



RESOLUTION NO. 2019-01
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

WHEREAS, we believe that climate change is not a partisan issue and that local, state, and national policies should be guided by the best available science; and

WHEREAS, the global impact, urgency, and magnitude of the challenge of addressing climate change calls for leadership in all sectors of society, all institutions and all elected leaders; and

WHEREAS, we believe that climate change and environmentally sustainable practices are important initiatives affecting our community; and

WHEREAS, climate change is a social justice and equity issue. While climate change impacts all people and disproportionately impacts all young people and future generations, it disproportionately affects people of color and people in poverty, thereby exacerbating existing inequities and limiting equality of opportunity which is a foundational aspiration for modern America; and

WHEREAS, children represent a particularly vulnerable group because greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere will continue to accumulate over the coming decades and will profoundly impact our current students throughout their lives, as well as the lives of future generations; and

WHEREAS, we believe students, employees, and community members can positively impact sustainability and climate change; and

WHEREAS, we continue to support sustainability and efficiency initiatives and formalized our commitment through *Strategic Goal 3: Promote Fiscal Stability and the Effective Use of Organizational Resources*. Objective 6 provides for research and implementation actions to conserve resources and reduce utility costs by developing and implementing energy efficiencies and conservation; and

WHEREAS, we commend ongoing college sustainability efforts and actively support college initiatives to increase efficiency; and

WHEREAS, we continue to support and participate with the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA) whose mission is to establish Ventura County, its communities and neighboring regions, as the leader in developing and implementing durable, sustainable energy initiatives that support sensible growth, healthy environment and economy, enhanced quality of life, and greater self-reliance for the region by reducing energy demand and increasing energy efficiency and advancing the use of clean, efficient and renewable local resources. VCCCD annually appoints one Trustee each year to serve on the VCREA Board; and

WHEREAS, we commend current and ongoing Districtwide sustainability initiatives, including:


- Encouraging environmental education and climate science;
- Reducing utility costs and reliance on fossil fuels by investing in renewable energy sources across the District;
- Continuing Districtwide paperless initiatives, including the reduction of warehouse records and the use of an electronic Board agenda process;
- Promoting climate friendly food service initiatives to include the elimination of single-use plastics;

- Upgrading exterior and interior lighting on the Moorpark College, Oxnard College and Ventura College campuses with energy efficient LED lights as required within the California Clean Energy Jobs Act (Proposition 39);
- Conducting timely repairs and maintenance to facilities and implementing efficiencies for sustainability;
- Participating in countywide efforts to improve public transportation; and
- Supporting college-based green/sustainability initiatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the VCCCD Board of Trustees will continue its work in support of climate change and environmental sustainability and calls on Congress to take swift and effective action to protect current and future students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VCCCD Board of Trustees directs the clerk to transmit official copies of this resolution to the following: the Superintendent of County Schools, the State Superintendent of Education, the California State Board of Education, the Congressional Climate Solutions Caucus, the California State School Board Association, the American Association of Community Colleges Board, our state and national representatives in Sacramento and Washington D.C.

Adopted the 9th day of April, 2019



Dianne B. McKay, Board Chair


Larry Kennedy, Vice Chair


Joshua Chancer, Trustee


Bernardo M. Perez, Trustee


Gabriela Torres, Trustee


Greg Gillespie, Ph.D., Chancellor