplish this city-wide climate mobilization effort and to ensure a just transition with the full democratic participation of the residents of Redmond and neighboring communities and jurisdictions; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Redmond recognizes and seeks the full participation, inclusion, support, and leadership of business organizations, community organizations, faith communities, youth, labor organizations, academic institutions, indigenous groups, and racial, gender, family, immigrant and disability justice and organizations and other allies that are integral to the climate emergency response and mobilization efforts; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Redmond joins a national-wide call for a regional, national, and international climate emergency mobilization effort focused on rapidly catalyzing a mobilization at all levels of government to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City of Redmond calls on the State of Washington, the United States Congress, the President of the United States, and all governments and people worldwide to declare a climate emergency, initiate a Climate Mobilization to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, and provide maximum protection for all people and species of the world; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in furtherance of this resolution, the City of Redmond shall submit a certified copy of this resolution to [RELEVANT FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY AGENCIES] and request that all relevant support and assistance in effectuating this resolution be provided.