

**CITY OF SEBASTOPOL  
CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE  
AGENDA ITEM**

**Meeting** August 11, 2025

**To:** Climate Action Committee

**From:** Climate Action Committee Chair

**Subject:** Council Resolution in Support of California Polluters Pay Climate Superfund

**Recommendation:** The Climate Action Committee recommends that the City of Sebastopol pass a resolution in support of California Polluters Pay Climate Superfund [Assembly Bill 1243](#) (Addis, coauthored by Damon Connolly and Chris Rogers) and [Senate Bill 684](#) (Menjivar).

A copy of this resolution will be sent to our State Assembly and Senate representatives, the Attorney General, and the Governor.

**Funding:** Funding Needs: NA

Funding Source(s): NA

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

Over 7 California cities and over 8 environmental organizations have shown their leadership by voting to endorse the passage of the California Polluter Pay Climate Superfund. By supporting this effort, Sebastopol will join these other jurisdictions and organizations in encouraging the State to adopt legal requirements to study the cost impacts from very large GHG emitters, over 1 billion metric tons from 1990 to 2024, and to assess a one-time fee paid into a Superfund in annual installments.

The funds collected from these companies would be earmarked for projects such as wildfire recovery, energy efficiency upgrades, community resilience infrastructure and other climate-related efforts. At least 40% of the money would be prioritized for disadvantaged communities, which suffer disproportionately from pollution and other environmental harms.

For more background information, please see this [July 7th 2025 article](#) from the LA Times and this [June 6th article](#) in CalMatters.

**POLICIES:**

The following policies of the Sebastopol General Plan are potentially supported by the State of California passing the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund and funding climate action:

- Policy COS 8-2: Coordinate with Sonoma County and nearby cities to implement regional greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction plans and consolidate efforts to reduce GHGs throughout the County.
- Policy COS 8-3: Encourage local businesses and industries to engage in voluntary efforts to reduce GHG

emissions and energy consumption.

- Policy COS 8-4: Preserve, protect and enhance, as appropriate, the City's carbon sequestration resources, also referred to as "carbon sinks," to improve air quality and reduce net carbon emissions.
- Policy COS 8-5: Encourage public transit, ridesharing and van pooling, shortened and combined motor vehicle trips to work and services, use of bicycles, and walking. Minimize single passenger motor vehicle use.
- Policy COS 8-6: Demonstrate leadership in local and regional climate planning efforts through a range of tangible actions and policies.
- Policy COS 9-7: Promote efforts and programs, including increased access to clean technologies such as electric vehicles and charging stations, to encourage residents, businesses, and local organizations to use clean energy sources to supplant dirty technologies.

The Sebastopol Climate Action Framework can be supported by the State of California passing the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund and funding climate action. Here are some of the actions that could benefit from that funding:

- T3. Make biking, walking, and other active transportation options safer and easier by implementing a Complete Streets approach to street design.
- T4. Improve and electrify public transportation options.
- T5. Support a rapid, equitable transition to electric vehicles (EVs) for trips requiring a personal vehicle.
- LU2. Maintain and expand carbon sequestration potential and adaptation benefits through nature-based solutions
- BE1. Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from buildings and support better community health by eliminating natural gas use in new buildings, electrifying existing structures, minimizing embodied carbon in new construction and remodels, and making all buildings more energy efficient.
- BE2. Support low-income residents, renters, and others who face barriers to electrification or energy efficiency upgrades.
- BE3. Expand the installation of solar panels and other renewable energy sources, both locally and in partnership with other entities in Sonoma County, to further decarbonize Sebastopol's electricity supply.
- BE4. Maximize water conservation and reuse.
- BE5. Make buildings more resistant to climate change impacts, such as damage from floods, wildfires, extreme weather events, and other climate hazards.
- C5. Improve community preparedness for climate-influenced hazards.
- CO2. Pursue adequate funding and staffing needed to implement climate solutions, including robust community education and engagement activities.
- CO3. Reach carbon neutrality for all City-owned buildings and City operations by 2030 or sooner.
- CO4. Provide transparent and bold leadership on climate.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

As of the writing of this staff report, the City has not received any public comment. However, staff anticipates receiving public comment from interested parties following the publication and distribution of this staff report. Such comments will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials before or at the meeting. In addition, public comments may be offered during the public comment portion of the agenda item.

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**

This item was noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date.

**FUNDING NEEDS:**

NA

**RECOMMENDATION:**

[Staff to provide recommendation]

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- Draft Resolution in support of California Polluters Pay Climate Superfund

## California Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Legislation

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL SUPPORTING THE CALIFORNIA POLLUTERS PAY CLIMATE SUPERFUND ACT.

Whereas, the climate crisis, resulting primarily from the combustion of fossil fuels, is an immediate, grave threat to the people, communities, biodiversity, environment, and economy of the state and to local communities; and

Whereas, California communities, including The City of Sebastopol are under siege by escalating fires, floods, droughts, and other disasters. From 1980–2024, [46 extreme weather and climate disaster events](#) impacted California, with losses exceeding \$1 billion each; and

Whereas, in January 2025, the nation watched in horror as fatal firestorms raged across Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, killing 30 beloved community members, destroying entire communities and forcing tens of thousands of residents to evacuate. Over 12,000 homes, businesses and institutions burned in the apocalyptic fires. The devastation is estimated to cost Californians a staggering \$250 to \$275 billion; and

Whereas, across the state, local governments and taxpayers are bearing the immense, mounting costs of rebuilding from climate damages, increased insurance premiums, property taxes, and utility bills. State and local budgets are stretched to the brink as climate risks rise, jeopardizing public services, and forcing communities to carry the burden to address climate-related emergencies; and

Whereas, currently pending before the California state Assembly and Senate are two tandem bills, [Assembly Bill 1243](#) (Addis, coauthored by Damon Connolly and Chris Rogers) and [Senate Bill 684](#) (Menjivar), that seek to create the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act (Superfund Act); and

Whereas, the Superfund Act will require the multinational fossil fuel companies that are responsible for and profiting in the billions from the climate emergency help pay for their damages; and

Whereas, the Superfund Act will direct CalEPA to complete a first-of-its-kind comprehensive study of the true cost of climate damage to ensure polluters pay their fair share. The Act will hold the largest polluters accountable for the costs to California from climate damage caused by their products with compensatory fee amounts proportional to companies' self-reported past emissions from 1990-2024; and

Whereas, the policy advances California's commitment to equity and environmental justice. At least 40% of funds from the Polluters Pay Climate Fund will go to disadvantaged communities to remedy past climate damages and build a more resilient and equitable California. The funds will support urgently-needed projects such as implementing wildfire prevention measures like home hardening, upgrading stormwater management systems to prevent flooding, and installing solar panels and energy storage systems to reduce energy costs and increase resilience during power outages. Additionally, these funds could help develop urban green spaces to mitigate heat islands and improve air quality. Importantly, it could fund programs to support first responders and additional workers who provide essential services during climate disasters; and

Whereas, the states of New York and Vermont have enacted their versions of a climate superfund similar to this one; and

Whereas, The City of Sebastopol should support the Superfund Act because it is aligned with existing City of Sebastopol climate policies as enumerated in the City General Plan and the Climate Action Framework, and because it proposes to shift the burden of paying for the high costs of recovery from climate calamities from California taxpayers to the international oil and gas corporations that have been recording year-over-year profits in the many billions of dollars for the past few years,

**Now therefore be it resolved, that the City of Sebastopol strongly supports the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act, and encourages State representatives to enact it.**

A copy of this resolution will be sent to our State Assembly and Senate representatives, the Attorney General, and the Governor.

DRAFT