

## RESOLUTION NO. 2021-062

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CALISTOGA, COUNTY OF NAPA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ON PROTECTING NAPA'S FORESTS AND WOODLANDS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

**WHEREAS** the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a United Nations body, has determined that humans' ability to curtail greenhouse gas emissions by or before 2030 will determine whether our planet will remain hospitable for humanity and all life forms; and

**WHEREAS** on June 18, 2019, the Calistoga City Council voted unanimously in favor of the Countywide Commitment to Address Climate Change proclamation, acknowledging that "decisive near-term action is needed to prevent further global warming," and committing Napa County jurisdictions to work together in support of "comprehensive, immediate, and sustained action"; and

**WHEREAS** Napa County's Policy CON-65 (from "Climate Protection and Sustainable Practices for Environmental Health Policies") states: "the County shall support efforts to reduce and offset greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and strive to maintain and enhance the County's current level of carbon sequestration functions," and "preserve and enhance the values of Napa County's plant life as carbon sequestration systems to recycle greenhouse gases"; and

**WHEREAS** according to William Moomaw, PhD in Physical Chemistry at M.I.T. and author of five IPCC reports, "standing forests are the only proven system that can remove and store vast amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at the scale necessary to keep global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius this century. It is therefore essential not only to prevent further emissions from fossil fuels, deforestation, forest degradation, and bioenergy, but also to expand our forests' capacity to remove carbon from the atmosphere and store it long-term." This fact requires the immediate protection of our existing forests and woodlands as a vital short-term climate stabilization measure; cutting down forests will further destabilize the climate; and

**WHEREAS** the September 30, 2019, decision by the First District Court of Appeals in the Walt Ranch lawsuit determined that the GHG mitigation measure for tree removal does not adequately mitigate the loss of carbon sequestration because the trees to be preserved are not under the threat of potential development; and

**WHEREAS** Napa County's Water Quality & Tree Protection Ordinance (WQTPO) does not adequately mitigate the loss of carbon sequestration when a significant number of trees are cut down because it allows preservation to take place on steep slopes (>30%) where trees are not under threat of development, yielding a maximum of 3% increase in forest protection in the Agricultural Watershed zoning district only; and

**WHEREAS** repeated litigation over the adequacy of mitigation for the climate change impacts from tree removal for pending and future projects would be costly, inefficient, and wasteful for the County and all parties.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that The City of Calistoga urges the County Board of Supervisors to adopt a resolution ordering a temporary moratorium on approving any forest and woodland removal until such time as the County revises the Water Quality & Tree Protection Ordinance to require that mitigation for the removal of forests and woodlands be on the project site in areas at risk of development (with slopes under 30%). In this moment of existential climate crisis, we all need to come together and commit, as a County and as individuals, to the strongest possible measures of conservation.


**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2021. I, **MARNI RITTBURG, CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF CALISTOGA, HEREBY CERTIFY** the foregoing resolution was introduced and passed at a regular meeting of the Calistoga City Council by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Councilmembers Gift, Kraus, and Williams, Vice Mayor Lopez-Ortega, and Mayor Canning  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**ATTEST:**

  
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Marni Rittburg, CMC, City Clerk

**APPROVED:**

  
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Chris Canning, Mayor