

Resolution for Climate Literacy in Santa Clara County Schools

WHEREAS, the world's climate is changing due to past and ongoing greenhouse gas emissions, causing an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events, disruptions to ecosystems, and an increase of negative effects on human health; and

WHEREAS, a 2020 research study published in 2020 by Cordero EC, Centeno D, and Todd AM found that educating just 16 percent of middle and high school students in middle and high income countries about climate change would decrease CO2 emissions by almost 19 gigatons by 2050; and ¹

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, was a contributing author on the "Climate-Resilient California Schools: A Call to Action" report. This report advocates for investment in K-12 public schools to ensure safe and healthy learning environments, prioritizing schools in California's climate action plan; and

WHEREAS, only 29% of teachers in California currently report that they teach students about climate change. ²

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports the promotion, funding, and implementation of climate change and environmental literacy educational programming in all Santa Clara County K-12 schools, including through passage of AB 285, which would incorporate climate change into the science curriculum statewide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports curriculum within Santa Clara County that engages youth by integrating environmental and climate change literacy across all subjects while also emphasizing action and civic engagement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party adopts this resolution in support of the recommended actions laid out in the recently released report "Climate-Resilient California Schools: A Call to Action"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports outreach to and the establishment of resources for teachers to incorporate climate curriculum, in the form of discussions and projects, into their classes. ³

Submitted by Elisabeth Floyd, Xinpei Lu

¹ <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0206266>

² Ramanathan, V., Suárez-Orozco, M., Grenot-Scheyer, M., Uy, F., Arum, R., Cowe, K., Grace, J., Murchison, B., Ney, C., & Schell, E. (2019). Achieving Climate Stability and Environment Sustainability: PK–12 education as part of the solution for bending the curve. UC–CSU Environmental and Climate Change Literacy Project.

³<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/climate-change-is-tough-to-teach-5-ways-to-approach-it/2023/04>

Resolution in Support of Climate Action and Green Pocket Forests at Santa Clara County Schools

WHEREAS, climate change is a global issue that can and should be addressed locally; its effects exacerbate systemic injustices disproportionately affecting socially disadvantaged communities; and ¹

WHEREAS, approximately four in five Americans now live in urban areas and are becoming increasingly disconnected with the environment; and ²

WHEREAS, green pocket forests, which can be grown using the Miyawaki Method, are ultra-dense forests of native plants that use minimal land and grow ten times faster, store thirty times more carbon, and become self-sufficient ecosystems after three years; and ³

WHEREAS, pocket forests are an effective and efficient solution to address the scarcity of green urban spaces at schools and offer the following benefits of both mitigating climate change and enhancing public health:

1. Reduced air pollution
2. Improved physical and mental health
3. Carbon sequestration
4. Improved water infiltration of the soil
5. Decreased stormwater runoff
6. Protection against erosion
7. Increased biodiversity
8. Enhanced habitat for wildlife; and ⁴

WHEREAS, pocket forests offer students the opportunity to learn about the effects of climate change and engage in hands-on solutions, thereby leveraging schools' potential to effect positive, tangible environmental change while preparing students — in their careers and civic life — to be stewards of their communities, the earth and its resources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports the promotion, funding, and implementation of pocket forests in schools and municipalities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party endorses legislation supporting pocket forests, such as AB 57, authored by Assemblymember Ash Kalra, which would establish the California Pocket Forest Initiative to support cities, counties, districts, non-profits, and public schools in planting pocket forests on public land; and ⁵

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports the distribution of pocket forest grants that prioritizes schools in socially disadvantaged communities and areas with little access to urban green spaces; this can be done by developing a greening index which identifies schools most in need of pocket forests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Santa Clara County Board of Education and Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools as well as Members of the State Legislature and U.S. Congress who represent any part of Santa Clara County.

Submitted by Elisabeth Floyd, Xinpei Lu

¹<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-report-shows-disproportionate-impacts-climate-change-socially-vulnerable>

²<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5744722/>

³<https://us.iahv.org/portfolio/greenpocketforests/>

⁴<https://www.americanforests.org/article/picking-pocket-forests/#:~:text=The%20pocket%20forests%20will%20create,and%20enhanced%20habitat%20for%20wildlife.>

⁵https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB57

Resolution: Legal Support for Santa Clara County Immigrants

WHEREAS the influx of immigrants to Santa Clara County without the legal knowledge or funding to acquire visa extensions, green cards, and US citizenship without considerable challenges remains a pertinent issue;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports providing funding, legal clinics, and legal support, including translation services, to immigrants aiming to extend their stay in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Members of Congress who represent any part of Santa Clara County and to members of the California State Legislature representing Santa Clara County.

