

Resolution In Support of Environmental Literacy *An Educational Response to the Climate Emergency*¹

WHEREAS, “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred”;² damage to the environment is evident at the current 1°C (1.8°F) worldwide average increase above pre-industrial levels, portending much worse effects as temperatures rise further, including cascading changes if tipping points are breached;

WHEREAS, GHG emissions, including particulates, exacerbate existing inequities, especially for those Californians living near port and warehousing sites, transportation corridors, fossil fuel extraction and refining facilities, industrial sites, and agriculturally intensive regions; and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence and the actions taken in the next few years will have profound repercussions for today’s children as adults and future generations; environmental education has long been encouraged in California schools and under state law enacted in 2018 includes the topic of climate change;³

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party:

- 1) agree it is time to define what it means to educate students for a future with human-induced climate change;
- 2) commit to ensuring students in Santa Clara County graduate well versed in climate change, including the causes and effects of climate change and methods to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- 3) act to bring the educational community together in support of comprehensive climate literacy for all Santa Clara County students;
- 4) recognize the importance of engaging student voices in this environmental literacy program as the younger generation bears the greatest burdens from oncoming climate change and deserve meaningful pathways and opportunities to mitigate this threat;
- 5) assist in mobilizing the education community to address the climate emergency by sending copies of this signed resolution to the following: California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, California School Boards Association, California County Boards of Education, and the National School Boards Association; and
- 6) assist students in their endeavors to address climate change on a district level.

Submitted by Daniel Angeles, Youth Delegate

Adopted by the Youth Delegates and affirmed by the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee on July 7, 2022

¹ Sierra Club’s Model Climate Literacy Resolution, <https://www.sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay/climate-literacy>

² Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report, (2021), <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>

³ Public Resources Code, Section 71301,

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC§ionNum=71301.&highlight=true&keyword=environmental%20principles%20and%20concepts