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San Francisco Supervisor Rafael Mandelman introduces resolution declaring Climate Emergency

If passed, San Francisco will join Berkeley, Hayward, Richmond and Oakland as Bay Area Cities declaring Climate Emergency

SAN FRANCISCO — At Tuesday’s Board of Supervisors meeting District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman introduced a resolution declaring a state of Climate Emergency, a call to action for San Francisco to lead the way locally when it comes to climate change.

“San Francisco is already suffering impacts of climate change in the form of droughts, air pollution, extreme heat, and lowland flooding. On our current path, projections show up to eight feet of sea level rise in the Bay over the next 100 years, but even at three feet, the Ferry Building would be flooding twice daily and the Embarcadero, Mission Bay and Marina would all be at risk. Already we are planning to permanently close two lanes of the Great Highway in response to rising tides” said Mandelman. “We know we will have to find billions, perhaps tens of billions, to make the infrastructure investments necessary to protect to the City from climate change impacts that are already inevitable. We must take every feasible action to prevent even more severe impacts. The emergency is upon us.”

The resolution calls for:

- The San Francisco Department of the Environment, in collaboration with the Mayor’s office and all other relevant City agencies, to develop and deliver a report within 100 days on the immediate steps our City must take in response to our climate emergency.
- A public hearing at the Board of Supervisors on the high priority actions that the City can take to achieve deep emission reductions at emergency speed.
- A commitment from the Board of Supervisors to work with the Mayor’s office to develop a budget that supports action to address the climate emergency, avoid further investment of public dollars in fossil-fuel reliant infrastructure, and ensure a climate resilient future for all San Franciscans.

Climate justice advocates praised the measure. “We, as a species, only get one shot to get it right on climate action. We are now out of time for incremental solutions and half-measures. The Climate Mobilization supports Supervisor Mandelman’s resolution declaring a climate emergency,” said Nicole Harris, California Director of the Climate Mobilization. “With its passage, San Francisco will join a wave of governments committing to emergency action across the region and the globe. We thank Supervisor Mandelman and the Board of Supervisors for

their leadership and urge them to continue to advance the Climate Emergency Movement with their upcoming process and report.”

Environmental leaders within City Hall agreed. “Now is the time for urgent and decisive action to address the climate crisis,” said Debbie Raphael, Director of the San Francisco Department of the Environment. “San Francisco has long been a global climate action leader, but we know that we can and must do more. Cities contribute 70% of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions, and it is our responsibility to chart a bold course forward for the world to follow.”

As of press time, Supervisors Sandra Lee Fewer (District 1), Gordon Mar (District 4), Vallie Brown (District 5), and Matt Haney (District 6) had added their names as co-sponsors of the resolution.

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