

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO
RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, human activities have warmed the Earth to a point that threatens climate stability and the modern way of life; and world leaders from 196 nations came together in December 2015 to address this threat, limiting destabilizing activities by signing the Paris Climate Accord which has so far been ineffective in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report of the world's leading climate scientists (October 2018) warns **that there are only 11 years to keep warming at a maximum of 1.5C and avoid catastrophic breakdown**; The author of the IPCC said urgent and unprecedented changes are need to reach the target, which is affordable and feasible; and

WHEREAS, the 4th Annual National Climate Assessment (November 23, 2018) warns that extreme weather and climate-related events in the U.S. are worsening; this report concludes that without substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions weather-related disasters, health and economic impacts will increase dramatically; and

WHEREAS, for the Western U.S. the 4th Annual National Climate Assessment predicts increased drought cycles and heat waves with a resultant three-fold increase in intensity and magnitude of wildfires, unless greenhouse gas emissions are curbed; a 2015 special report in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society found the increase in fire risk in California is attributable to human-induced climate change; and a 2016 study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found that human-caused global warming doubled the area burned by wildfires in the Western U.S. over just the past 30 years; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Chico are directly affected by the environmental and human catastrophe brought on by the Camp Fire, the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in state history; this fire destroyed almost 14,000 single-family residences, 528 commercial buildings, took 85 lives and forced the evacuation of 50,000 people; the scope and extent of this tragedy and its toll on public health, public safety, air, water, health, taxpayer funded services, economic base, and displaced individuals and families is still unfolding; and

WHEREAS, damage to the Oroville Dam spillway, caused by severe rainfall in 2017, attributed to climate change, caused multi-day evacuation of 188,000 residents from their homes; and

WHEREAS, National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) reports that during 2017, the cumulative cost of weather and climate events exceeded \$300 billion, a record for the U.S; that figure will be greatly increased when the totals for 2018 are added; and

WHEREAS, the death and destruction already wrought by global warming of approximately 1 degree Centigrade demonstrates that the Earth is already too hot for safety; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Chico and neighboring areas are already suffering deeply from climate related disasters, this suffering is continuing to unfold and will persist for years to come; **we cannot wait for more wildfires, severe storms, heat waves and public health, safety, and humanitarian crises to threaten our communities before taking the necessary emergency response;** and

WHEREAS, indigenous, low income communities, communities of color, and other marginalized groups in the U.S. and the world will suffer the gravest consequences of global warming; and

WHEREAS, climate change has already set in motion catastrophic changes to the Earth system including accelerating ice mass loss that will result in sea-level rise, fresh water scarcity, the extinction of species, billions of climate refugees, the disappearance of island nations and devastation to Africa; and

WHEREAS, the Associated Students has already committed to “proactively support the University in their mission to reach climate neutrality” (AS Strategic Plan) which is to be achieved by 2030 as outlined in the University’s climate neutrality commitment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the CSU, Chico Associated Students declares that we face a Climate Emergency that threatens our campus, city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the CSU, Chico Associated Students calls for an emergency mobilization effort by California State University, Chico to educate residents about climate change, and work to advocate for a mass mobilization at the local, state, national, and global levels;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the CSU, Chico Associated Students calls on the Academic Senate, the Curriculum Advisory Board, and the CSU Board of Trustees to update curriculum requirements for each college to include classes about climate change and teach how to be more sustainable in each field;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the CSU, Chico Associated Students directs staff and all AS Directors to collaborate with each other and students (including the Sustainability Affairs

Commissioner and coordinators from AS Sustainability) to develop a climate action plan for the Associated Students to meet climate neutrality by 2030;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the CSU, Chico Associated Students calls the Academic Senate to **require** each faculty to annually go through a course/seminar on the impacts of climate change and how to appropriately teach it, through semester programs as developed by the Academic Senate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the CSU, Chico Associated Students work with the Academic Senate to create a new interdisciplinary program devoted to climate action, adaptation, and sustainability innovation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the CSU, Chico Associated Students calls to the Academic Senate and the Chancellor's Office to explore online courses teaching the basics of sustainability and climate change (similar to Not Anymore and Alcohol EDU); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the CSU, Chico Associated Students, partner with institutions, organizations, community groups, businesses, and neighboring city and county governments to carry forward a regional Climate Action Town Hall;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to hold the University and the Associated Students accountable, there will be an annual presentation to the campus community and stakeholders to report the implementation of this climate resolution, presented to the Sustainability Campus Committee and other auxiliary programs such as TWTS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the CSU, Chico Associated Students calls on all 23 California State Universities as well as the Board of Trustees to initiate a just global emergency mobilization effort to reverse global warming, which ends global greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and immediately initiates an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the CSU, Chico Associated Students calls on Director of Legislative Affairs and the President of the Associated Students CSU, Chico to bring forth this resolution for its implementation to at the California State Student Association (CSSA).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the CSU, Chico Associated Students calls the CSU Board of Trustees to declare a State of Climate Emergency and mobilize the collective power of the 23 campuses of the CSU to address the crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution be widely distributed to the local press and governing bodies including the CSU Chico Academic Senate, CSU Chico President, CSSA and each individual CSU AS/ASI, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Chico City Council, Butte County Board of Supervisors, California State Legislature, United States Government and the individual legislators of these bodies representing our region.

Date Approved: 4/24/19

By BOD