Subject: A resolution to be presented to town or city councils in support of our campaign to stop widespread industrial clear-cut logging in the state of California.

1) WHEREAS, our forests fight global warming as they store up to 20% of carbon emissions, release oxygen, cool streams, prevent flooding and siltation, resist fire, and provide food, shelter, migration routes for wildlife, and

2) WHEREAS, our forests provide 75% of California’s clean water supply by capturing snow, rain and fog; storing, filtering and gradually releasing water throughout the year; and increasing humidity, rainfall, and lowering temperatures, and

3) WHEREAS, clear-cut logging undermines the benefits of forests by increasing the risk of water supply contamination, worsening greenhouse gas emissions, and intensifying drought and wildfires, and

4) WHEREAS, widespread industrial clear-cutting involves removal of virtually all trees in 20 to 30-acre tracts, often requires repeated application of toxic herbicides, then replacement by tree plantations, all of which increase the risk of wildfires, landslides, soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, pest invasions, and tree diseases, and

5) WHEREAS, a new tree plantation emits more carbon than it stores for the first 20 years and requires 80% more water than a mature forest, and

6) WHEREAS, 1,076,504 acres were clear-cut out of 3,334,743 acres logged, within the 13 million acres of privately owned forest land in California, between 1990 and 2008, and

7) WHEREAS, the sustainable selective logging of trees of multiple ages and species produces sufficient wood products and creates more consistent jobs and revenues than clear-cutting, maintains a local supply, allows for more frequent logging of smaller harvests, and

8) WHEREAS, the forests of California promote human health and well-being as well as economic value from jobs in recreation, tourism, sport and commercial fishing, and wood products;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council of Menlo Park call on the state legislature and Governor of California to prohibit industrial clear-cut logging in the forests of California and adopt sustainable selective logging practices, which will leave our diverse ecosystems intact.

Mayor Catherine Carlton______________________________

Vice Mayor Richard Cline ______________________________

City Council Member Kirsten Keith____________________________

City Council Member Ray Mueller____________________________

City Council Member Peter I. Ohtaki __________________________
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.”