

## **FOREST FRIENDLY RESOLUTION**

### **Enhancing Protections for California's Forests**

"WHEREAS, Our 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, Our forests continuously remove carbon dioxide from the air and store it in trees, roots, and forest soil, and this natural process is significant in the fight to reverse the climate crisis; with deforestation causing 15% of all greenhouse gas emissions, and intact forests absorbing up to 40% of human caused carbon dioxide releases, 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 clearcutting\* commonly involves the removal of virtually all trees and vegetation on large tracts, that are then cultivated with crop-like plantations of even-aged trees of limited species (usually only one species), with the repeated broad application of toxic herbicides used to prevent other tree and plant species from growing, and

WHEREAS, Timber and biotechnology corporations are currently seeking legal permission to openly cultivate genetically engineered trees for clearcut harvesting on tree plantations in the United States, a practice which threatens to further increase both clearcut plantation forestry and toxic herbicide application in such forestry; and genetically engineered trees and their pollen are potentially hazardous to human health, wildlife, and the biological integrity of wild tree and plant species, and

WHEREAS, Clearcut logging destroys many benefits of forests as it contaminates our water supply with herbicides and sediment, greatly increases greenhouse gas emissions for many decades, and promotes drought, catastrophic wildfires, soil erosion, landslides, pest invasion, and tree diseases, 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 clearcutting 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;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of \_\_\_\_\_ calls on the state legislature and Governor of California to prohibit the practice of industrial clearcut logging in the forests of California, require full immediate public disclosure of the locations and extent of clearcutting in California forests, and prohibit the outdoor cultivation of genetically engineered trees in California.

\* 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 15-year period; and "clearcutting" also refers to any forest management or timber harvesting practice that results in the above conditions 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".