

## Joint Resolution to Address Climate Change September 17, 2021

**WHEREAS**, according to the recent United Nations Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), catastrophic climate change impacts, including extreme droughts, severe heat waves and flooding, will continue to worsen for at least the next 30 years across the globe, while global sea levels will continue to rise at least for centuries<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the increasingly frequent and severe impacts of climate change in the Bay Area do not conform to jurisdictional boundaries or the planning and regulatory authorities of any one agency or organization, and are creating overlapping risks to public health and safety that necessitate an integrated approach to air pollution mitigation and climate resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, scientific estimates project that California could experience as much as seven feet of sea level rise by the end of the century<sup>2</sup>, with the San Francisco Bay estimated to experience two-thirds of the flood impacts projected for the state<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, increasingly frequent and severe wildfires are creating air quality impacts that represent a public health crisis for Bay Area residents, while undermining progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In 2020, wildfires released an estimated 112 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, warming temperatures and prolonged drought increasingly stress the Bay's estuarine ecosystem and the ecological processes that it supports, while threatening the water supplies of communities around the region and throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bay Area region's most socioeconomically vulnerable frontline communities are at great risk of exposure to climate threats and have limited access to the resources needed to reduce risks and increase the resilience necessary to recover from disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, by practicing an advanced form of coordination and strategic integration across the planning, investments, and regulatory activities of its member agencies, BARC aims to measurably and equitably improve the resilience, adaptive capacity,

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<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2021, August). *Climate Change 2021: Summary for Policymakers*. [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGI\\_SPM.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> California Legislative Analyst's office. (2020, August). *What Threat Does Sea-Level Rise Pose to California?*

[https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/4261#California\\_Will\\_Experience\\_Rising\\_Seas\\_and\\_Tides](https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/4261#California_Will_Experience_Rising_Seas_and_Tides)

<sup>3</sup> Barnard, P.L., Erikson, L.H., Foxgrover, A.C. *et al.* Dynamic flood modeling essential to assess the coastal impacts of climate change. *Sci Rep* 9, 4309 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-40742-z>

<sup>4</sup> California Air Resources Board. (2021). *Frequently Asked Questions: Wildfire Emissions*. <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/frequently-asked-questions-wildfire-emissio>

health and safety of Bay Area people and communities, our ecology and environment, economy and critical infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, BARC member agencies are working individually and collaboratively to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and harmful air pollutants through regulation, transportation and land use planning, community outreach, direct funding and investments, and incentive programs, recognizing the need to meet ambitious regional and state climate targets, including an overarching statewide goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2045; and

**WHEREAS**, BARC member agencies must work in close partnership with local governments and stakeholders, providing the resources, technical support, and guidance to advance actions at the local level focused particularly on helping frontline communities mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the regional and state agencies that comprise BARC create and update ambitious plans – most required through state law- to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change for multiple hazards, and to develop and enforce regulations that preserve the integrity of the region’s environmental quality. These planning and regulatory responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

The **Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)** and the **Metropolitan Transportation Commission**, through Plan Bay Area, set long-term priorities for the region’s transportation system, housing, economy, and environment through a suite of actions and investments.

The **Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD)**, through its Clean Air Plan and its regulatory authority, reduces the emissions of greenhouse gases and harmful air pollutants through a variety of control measures and incentive programs across sectors.

The **Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)** through the Bay Adapt Joint Platform, a voluntary, consensus-driven strategy for regional sea level rise adaptation, lays out a set of guiding principles and actions that will allow the region to adapt faster, better, and more equitably to a rising San Francisco Bay; furthermore, BCDC regulates dredging, filling and shoreline land use in the Bay pursuant to its Bay Plan, while helping to protect wetlands and increase public access to the Bay shoreline.

**Caltrans District 4** owns and manages core assets of the region’s transportation network and distributes critical funding that enables regions and local governments across California to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The **California State Coastal Conservancy** protects and preserves natural lands and waterways along California’s coast, including the nine-county Bay

Area, by providing technical assistance and grant funding to develop and support projects within its jurisdiction, while advancing statewide resource plans.

**The San Francisco Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board** protects and enhances the region's water quality and drinking water supply through planning, permitting and enforcement activities that regulate surface water and groundwater quality in the region, pursuant to its Water Quality Control Plan, known as the Basin Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the BARC member agencies will work together to strategically align planning and regulatory actions in order to accelerate the implementation of strategies that advance climate mitigation and adaptation goals. These include reducing mobile and point source carbon emissions, encouraging investments in housing and transportation that reduce climate risks and make the region more connected and affordable for all, and investing in climate adaptation strategies that make people and places more resilient, while prioritizing nature-based approaches where appropriate; and

**WHEREAS**, by establishing a structured framework for action, BARC and its member agencies can serve as a critical regional network that aligns and integrates resources, capacities, and areas of expertise to help the Bay Area region mitigate and adapt to climate change at the scale necessary, and with the sense of urgency the climate crisis demands.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BARC GOVERNING BOARD IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP OF THE BARC MEMBER AGENCIES:**

The BARC Governing Board commits to advancing the level of strategic coordination and collaboration necessary across BARC member agencies to meet the goals outlined in each agency's regional plans, including, but not limited to, the Bay Adapt Joint Platform, Plan Bay Area, the Clean Air Plan, the Basin Plan, the Bay Plan, the Estuary Blueprint, and the Baylands Goals Report.

To achieve this goal, BARC Member Agencies will jointly develop a Shared Work Plan – a framework for aligning regional authorities, capacities, and expertise – with the assistance of BARC staff.

The Shared Work Plan will focus on delivering specific high-priority regional climate mitigation and adaptation goals outlined in each agency's plans, identifying actions that necessitate the active involvement and investment of multiple agencies, and helps orient priority actions taken on by member agencies into a larger suite of strategies making up a coordinated, coherent approach. The Shared Work Plan will call for the participating agencies to commit and align staff resources, synchronize planning and regulatory actions, develop tools for measuring and evaluating progress and provide regular progress reports.

The Shared Work Plan will include, at a minimum:

1. Actions that advance specific climate mitigation and adaptation goals outlined in regional plans that would benefit from enhanced coordination across agencies, with a focus on those identified as a high priority for implementation over the next 1 to 5 years. These actions shall be structured in a way that maximize agency expertise, break down silos, and help avoid duplication of existing agency efforts.
2. A commitment to devote appropriate resources and staff time in the next fiscal year, as feasible, to advance the actions identified in the Shared Work Plan, acknowledging that some actions will require ongoing efforts over multiple years.
3. A commitment to work in collaboration to advance joint policy positions on state and federal legislation, with the goal of advancing legislation that provides funding and support for the region, local jurisdictions, and special districts.
4. A commitment to social equity, working across member agencies to support and partner with frontline communities to strengthen adaptive capacity and resilience.
5. A commitment to developing an integrated technical assistance program, in partnership with local governments, to support needed climate actions at the local level. This program is contingent upon having the appropriate level of funding in place.
6. Key metrics for monitoring and evaluating progress on the actions included in the Shared Work Plan.

Upon approval of this resolution, BARC staff will work with BARC member agencies to establish a reasonable timeline for the development of the Shared Work Plan, with the overall goal of completing it by January 2022. This timeline would enable the Shared Work Plan to effectively support the actions identified in Plan Bay Area 2050, Bay Adapt and other efforts that are scheduled for final adoption in late 2021. Furthermore, the Shared Work Plan should be completed in time to inform the fiscal year 2022-23 budgeting processes of BARC and BARC Member Agencies. A similar timeline shall be applied to future fiscal years. The BARC Governing Board will receive an annual report on Shared Work Plan progress.