



**AGENCY:** City Council  
**MEETING DATE:** June 26, 2017  
**DEPARTMENT:** City Council  
**PRESENTED BY:** Mayor Lindy Peters  
**EMAIL ADDRESS:** LPeters2@fortbragg.com

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

**TITLE:**  
**RECEIVE REPORT AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PARIS CLIMATE ACCORD**

**ISSUE:**

The United States recently withdrew from the Paris Climate Accord. In response, mayors from cities across the nation are signing resolutions in opposition to the withdrawal and in support of the Paris Accord. At the June 12, 2017 Council meeting, Mayor Peters indicated that he would agendize this matter for Council consideration. This report provides information and seeks City Council direction regarding three items pertaining to this matter, including whether or not to:

1. Adopt a Resolution in Support of the Paris Agreement;
2. Authorize the Mayor to join Climate Mayors (aka the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda) and sign the Statement from the Climate Mayors in Response to President Trump's Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement; and
3. Authorize the Mayor to sign onto the Open Letter to the international communities and parties to the Paris Agreement from U.S. state, local, and business leaders spearheaded by "We Are Still In."

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Receive report and provide direction regarding any or all of the above-referenced issues.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):**

Take no action.

**ANALYSIS:**

In December 2015, world leaders signed the Paris Climate Accord, known as the "Paris Agreement" by the United Nations. The Agreement (Attachment 1) is aimed at reducing carbon emissions, slowing rising global temperatures and helping countries adapt to the effects of climate change. This historic international agreement succeeded where past attempts failed because it allowed each country to set its own emission reduction targets and adopt its own strategies for reaching them. In addition, nations – inspired by the actions of local and regional governments, along with businesses – came to recognize that fighting climate change brings significant economic and public health benefits.

On June 1, 2017, President Trump announced that the U.S. will formally rescind its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions by 26-28% by 2025, and will begin the process of withdrawing from the Agreement in 2019 (the U.S. cannot officially withdraw from the Agreement until the day after the 2020 Presidential election). In the wake of President Trump's announcement, there has been a growing movement to show support for the Agreement. As the historic "leader" in GHG emissions, many believe the decision for the U.S. to withdraw is a disastrous abdication of American leadership and could result in the failure of the entire agreement.

Three opportunities for the Council to show their support of the Paris Agreement are outlined below.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.7C**

**1. Adopt a Resolution Supporting the Paris Agreement**

Attachment 2 is a Resolution for the Council to consider adopting that provides relevant background on the Paris Agreement, the current goals and efforts at the State level as well as the City's leadership and efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of climate change.

**2. Authorize the Mayor to join Climate Mayors and sign onto the Statement in response to President Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement**

**a. Authorize the Mayor to Join Climate Mayors**

Climate Mayors (aka the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda) is a Mayor-to-Mayor network of U.S. Mayors collaborating on climate. It is led by Mayor Garcetti of Los Angeles and operationally run by the Chief Sustainability Officer for Los Angeles, Matt Petersen and Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer, Lauren Faber. There are no binding commitments as a Climate Mayors member. Member cities are pursuing actions to achieve an emissions reduction target through:

- Developing a community GHG emissions inventory
- Setting near- and long-term targets to reduce emissions
- Developing a Climate Action Plan aligned with the city's targets

In addition, they ask members of the Climate Mayors network to join in occasional letters and statements, as well as substantive initiatives such as their Electric Vehicle campaign. They also hold monthly coordination calls for each town's/city's sustainability lead to participate and share progress, if desired.

**b. Authorize the Mayor to sign onto the Climate Mayors Statement in response to President Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement**

On Thursday, June 1, 2017, the Climate Mayors submitted a Statement (Attachment 3) affirming their commitment to "adopt, honor and uphold the commitments to the goals enshrined in the Paris Agreement." So far, 305 U.S. Mayors representing 61 million Americans have signed onto this Statement.

If the Council authorizes it, the Mayor may send an email to Climate Mayors indicating the City's desire to sign onto this Statement and join Climate Mayors.

**3. Authorize the Mayor to sign onto the Open Letter from "We Are Still In"**

On June 5, 2017, a total of 1,219 governors, mayors, businesses, investors, and colleges and universities from across the U.S. (or with significant operations in the U.S.), calling themselves "We Are Still In," declared their intent to continue to ensure the U.S. remains a global leader in reducing carbon emissions (Attachment 4). According to their website, "the statement is structured as an open letter, intended to clearly communicate to the administration and the international community that major subnational leaders in the U.S. are still committed to ambitious action on climate change, and intend to move forward with efforts to reduce carbon pollution and support the transition to a low carbon economy regardless of what the Trump Administration does regarding the Paris Agreement." It will be hosted online and will remain open for signatures indefinitely (Attachment 5).

If the Council authorizes it, the Mayor may complete the form included as Attachment 6. Completing and submitting the form does not commit the City to any specific actions; it is merely an affirmation, agreeing with the statement in the Open Letter.

**CONCLUSION:**

The response to President Trump’s withdrawal from the Paris Agreement has been swift and broad. The City of Fort Bragg and the Council have a made a commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting regional, state and national efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change. The City’s 2012 Draft Climate Action Plan establishes a GHG emission reduction goal of 15% for the community and 30% for local government by 2020. The Action Plan’s conclusion states, “Our commitment to sustainability should be integrated into our everyday decision making processes at City Council, within City departments, and throughout the community.” The Council is again in a position to show leadership and support the Paris Agreement in the absence of support at the national level and to make a commitment to support regional and state efforts locally.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

**CONSISTENCY:**

The attached resolution and the other actions under consideration are consistent with City Council Goal 3.0, “Establish Fort Bragg as a Leader in Sustainable Practices” and with the City’s 2012 Climate Action Plan.

**IMPLEMENTATION/TIMEFRAMES:**

If approved, the above actions could be completed by June 30, 2017.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Paris Agreement
2. Resolution in Support of the Paris Agreement
3. Climate Mayors Statement to President Trump
4. Open Letter from “We Are Still In”
5. “We Are Still In” FAQ
6. “We Are Still In” Form

**NOTIFICATION:**

None.

**City Clerk’s Office Use Only**

Agency Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved as Amended
Resolution No.:	_____	Ordinance No.:	_____
Moved by:	_____	Seconded by:	_____
Vote:	_____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Deferred/Continued to meeting of:	_____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to:	_____		