

**CITY OF LARKSPUR
RESOLUTION 55/21**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LARKSPUR
DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the City Council is devoted to protecting and promoting the health, safety, and welfare of Larkspur's residents;

WHEREAS, Larkspur's General Plan and Climate Action Plan seek to improve, enhance, and preserve the environment and to promote Larkspur's long-term environmental sustainability and livability;

WHEREAS, the City Council agrees with the consensus among climate scientists that global climate and ecological crises are underway and acknowledges the disproportionate effects of climate impacts on vulnerable communities;

WHEREAS, in 2016 the California State legislature passed SB 32, setting interim greenhouse gas reduction targets of 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and on September 10, 2018, California Governor Brown signed Executive Order B-55-18 setting a new statewide goal of carbon neutrality (net zero greenhouse gas emissions) as soon as possible and no later than 2045;

WHEREAS, many climate scientists now believe achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 is insufficient to avoid the worst consequences of climate change and are urging net zero emissions be achieved by 2030;

WHEREAS, in 2018, the fourth National Climate Change Assessment and the fourth California Climate Change Assessment warned that extreme weather and climate-related events in the United States are worsening, predicting increased droughts and heat waves in the western U.S. resulting in increased intensity and magnitude of wildfires, declining snowpack and water supply, increased flooding, impacted agriculture, as well as substantial damage to the economy and human health, unless greenhouse gas emissions are immediately and dramatically curbed;

WHEREAS, atmospheric CO₂ is now 50% higher than at any time in human history and global average temperatures are at their highest level since measurements commenced, and both trends are increasing;

WHEREAS, the critical climate tipping points, as defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report, that we are rapidly approaching must be avoided, as they will have cascading effects on the survival of our species;

WHEREAS, humanity can no longer safely emit greenhouse gases and must undertake an emergency mobilization effort across all sectors to: (1) safely reduce and remove excess greenhouse gases from the atmosphere; (2) preserve and restore the Earth's biodiversity; (3) implement safety measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt warming in the near-term; and (4) cultivate a just transition toward climate resiliency;

WHEREAS, Larkspur has taken a number of important actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance the quality of life in our community including sustainable land use planning, adoption of its first Climate Action Plan in 2010, securing 100% renewable energy with MCE Deep Green for City facilities, and developing a revised and updated Climate Action Plan 2030; and

WHEREAS, despite significant actions by Larkspur and other governmental entities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we are currently facing an increasingly urgent climate crisis that demands dramatic and accelerated action by all levels of government including Federal, State, County and local municipalities to avoid the worst consequences of climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Larkspur declares that we are in a climate emergency that threatens the public health of our community and its residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council affirms the need for the understanding, active participation and collaboration of the broader Larkspur community for all actions and initiatives Larkspur may adopt in response to the climate emergency and commits to: (1) provide outreach, information and education for Larkspur residents, businesses, and City staff on the urgency of climate responses and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as policies and strategies to advance sustainability and resilience; and (2) regularly assess Larkspur's greenhouse gas reduction goals, actions and policies and provide public-facing progress reports and metrics at least annually.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council acknowledges and affirms its support for the State of California's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality (net zero greenhouse gas emissions) as soon as possible and no later than 2045, including potential acceleration of these dates by the State, and directs the City Manager to work with staff on climate actions by the City of Larkspur, its residents and jointly with others, including the actions identified in Larkspur's Climate Action Plan 2030, to meet or exceed these goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council, in response to the urgent need for dramatic and accelerated action, supports the aspirational goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 while recognizing this may not be achievable given the limited authority and resources available to Larkspur for this purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council directs the City Manager and staff to continue considering consistency with Larkspur's Climate Action Plan in all relevant decision-making, just as they consider fiscal impact and General Plan consistency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Larkspur joins and will advocate for appropriate regional, state, national, and international climate emergency mobilization efforts at all levels of government to reverse global warming and the resulting ecological crisis.

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the City Council of the City of Larkspur duly introduced and regularly adopted the foregoing resolution at a regular meeting held on October 6, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBER: Candell, Hillmer, Paulson, Way and Mayor Haroff

NOES: COUNCILMEMBER: None

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER: None

ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBER: None

DocuSigned by:
Kevin Haroff
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Kevin Haroff, Mayor

ATTEST:
DocuSigned by:
Alison Foulis
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Alison Foulis, City Clerk