Submitted by Keith Maben

Resolution to Investigate the Potential of Moving PG&E to a Ratepayer Owned Model to Improve Accountability, Efficacy, and Affordability

WHEREAS Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has time and time again proven incapable of successfully mitigating wildfire risk, profiting more than fourteen billion dollars, a ten percent increase, in a year when almost ten thousand fires ravaged four million acres of California while simultaneously pleading guilty to 84 felony counts of involuntary manslaughter relating to the fires; and

WHEREAS PG&E has consistently put profits over people and continued to raise rates and grow profits, leading to nearly one in five Bay Area households struggling to pay their electricity bill despite soaring salaries and bonuses for CEOs and other high-up company executives; and

WHEREAS PG&E has been repeatedly found guilty of misconduct including judge-shopping, colluding with regulatory agencies, falsifying records, and attempting to stifle competition through 2010 Ballot Proposition 16,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party calls for the State of California to conduct a study into the feasibility of moving PG&E to a ratepayer owned model, a publicly owned utility (POU) model, and/or a community choice aggregation (CCA) model, including microgrids, and pursuant to the results of said study, to pursue a course of action to create the best outcome for California Residents in terms of the functionality and structure of Northern California's electrical utility.

Submitted by Ari Ohriner, Los Gatos High School Class of 2025

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, children with learning disabilities face significant challenges in their educational journey, which can impact their overall school performance and future opportunities; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis and intervention are important for addressing the needs of children with learning disabilities and maximizing their potential; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of everyone to ensure that all children, regardless of their learning abilities, have equal access to quality education and the necessary support to thrive; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that children who receive early diagnosis and appropriate interventions have better educational outcomes and improved quality of life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee recognizes the importance of early diagnosis and intervention for children with learning disabilities and supports increased funding at all levels to enhance resources and services for early diagnosis of children with learning disabilities, including but not limited to specialized educational programs, assistive technologies, and professional development opportunities for teachers and support staff, including support specifically tailored to the meet the needs of historically marginalized communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee calls upon school districts and policymakers to prioritize teacher resources and support for children with dyslexia and other learning disabilities, including smaller class sizes, training for teachers, and the availability of individualized education plans tailored to the needs of each student, and further supports passage of SB 691 regarding dyslexia risk screening.

Submitted by Sebastian Navarro

Resolution in Support of Food Waste Reduction and Alleviating Food Insecurity

WHEREAS U.S. food waste is estimated to be 30-40% of the food supply, and Californians throw away more than 11 billion pounds of food waste annually, worth billions of dollars.^{1,2} Wasted food causes 8-10% of greenhouse gas emissions and is the largest category of material placed in landfills.³ Resources, such as water and energy, are used in vain; and

WHEREAS 1 in 4 people in Santa Clara County are at risk of hunger (720,000 people) and food banks are still struggling to bridge this gap (namely, Second Harvest is providing food to over 257,000 people monthly but there remains a gap of about 450,000 individuals);⁴ and

WHEREAS food insecurity is associated with several chronic illnesses, impacting historically underserved populations, threatening to widen socioeconomic differences.⁵ Access to sufficient quantities of healthy food is tied directly to mental health and academic success;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports the adoption of strategies to combat food waste and food insecurity in our community, including the following:

- 1) Raise awareness, especially at schools, about the environmental and social impacts of food waste. Promote strategies that individuals can apply immediately such as meal planning, proper food storage, and composting.
 - a) Schools may implement compost bins and educate students and staff on their use
 - b) Schools facilitate food sharing opportunities
- 2) Support the continuation and expansion of programs that serve individuals experiencing food insecurity, prioritizing underserved areas and diverse communities, through measures such as diverting surplus food or fundraising efforts.
 - a) School-based food distribution programs
 - b) Second Harvest of Silicon Valley⁶
- 3) Advocate for policies and programs that promote food security.
 - a) Expanded nutrition assistance programs
 - b) Support Assembly Bill 311, which would make all California residents eligible for food assistance programs, regardless of age, immigration status, or other attributes
 - c) Support Senate Bill 1383, which is in the process of implementation, which requires that by 2025 California will recover 20% of edible food that would otherwise be sent to landfills, to feed people in need⁷

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Members of Congress who represent any part of Santa Clara County to support legislation and funding initiatives that address food waste reduction and food security.

Submitted by Angela Mo

Resolution in Support of Increased Implementation and Use of Public Transportation in Santa Clara County

WHEREAS, 38% of emissions in the State of California are from the transportation sector according to the California 2020 GHG Inventory and remains to be the top economic sector source of emissions; and¹

WHEREAS, increased support of public transportation within all levels of government, is essential to sufficiently mitigate climate change, while remedying social inequities by offering the following benefits:

1. Reduces GHG emissions
2. Removes automobiles off of our roads, addressing our traffic-related fatalities epidemic, whereby an estimated 42,000 people die per year in the country²
3. Purifying our air of air pollutants such as nitrogen oxides, VOCs, and more
4. Encourages more active lifestyles, including walking and biking
5. Creates access to people of all backgrounds, class, and zip code, as an automobile is estimated to cost \$10,000 per year³
6. Improves social, emotional, and mental wellbeing; and⁴

