RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PROHIBITION OF INDUSTRIAL CLEARCUTTING IN CALIFORNIA 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 intact forests absorbing up to 30% \(^1\) of human caused carbon dioxide releases; and, conversely deforestation causing 15% \(^2\) 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 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, Clearcutting 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 other 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 San Mateo calls on the state legislature and Governor of California to prohibit the practice of industrial clearcutting in the forests of California, require forest management methods that maximize carbon sequestration and forest health, and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the resolution are sent to [Governor Jerry Brown, State Senator Jerry Hill, and Assemblymember Kevin Mullin].

Figure 1 – Selective Logging. Note the difference between this practice and clear-

Figure 2 – Industrial Clear-cut Logging