

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (2021 SERIES)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN LUIS
OBISPO, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING LEAD BY EXAMPLE: A PLAN
FOR CARBON NEUTRAL CITY OPERATIONS**

WHEREAS, greenhouse gas accumulation in the atmosphere as the result of human activity is the primary cause of the global climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, in California alone, the initial impacts of climate change have resulted in unpresented disasters with tremendous human, economic, and environmental costs; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that global emissions need to be reduced by 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, and 100 percent by 2050 to prevent global catastrophe; and

WHEREAS, the State of California enacted Assembly Bill (AB) 32 to require greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-55-18 establishing a statewide target of carbon neutrality by 2045; and

WHEREAS, City of San Luis Obispo residents, businesses, and community partners have repeatedly identified climate action as a top priority; and

WHEREAS, in September 2020, the City of San Luis Obispo City Council adopted the Climate Action Plan for Community Recovery via Resolution [R-11159](#) (2020 Series) that, in addition to establishing a pathway to achieve community carbon neutrality by 2035, highlights the role the City can play in “leading by example” and includes a goal of carbon neutral government operations by 2030 and direction to complete a carbon neutral government operations plan by summer 2021; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to lead by example and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations in order to model the actions needed to reduce community-wide emissions; and

WHEREAS, in pursuing a sustainability-oriented approach to achieving carbon neutral government operations by 2030, the City can also promote a more resilient, diverse, equitable, and inclusive City organization; and

WHEREAS, a carbon neutral government operations plan has been prepared and titled, Lead by Example: A Plan for Carbon Neutral City Operations (*Lead by Example*), that establishes sector specific 2030 goals and objectives, and provides actions to establish a trajectory towards achieving those goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to sharing resources and lessons learned from *Lead by Example* implementation with local and regional community members, businesses, organizations, and peer cities; and

WHEREAS, *Lead by Example* is a measure and supportive action within the scope of the project covered by the already adopted Initial Study-Negative Declaration (IS/ND) prepared by the City pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), circulated for public review, and adopted on August 19, 2020 (EID-0275-2020) that addressed the environmental impacts of implementing the City of San Luis Obispo 2020 update to the Climate Action Plan and titled Climate Action Plan for Community Recovery; and

WHEREAS, staff participating in the Green Team from the Public Works, Utilities, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Parks and Recreation, and Administration departments co-created *Lead by Example*, including the sector goals, objectives, and actions; and

WHEREAS, the Green Team worked closely with the Leadership Team to ensure *Lead by Example* goals, objectives, and actions aligned closely with respective departmental priorities and that all near-term actions to be implemented between 2021-2023 are budgeted in the 2021-23 Financial Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of San Luis Obispo as follows:

SECTION 1. Recitals. The recitals set forth above are here by adopted as the findings of the City.

SECTION 2. Environmental Review. The *Lead by Example: Plan for Carbon Neutral City Operations* is a measure and supportive action within the scope of the project covered by the already adopted IS/ND for the Climate Action Plan for Community Recovery (EID-0275-2020) and includes quantified actions to address emissions that were accounted for in the community inventory and forecast. On the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, the project does not trigger any of the conditions of CEQA Guidelines § 15162 (subsequent EIRs and negative declarations) as outlined below, no new significant impact on the environment would occur and no new mitigation measures are required, and no further environmental analysis is therefore required:

- **No substantial changes are proposed** in the project which will require major revisions of the previously adopted Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified effect;

- **No substantial changes will occur** with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of an identified effect;
- **No new information of substantial importance**, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous Negative Declaration was adopted, shows that the project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous Negative Declaration or that any previously examined effect would be more severe than shown in the previous Negative Declaration.

SECTION 3. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Targets. The City Council reaffirms carbon neutral government operations by 2030 or sooner as its municipal greenhouse gas emissions reduction target. The City Council also adopts the following 2030 sector specific goals:

1. No fossil fuels are used to power City buildings and facilities.
2. The City eliminates fossil fuel use in vehicle and equipment fleet.
3. City employee commute is aligned with and substantially exceeds General Plan Mode Split Objectives by 2030.
4. City buildings, facilities, and operations are zero waste as defined by the Zero Waste International Alliance (ZWIA).
5. Direct emissions from the provision of wastewater are minimized to the maximum extent feasible.
6. Carbon sequestration within the City's Greenbelt and Urban Forest system is optimized.
7. The City's procurement, budget, investment, and finance processes support and accelerate achieving the City's carbon neutrality goal.

SECTION 4. Lead By Example: A Plan for Carbon Neutral City Operations.

The City Council hereby approves Lead by Example: A Plan for Carbon Neutral City Operations including Technical Appendices.

Upon motion of Council Member _____, seconded by Council Member _____, and on the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

The foregoing resolution was adopted this _____ day of _____ 2021.

Mayor Heidi Harmon

ATTEST:

Teresa Purrington
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

J. Christine Dietrick
City Attorney

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of San Luis Obispo, California, on _____.

Teresa Purrington
City Clerk

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