

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL RECOMMENDING THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE AND ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROHIBITING CONSTRUCTION OF NEW AUTOMOTIVE GAS OR FUELING STATIONS OR EXPANSION OF EXISTING AUTOMOTIVE GAS OR FUELING STATION INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL

WHEREAS human activities have warmed the Earth to a point that threatens climate stability, and climate change has already set in motion catastrophic changes; and

WHEREAS critical tipping points must be avoided, as they will have cascading feedback effects that are predicted to cause an increasingly uncontrollable climate emergency; and

WHEREAS abrupt anthropogenic climate change is a real and increasingly urgent threat to public health and safety that demands action at every level of government; and

WHEREAS the current scale and speed of local government action has not resulted in the necessary reductions in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to limit global temperature increases; and

WHEREAS on January 26, 2018, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-48-18¹ calling for five million zero-emission vehicles by 2030 and the installation of 250,000 electric vehicle charging stations in the State; and

WHEREAS on September 12, 2018, Governor Brown issued, and Governor Newsom has since affirmed, Executive Order B-55-18², calling for the State to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045; and

WHEREAS on September 9, 2019, the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA) adopted a Climate Emergency Resolution³, and new gasoline stations are not consistent with this policy; and

WHEREAS between May 2019 and March 2021, the County of Sonoma and each of the incorporated jurisdictions adopted Climate Emergency Resolutions and committed to working on activities to address this state of climate emergency; and

WHEREAS on September 23, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-79-20⁴ setting 2035 as the year by which all new vehicles sold in California must be zero-emission; and

¹ <https://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/2018/01/26/governor-brown-takes-action-to-increase-zero-emission-vehicles-fund-new-climate-investments/index.html>

² <https://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/9.10.18-Executive-Order.pdf>

³ <https://scta.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/4.1.1-Climate-Emergency-Resolution.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/9.23.20-EO-N-79-20-Climate.pdf>

WHEREAS on March 8, 2021, the RCPA adopted a Sonoma Climate Mobilization Strategy⁵ which sets a goal of reaching countywide carbon neutrality by 2030; and

WHEREAS transportation accounts for 60%⁶ of GHG emissions in Sonoma County with the burning of gasoline and diesel fuel for transportation as the leading cause of GHG emissions in this sector; and

WHEREAS gasoline stations pose significant local impacts on public health and the environment, including toxic/carcinogenic air contamination, surface water runoff, leaking underground storage tanks, and more⁷; and

WHEREAS a just transition away from fossil fuels requires that local government actions are ecologically sustainable, equitable, and just for all its members; and

WHEREAS marginalized communities worldwide—including people of color, immigrants, indigenous communities, low-income people, those with disabilities, and the unhoused—are already disproportionately affected by climate change and must benefit from a just transition to a sustainable and equitable economy; and

WHEREAS currently there are over 635,000 electric vehicles (EVs) in California and almost 10,000 EVs in Sonoma County, and over 20,000 gasoline/hybrid vehicles, with the need for charging infrastructure inevitably growing as the need for gasoline stations correspondingly diminishes; and

WHEREAS in adopting the Climate Emergency Resolution on December 3, 2019, the City of Sebastopol City Council signified the City's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS in adopting the Sonoma Climate Mobilization Strategy, the RCPA Board prioritized Strategy 4—EV Access for All Partnership, calling for development of over 10,000 public and workplace charging stations in Sonoma County, addressing barriers for installing this charging equipment, and limiting fossil fuel infrastructure; and

WHEREAS there are three gasoline stations within the 1.88 square miles of the City of Sebastopol city limits, with two additional gasoline stations outside City limits along Highway 116; and

WHEREAS local government resources should be used to develop clean-emission, affordable, accessible, convenient public transportation networks; safe, connected pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure; and clean vehicle charging/fueling infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the RCPA recommends that the County of Sonoma and the incorporated jurisdictions of Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Sonoma,

⁵ <https://rcpa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Sonoma-Climate-Mobilization-Strategy-Adopted-2021-03-08.pdf>

⁶ <https://scta.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2018-GHG-Report-FINAL-9-25.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.ucusa.org/resources/hidden-costs-fossil-fuels>

and Windsor cease acceptance of all applications for new gas stations or expansion of existing gas station infrastructure in their local jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS as identified and adopted in the Sonoma Climate Mobilization Strategy, that the RCPA encourages the County of Sonoma and Sonoma County incorporated jurisdictions to continue developing clean-emission, affordable, accessible, convenient public transportation networks; installing safe, connected pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure; and expanding efforts to serve zero-emission vehicles through the installation of battery charging infrastructure and other necessary improvements for the essential transition to zero-emission vehicles; and

WHEREAS at its meeting on September 28, 2021, the City of Sebastopol's Climate Action Committee unanimously supported prohibiting construction of new automotive gas or fueling stations or expansion of existing automotive gas or fueling station infrastructure throughout the City of Sebastopol; and

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2021, the City of Sebastopol's Planning Commission conducted a study session and unanimously supported prohibiting construction of new automotive gas or fueling stations or expansion of existing automotive gas or fueling station infrastructure throughout the City of Sebastopol;

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2022, the City of Sebastopol's Planning Commission conducted a duly-noticed Public Hearing, deliberated, and found that as revised, the Zoning Ordinance is consistent with the aforementioned City goals, thereby enhancing consistency between the General Plan, and Zoning Ordinance, and other City policies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Planning Commission of the City of Sebastopol, California, does hereby recommend that the City Council approve and adopt amendments to the City of Sebastopol Zoning Ordinance prohibiting construction of new automotive gasoline fossil fueling stations or expansion of existing automotive gas or fueling station infrastructure throughout the City of Sebastopol.

The above and foregoing Resolution was duly passed, approved and adopted at a meeting by the Planning Commission on the 25th day of January, 2022, by the following vote:

VOTE:

Ayes: Chair Fritz, Vice Chair Oetinger, Commissioners Burnes, Douch, Kelley, Fernandez
Noes: none
Abstain: none
Absent: none

Certified:  _____

Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director