WHEREAS, a lack of prioritization of public transit by Santa Clara County, and its contained municipalities, impacts the quality of transit service provided; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports policies, expenditures, and programs that promote and increase the use of public transportation within the county; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Santa Clara County Democratic Party fully commit to improving upon public transportation services within Santa Clara County in order to make transit more accessible to people of all backgrounds by adopting policies like “Transit-First”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that publicly promoting and prioritizing public transit over further automobile dependency be a top priority in Santa Clara County and in the Santa Clara County Democratic Party platform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party promotes and supports infill development near transit via implementation of urban planning concepts such as the 15 minute city and mixed-use development; and

¹ <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/ghg-inventory-data>

²

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/press-releases/traffic-crash-death-estimates-2022#:~:text=The%20National%20Highway%20Traffic%20Safety,42%2C939%20fatalities%20reported%20for%202021.>

³ <https://www.bankrate.com/insurance/car/cost-of-car-ownership/#cost>

⁴ <https://www.asla.org/sustainabletransportation.aspx>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party increase efforts for state and federal funding for the VTA visionary network — a vision for 83% more service within the county — as well public transportation in general.⁵

Submitted by Elisabeth Floyd, Xinpei Lu

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<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/mallon-vta-has-a-vision-for-a-better-transit-system/ar-AA1dwqPZ>

Resolution to Support Increasing Funding for Nature Based Solutions in Santa Clara County

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County is renowned for its open spaces, farms, and ranchlands that contribute to quality of life, providing clean air, fresh water, flood protection, carbon removal, and recreational opportunities;

WHEREAS, the County's natural resources face increasing challenges due to the impacts of climate change, necessitating careful planning, innovative conservation methods, and nature-based solutions to tackling the climate crisis;

WHEREAS, as noted in the County of Santa Clara's Sustainability Master Plan¹, a comprehensive regional framework is essential to preserving working lands, supporting a vibrant agricultural economy, mitigating climate change, and ensuring a range of social, environmental, economic, and health benefits for County residents and businesses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports increased funding for nature-based solutions in Santa Clara County, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, carbon sequestration and stormwater management.

Submitted by Elisabeth Floyd, Xinpei Lu

¹ <https://www.sccsustainabilityplan.org/goal-4-natural-lands-and-land-use>

Resolution to Fight for Dignity in Survival and Lasting Solutions for People Experiencing Homelessness

WHEREAS African Americans and people of color represent a disproportionate amount of the homeless population and are also disproportionately punished for “crimes of survival” such as sitting or sleeping in public spaces and buses, receiving free food, or parking a car for more than 72 hours; and

WHEREAS everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic status in Santa Clara County deserves, at the very least, a chance to survive with dignity; and

WHEREAS people subjected to sweeps or “abatelements” have everything taken from them, such as one person living in Columbus park in San Jose who had their loved one’s ashes taken away, or others losing basic necessities for survival such as wallets, paperwork, and social security cards; and

WHEREAS solutions such as access to safe parking and permanent supportive housing, mental health and addiction resources already exist in this county and have proven to increase the quality of life for those living on the streets and to reduce crime;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party commits to fighting for dignity in survival for those living on our streets in Santa Clara County, and will work with directly impacted residents to create real, lasting solutions for everyone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports legislation, such as AB 1431, the California Housing Security Act, which would provide greater housing security, such as by subsidizing the cost of housing, and will urge elected officials to support measures to provide greater housing security and encourage voters to support such elected officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Members of Congress who represent any part of Santa Clara County and that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party will work with individuals and groups who advocate for persons experiencing homelessness with the purpose of working alongside them to find real solutions centered on people directly impacted by homelessness.

Submitted by Aastha Bhagat

Resolution to Support Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5 (ACA 5)

WHEREAS voters voted to approve Proposition 8 which recognizes marriage as a union between one man and a woman, codifying the Proposition into the Constitution of the State of California.

WHEREAS a federal court ruled Proposition 8 unconstitutional in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, striking down Proposition 8 as it violates the due process clause and the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment in the Constitution of the United States, resulting in the legalization of same-sex marriages in the State of California.

WHEREAS the Constitution of the State of California includes outdated and bigoted language, despite the legalization of same-sex marriages in the United States after the U.S. Supreme Court case decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

WHEREAS Assemblymember Evan Low (D-26) introduced Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5 in the California State Assembly to codify same-sex marriage into the Constitution of the State of California to prevent discrimination in the case of the repealment of *Obergefell v. Hodges*. The Amendment reads as follows:

SEC. 7.5. (a) The right to marry is a fundamental right.

(b) This section is in furtherance of both of the following:

- (1) The inalienable rights to enjoy life and liberty and to pursue and obtain safety, happiness, and privacy guaranteed by Section 1.
- (2) The rights to due process and equal protection guaranteed by Section 7.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party endorses ACA 5, recognizing the imperative nature of fostering a society built on equality, justice, and acceptance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party urges local elected officials and well as constituents to endorse and vote to approve this Constitutional Amendment for the State of California.

Submitted by Anushka Tadikonda and Isaac Ríos.