



ASUCD SENATE RESOLUTION #X

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7 Introduced by: Environmental Policy and Planning Commission
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9 An ASUCD Senate Resolution to stand in solidarity with cities and college campuses across the
10 United States in declaring a climate emergency.

11
12 WHEREAS, in 2017, average global temperatures were 1.62 degrees greater than the average
13 between 1951 and 1980. Except for 2011, every year since 1988 has been one of the top ten
14 hottest years in recorded history, moving the window for the ten hottest years forward in
15 time.¹ Human activities such as fossil fuel combustion and agriculture are causing an increase
16 in greenhouse gases², which in turn increases our average global temperatures and the
17 decrease of human and wildlife health³; and,
18

19 WHEREAS, climate change will increase the frequency and severity of natural disasters
20 including tropical cyclones, mid-latitude storms, floods, drought, wildfires, and major disease
21 outbreaks.⁴ Rising sea levels and temperatures will cause a loss of biodiversity in areas such
22 as tropical rainforests and coral reefs; and,
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24 WHEREAS, food and water insecurities due to increasing variability in precipitation patterns
25 pose the greatest risk to already vulnerable communities. These areas will likely see increased
26 regional conflict due to food and water shortages. As parts of the world become uninhabitable

¹ Lindsey, Rebecca, and LuAnn Dahlman. "Climate Change: Global Temperature." *Climate.gov*, NOAA , 1 Aug. 2018, www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-global-temperature.

² "Climate Change Causes: A Blanket around the Earth." NASA, NASA, 8 Aug. 2018, climate.nasa.gov/causes/.

³ "Climate and Health." Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, www.aafa.org/climate-and-health/

⁴ "The Impact of Climate Change on Natural Disasters." Earth Observatory, NASA, earthobservatory.nasa.gov/features/RisingCost/rising_cost5.php

27 due to increased temperature, rising sea levels, water shortages, and low crop viability,
28 internal conflict and lack of resources will displace inhabitants, leading to a rise in climate
29 refugees⁴; and,

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31 WHEREAS, impoverished and disenfranchised communities of the world will be the first to
32 experience the direct impacts of climate change. Specifically, developing countries of the
33 world will face the most devastation from rising sea levels, more severe climate events, and
34 other consequences of global climate change⁵; and,

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36 WHEREAS, after a specific threshold of warming (“tipping point”), scientists predict the self-
37 reinforcing effects of climate change will become uncontrollable, leading to a “hothouse
38 earth.” Some parts of the world, like the Amazon rainforest and Arctic tundra, may already be
39 approaching such tipping points⁶; and,

40
41 WHEREAS, the International Panel on Climate Change predicts these cascading effects to
42 begin globally at 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming beyond the pre-industrial baseline. Global
43 warming is projected to reach 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial baseline between 2030 and
44 2052 if trends continue⁷; and,

45
46 WHEREAS, in order to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, world governments must make
47 immediate and drastic changes of an unprecedented, but achievable, magnitude to
48 transportation, agricultural, and industrial sectors. These changes, if selected based on
49 regional concerns in addition to environmental ones, have the potential to alleviate poverty
50 and increase sustainable development, though trade-offs may arise⁷; and,

51
52 WHEREAS, climate change is projected to cause 0.6 to 6.6 feet of sea level rise, and the high
53 end of these projections threatens agriculture, urban development along coastlines, and
54 military bases⁸; and,

55
56 WHEREAS, drought and sea level changes cause rising global temperatures,⁹ resulting in
57 rainfall pattern changes, less snowpack, accelerated ice mass loss, and less freshwater
58 supplies⁹; and,

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60 WHEREAS, with rising temperatures there are changes in the environment that affect natural
61 migration, growth, breeding, and other patterns and timings that further lead to loss in
62 biodiversity.¹⁰ Biodiversity is essential to healthy ecosystems and the societies that depend on

⁵ “Climate Change & Conflict.” Environmental Justice Foundation, ejfoundation.org/what-we-do/climate/climate-change-conflict

⁶ Steffen, Will, et al. “Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene.” PNAS, National Academy of Sciences, 14 Aug. 2018, www.pnas.org/content/115/33/8252

⁷ Myles, Allen, and et al. “SPECIAL REPORT: GLOBAL WARMING OF 1.5 °C Summary For Policymakers.” International Panel on Climate Change, 2018, www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/summary-for-policy-makers/

⁸ Goodell, Jeff. *The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World*. Black Inc., 2018. <https://sealevel.nasa.gov/understanding-sea-level/projections/empirical-projections>

⁹ Forsyth, Adrian, et al. *Tropical Nature*: Simon & Schuster, 1995.

63 them¹⁰; the loss of biodiversity precipitated by climate change will disrupt global watershed
64 systems, terminate ecosystem services such as flood control and pest control, and result in
65 the loss of substantial intellectual value to future generations¹¹; and,
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67 WHEREAS, anthropogenic climate change has caused wildfires to become more frequent and
68 severe due to increasingly dry and hot conditions.¹² UC Davis students, faculty, and staff were
69 impacted by wildfires in throughout California and the resulting poor air quality in November
70 2018; and,
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72 WHEREAS, the effects of climate change, especially drought, natural disaster, and an
73 increased prevalence of pests will have negative impacts on agriculture and, thus, on the
74 world's food supply. As the leading agricultural school in the United States, the University of
75 California, Davis has a responsibility to lead by example and protect global food security¹³;
76 and,
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78 WHEREAS, climate change is speeding up beyond scientists' previous predictions, and climate
79 change and related effects such as drought, fires, floods, natural disasters, and food
80 shortages⁷ will impact the lives of UC Davis students; and,
81

82 THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Associated Students of the University of
83 California, Davis (ASUCD) declares that we face an existential Climate Emergency that
84 threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity, and the natural world; and,
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86 THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the ASUCD endorses a university-wide
87 emergency mobilization effort to bring greenhouse gas emissions to net zero as quickly as
88 possible and immediately initiate measures to draw down carbon from the atmosphere; and,
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90 THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the ASUCD calls for immediate outreach
91 efforts to educate UC Davis students, faculty, and staff about the climate emergency; and,
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93 THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the ASUCD calls upon the City of Davis to
94 immediately commence an effort to bring down city greenhouse gas emissions to net zero;
95 and,
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97 THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the ASUCD calls upon the state of
98 California to recognize the climate emergency and, with appropriate input from Federal
99 authorities, respond with an emergency mobilization effort to reverse global climate change,
100 including greenhouse gas emissions reductions and carbon drawdown measures; and,
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102 THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the ASUCD calls upon the United States of
103 America to recognize the climate emergency and respond with an emergency mobilization

¹⁰ McCord, Edward LeRoy. *The Value of Species*. Yale University Press, 2012.

¹¹ Lynas, Mark. *The God Species: Saving the Planet in the Age of Humans*. National Geographic, 2011.

¹² "Wildfires and Climate Change." Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, 26 Nov. 2018,
www.c2es.org/content/wildfires-and-climate-change/

¹³ Work on Climate Change." Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations, www.fao.org/climate-change/en/

