



# Center for Climate Protection **RESOLUTION**

## Recognizing Sonoma County Water Agency's Climate and Energy Leadership

Whereas a strong nexus exists between water, energy, and climate; and,

Whereas pumping water is the single largest use of electricity in California; and,

Whereas, hydroelectric power constitutes about 10 percent of California's electrical power; and,

Whereas the Sonoma County Water Agency has shown extraordinary climate and energy leadership through its establishment of energy generation, energy efficiency, and sustainability programs and projects under its "Carbon Free Water" program; and,

Whereas in 2011 the Water Agency initiated and funded an evaluation of Community Choice Aggregation that resulted in the creation of Sonoma Clean Power, the single largest greenhouse gas reduction action the county has taken; and,

Whereas the Water Agency participated in the Renewable Energy Secure Communities (RESCO) project the purpose of which was developing a model for a locally owned, cost-effective, renewable energy portfolio that will help Sonoma County reach its greenhouse gas reduction goals and help the Water Agency reach its goal of delivering Carbon Free Water; and,

Whereas in January 2013, a wind turbine was erected at the Geyserville Sanitation Zone wastewater treatment plant. The wind turbine provides about 7 percent of the annual power consumption for the Geyserville Sanitation Zone; and,

Whereas the Water Agency has implemented several significant energy efficiency improvements at its headquarters including window film application and lighting retrofits that combined save about 100 megawatt-hours per year; and,

Whereas the Water Agency is currently improving its vehicle fleet with electric, plug-in hybrid, and hybrid vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its transportation needs. As of 2014, the Agency has 29 hybrid, plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles, comprising almost 20% of the entire fleet; and,

Whereas the Water Agency has three solar photovoltaic systems that generate two megawatts of solar electricity, and has recently contracted to utilize its wastewater treatment ponds for 12.5 megawatts of floating solar; and,

Whereas, the Warm Springs Hydroelectric Dam operated by the Sonoma County Water Agency has produced carbon-free electricity since the late 1980s, with annual energy production from 2006 to 2008 being approximately 11,800 to 14,800 megawatt-hours; and,

Whereas the Water Agency has an active recycling program at its administration building and its operations and maintenance center; and,

Whereas the Water Agency has well-established water education and conservation programs;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Center for Climate Protection hereby commends the Board and staff of the Sonoma County Water Agency for its extraordinary climate and energy leadership, and urges the broader Sonoma County community to support the Water Agency's leadership in this arena.

Signed:

Jane Bender, President

Ann Hancock, Executive Director

Approved by board: March 23, 2015

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