



Sustainability Value Analysis Team Climate Change Resolution

WHEREAS: The Centers for Disease Control states that “Climate change threatens human health and well-being in many ways, including impacts from increased extreme weather events, wildfire, decreased air quality, and illnesses transmitted by food, water, and diseases carriers such as mosquitoes and ticks.”

WHEREAS: According to the 2015 Lancet Commission, “Tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century.”

WHEREAS: The California Medical Association Foundation states that one of its aims is to “increase public understanding that climate change is an important public health issue and to build public support for climate change solutions.”

WHEREAS: The American Medical Association “...recognizes that whatever the etiology of global climate change, policymakers should work to reduce human contributions to such changes.”

WHEREAS: The American Public Health Association has declared 2017 the Year of Climate Change and Health. It states that “The science is clear: climate change is a serious threat to human health. Science is not an opinion. It is evidence.”

WHEREAS: The American Lung Association in California “recognizes that climate change is among the greatest threats to public health we will face this century. Californians are already experiencing climate change effects including increasing air pollution, more frequent and severe heat waves, longer wildfire seasons, severe drought conditions and other threats to lung health.”

WHEREAS: Kaiser Permanente and Dignity Health have both pledged to reduce their carbon footprint, prepare for climate impacts, and “lead the way to a low carbon future.”

WHEREAS: The Fresno Madera Medical Society has passed a Climate Change Resolution.

WHEREAS: Dr. Ken Bird, Fresno County Health Officer states, “We in Fresno county and the Valley cannot afford to ignore climate change and its health consequences. Our response must be two-pronged, with (1) primary prevention in the form of mitigation and (2) secondary prevention in the form of adaptation.

WHEREAS: Climate change will likely worsen our Central Valley’s air quality—already rated as one of the worst in the country. Higher atmospheric temperatures directly increase ozone concentrations. Smoke from more frequent forest fires will likely elevate fine particulate matter concentrations. Our youngest and most vulnerable residents will bear the brunt of worsening air quality, affecting the breathing of thousands of children with asthma, as well as thousands of adults with emphysema and heart disease. Rising healthcare costs due to these effects will be borne by all of us.

RESOLVED: We recognize that climate change may threaten the health and well-being of the patients we serve.

RESOLVED: We reiterate our commitment to consider climate change efforts that are consistent with CMC’s mission, as so deemed by CMC leadership and its Board of Trustees, on behalf of our patients and communities.

RESOLVED: We support efforts to conserve resources and implement sustainable practices where such practices do not impede CMC’s mission.

RESOLVED: We will encourage CMC leadership, departments and employees to review and improve their carbon footprint and that of their supply chain, and encourage them to prepare for climate impacts when appropriate and feasible.

RESOLVED: We support efforts to educate our employees, patients, the medical community and the general public regarding the potential adverse health effects of global climate change that are consistent with CMC’s mission, as so deemed by CMC leadership and its Board of Trustees.

RESOLVED: We support efforts to communicate with our local, state, and national legislators, and request that they take action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change to the extent that such efforts are consistent with CMC’s mission, as so deemed by CMC leadership and its Board of Trustees.