

Alameda County vows to stick with Paris climate accord



Workers install photovoltaic panels on the roof of the county's Santa Rita Jail in 2001. (Dan Honda/Bay Area News Group)

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OAKLAND — Alameda County supervisors have declared support for the Paris climate agreement.

The supervisors' resolution approved last week was prompted by President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the accord.

"As the United States is a primary producer of greenhouse gases, the White House has, by pulling out of the Paris Climate Agreement, abdicated its moral responsibility to reduce emissions and prevent global catastrophe," the resolution reads.

The international agreement commits countries to voluntarily reduce greenhouse gas emissions and keep global warming to less than two degrees Celsius. Only two other countries, Syria and Nicaragua, have not joined the accord.

Syria has had a civil war for the past six years, and Nicaragua said it did not join the agreement because the accord did not go far enough to prevent climate change.

"Today's action builds on Alameda County's long history of leadership in sustainability and climate protection efforts starting over a decade ago," Supervisor Keith Carson said at the June 27 meeting.

In 2007, Alameda County set a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050. It adopted climate action plans to reduce emissions at its operations and in unincorporated communities.

Alameda County and 11 cities have created East Bay Community Energy, which is committed to supplying electricity generated from a high percentage of renewable power to homes and businesses.

The county has been recognized for having one of the greenest government fleets in the nation and has installed 3.5 megawatts of on-site solar power systems.

It also has assisted 552 local businesses that are California Green Business Certified.

"Climate change is directly impacting Alameda County citizens through sea level rise, flooding, increased wildfires, drought, spread of vector-borne diseases and air pollution harming the public health," the resolution reads.

More than 1,200 governors, mayors, businesses, investors and colleges and universities from throughout the United States have pledged to carry out the Paris agreement despite the administration's action, according to the resolution.

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