

# **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 <sup>1</sup>

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

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 <sup>3</sup>

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 <sup>4</sup>

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 <sup>5</sup>

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup>[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB57](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB57)