

Resolution Number

County of Sonoma
Santa Rosa, California

February 02, 2022
ORD23-0001

RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION, COUNTY OF SONOMA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, RECOMMENDING THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SONOMA COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 26 TO BAN NEW GAS STATION AND GASOLINE INFRASTRUCTURE.

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2018, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-48-181 calling for five million zero-emission vehicles by 2030 and the installation of 250,000 electric vehicle charging stations in the State; and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2018, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution Number 18-0166 to reaffirming its intent to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of a coordinated effort coordinated by the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority, and to adopt local implementation measures as identified in climate action plan 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2018, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-55-182, calling for the State to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045; and

WHEREAS, the October 8, 2018, special report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) project curtailing warming to 1.5 C to reduce the risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, economic growth and plant and animal life this century will require transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next twelve years; and

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2018, the Federal Government issued the Fourth National Climate Assessment detailing the massive threat that climate change poses to the American economy and underscoring the need for immediate climate emergency action at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2019, the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority adopted a Climate Emergency Resolution; and

WHEREAS, between May 2019 and March 2021, the County of Sonoma and each of the incorporated jurisdictions adopted Climate Emergency Resolutions and committed to working on activities to address the state of climate emergency; and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-79-204 setting 2035 as the year by which all new vehicles sold in California must be zero-emission; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2021, the City of Petaluma became the first local government in the nation to adopt a prohibition on new gas station land uses within their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2021, the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority adopted a Sonoma Climate Mobilization Strategy which sets a goal of reaching countywide

carbon neutrality by 2030; and

WHEREAS, transportation accounts for 60% of GHG emissions in Sonoma County, and the burning of gasoline and diesel fuel for transportation is the leading cause of GHG emissions in this sector; and

WHEREAS, gasoline stations pose significant local impacts on public health and the environment, including toxic/carcinogenic air contamination, surface water runoff, leaking underground storage tanks, and more; and

WHEREAS, a just transition away from fossil fuels requires that local government actions are ecologically sustainable, equitable, and just for all its members; and

WHEREAS, marginalized communities worldwide—including people of color, immigrants, indigenous communities, low-income people, those with disabilities, and the unhoused—are already disproportionately affected by climate change and must benefit from a just transition to a sustainable and equitable economy; and

WHEREAS, currently there are over 635,000 electric vehicles (EVs) in California and almost 10,000 EVs in Sonoma County, with the need for charging infrastructure inevitably growing as the need for gasoline stations correspondingly diminishes; and

WHEREAS, there are over 158 fuel stations in Sonoma County, with 46 in the unincorporated area, and new fuel stations have been and are continuing to be proposed throughout Sonoma County, despite the associated negative environmental and climate impacts; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the project is exempt from further review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to 14 Cal. Code Regs. (“CEQA Guidelines”) §15307 and §15308, because this constitutes an action taken by a regulatory agency to protect natural resources and the environment; and CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3), because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the action proposed may have a significant effect on the environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Commission recommends the Board of Supervisors adopt the ordinance amending Chapters 26 to prohibit the development of new retail gas stations with certain amendments, as shown in the draft ordinance attached to this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Commission adopts the recommendation pursuant to the following findings:

1. The proposed modifications to Chapter 26 are necessary and appropriate for the following reasons:
 - a. Sonoma County must answer a global call for a just transition away from fossil fuels and a global call for urgent collaborative climate mobilization efforts focused on enacting policies that dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and all levels of government must mobilize to restore a safe climate.

- b. Successful climate action and a just transition requires work across sectors to accelerate the changes required to answer the climate emergency.
- c. In its 2018 Climate Change Resolution, Sonoma County has committed to work towards the RCPA's countywide target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.
- d. In its 2018 Climate Change Resolution, Sonoma County has adopted goals to increase renewable energy use, switch equipment from fossil fuel to electricity, encourage a shift toward low-carbon transportation options, increase vehicle and equipment fuel efficiency, and encourage a shift toward low-carbon fuels in vehicles and equipment.
- e. Disallowing the construction of new fuel stations or the expansion of existing fuel station infrastructure throughout Sonoma County advances local climate goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Commission designates the Secretary as the custodian of the documents and other material which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the Planning Commission decision herein is based. These documents may be found at the office of the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department, 2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was introduced by Commissioner Koenigshofer, who moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carr, and adopted on roll call by the following vote:

Commissioner Carr	Aye
Commissioner Reed	Aye
Commissioner Deas	Absent
Commissioner Koenigshofer	Aye
Commissioner Ocana	Aye

Ayes: 4 Noes: Absent: 1 Abstain: