

RESOLUTION NO. 144-17

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA IN SUPPORT OF THE PROHIBITION OF CLEAR-CUTTING IN CALIFORNIA**

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**WHEREAS**, forests provide 75% of California's clean water supply by capturing snow, rain and fog and then storing, filtering, and gradually releasing water throughout the year; and this process increases humidity and rainfall, cools temperatures, and helps protect us from extreme weather; and

**WHEREAS**, forests are crucial in mitigating the impact of climate change because they remove 20% of carbon emissions from the air, and conversely deforestation causes 15% of all greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, our forests provide other essential environmental services as they release oxygen, prevent flooding and siltation, and support a wide diversity of plant and wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, the forests of California generate tremendous social, cultural and economic value from recreation, tourism, sport and commercial fishing, and wood products; and

**WHEREAS**, the widespread industrial logging method called clear-cutting involves the removal of virtually all trees and vegetation on large tracts, that are then cultivated with crop-like plantations of even-aged trees, usually of only one species, with the repeated broad application of toxic herbicides that prevent other tree and plant species from growing; and

**WHEREAS**, clear-cutting destroys the benefits of forests as it contaminates our water supply, increases greenhouse gas emissions, promotes drought, catastrophic wildfires, soil erosion, landslides, pest invasion, and deprives California communities of the economic benefits, cultural value, and recreation opportunities of our natural forests; and

**WHEREAS**, within the counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, San Francisco, and Marin, and in most public forests, the outmoded practice of clear-cutting is prohibited; and

**WHEREAS**, selective logging and modern forest management methods that promote fire-resilient, productive forests with trees of multiple ages and species can produce a sustainable supply of wood and forest products, and stable long term jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Richmond is a strong supporter of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change on public health, infrastructure, ecosystems, and public spaces in our community. It is only natural that the City of Richmond would support such efforts across the state and nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Richmond adopted a Climate Action Plan in 2016 to support the Richmond community's goals and policies identified in the City's General Plan 2030. These goals include climate justice; and

**WHEREAS**, for the purposes of this resolution "clearcutting" is defined as any public or private forest management or timber harvest method in which sixty percent (60%) or more of cubic tree volume of any area greater than two and one-half (2 ½) acres is felled within any fifteen-year period; and "clearcutting" also refers to any forest management or timber harvesting practice that results in the conditions shown in the figures and includes, but is not limited to, methods referred to as "even aged management," "seed tree removal," "shelterwood removal," "fuels reduction," "forest type conversion," "regeneration cutting," "patch cutting," and "plantation forestry."

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Richmond calls on the state legislature and Governor of California to prohibit the practice of industrial clear-cutting in the forests of California, require forest management methods that maximize carbon sequestration and forest health, and encourage neighboring states to prevent deforestation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution are sent to Governor Jerry Brown, State Senator Nancy Skinner, and Assemblymember Tony Thurmond.

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I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held on **December 19, 2017**, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Choi, Martinez, Myrick, Recinos, Willis, Vice Mayor Beckles, and Mayor Butt.  
NOES: None.  
ABSTENTIONS: None.  
ABSENT: None.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN  
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND  
(SEAL)

Approved:

TOM BUTT

Mayor

Approved as to form:

BRUCE GOODMILLER

City Attorney

State of California            }  
County of Contra Costa        : ss.  
City of Richmond               }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 144-17**, finally passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on December 19, 2017.



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Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond