RESOLUTION NO. P-35-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FOSTER CITY RECOMMENDING CITY COUNCIL ADOPTION OF A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

CITY OF FOSTER CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the City of Foster City has prepared an update to the City's General Plan Land Use and Circulation Element and Land Use Map and a new Climate Action Plan. These three components are collectively referred to as the "Project"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Foster City, in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines adopted by the Secretary of Resources, and the City of Foster City Environmental Review Guidelines, has prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which analyzes the environmental impacts of the proposed Project (SCH #2012072003, EA-11-002); and

WHEREAS, a Notice of Preparation of an EIR (July 2, 2012) and then revised on January 20, 2015) for the Project was prepared and circulated for the required 30-day public review period; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has guided the update of the Land Use and Circulation Element and Climate Action Plan in fifteen previous Planning Commission meetings (August 31, 2010, May 17, 2011, June 7, 2011, June 21, 2011, July 7, 2011, November 15, 2011, December 6, 2011, December 15, 2011, May 3, 2012, July 17, 2012, July 19, 2012, December 20, 2012, October 2, 2014, February 19, 2015, August 20, 2015); and

WHEREAS, the City Council has guided the update of the Land Use and Circulation Element and Climate Action Plan in six previous City Council meetings (May 17, 2010, December 19, 2011, March 19, 2012, March 10, 2014, October 20, 2014, February 2, 2015); and

WHEREAS, public scoping sessions to solicit feedback on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR were held in conjunction with the Planning Commission meetings on July 19, 2012 and February 19, 2015; and

WHEREAS, a Draft EIR (July 2015) was prepared by DeNovo Planning Group and circulated by the City for the required minimum 45-day public review period beginning on July 6, 2015 and ending on August 31, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the City transmitted for filing a Notice of Completion (July 6, 2015) of the Draft EIR and in accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines forwarded the Draft EIR to the State Clearinghouse for distribution to those state agencies that have discretionary approval or jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by the Project; and

WHEREAS, the City provided notice to all interested persons and agencies inviting comments on the Draft EIR in accordance with the provisions of CEQA, the State CEQA Guidelines and the City of Foster City Environmental Review Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a noticed Public Hearing to receive comments on the Draft EIR on August 20, 2015; and

WHEREAS, a Final EIR, including the Draft EIR, comments on the Draft EIR, responses to comments on the Draft EIR, and revisions to the Draft (September 2015) was prepared by DeNovo Planning Group incorporating responses to comments received on the Draft EIR; and

WHEREAS, a Notice of Public Hearing was duly posted for consideration of the Final EIR at the Planning Commission meeting of October 1, 2015, and on said date the Public Hearing was opened, held and closed; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed and considered the Final EIR on October 1, 2015 and recommended certification of the Final EIR and adoption of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program by the City Council by adoption of Resolution P-32-15; and,

WHEREAS, copies of the Final EIR and other documents and materials which constitute the record of the proceedings upon which this decision is based are available for public review from the custodian of these records, the Community Development Department, at City Hall, 610 Foster City Boulevard, Foster City; and

WHEREAS, in order to approve the Project, the City must find that there are no feasible mitigation measures or alternatives to avoid the significant unavoidable impacts and must adopt a statement of overriding considerations detailing the specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of the Project that outweigh its significant effects on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed and considered the Final EIR on October 1, 2015 and recommended certification of the Final EIR and adoption of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program by the City Council by adoption of Resolution P-32-15; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed and considered the Final EIR and other written correspondence, verbal testimony, staff reports, and background reports and adopted findings, and recommended City Council adoption of such findings, regarding the significant environmental impacts of the proposed project, including a Statement of Overriding Considerations by adoption of Resolution P-33-15; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Action Plan will be a blueprint of the community's response to the challenges posed by climate change, including a plan for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and includes targets to achieve 15 percent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction below 2005 levels by 2020, 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2025,80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Action Plan includes measures that are compatible with the General Plan Land Use and Circulation Element so that the GHG reduction measure in the Climate Action Plan will tie into new development projects as well as existing development and municipal and community activities; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Action Plan will serve as a programmatic tiering document under CEQA and will sere as a tool for GHG analysis and mitigation review for new projects and will help guide future planning, development and municipal policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Action Plan includes implementation and monitoring measures, including a commitment to update the inventory, forecast and reduction measures a minimum of once every five years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Foster City Planning Commission, based on facts and analysis in the Staff Reports, written and oral testimony, mitigation measures included in the project, and exhibits presented, finds that the proposed General Plan Amendment combined with the Climate Action Plan will have the following benefits:

1. The General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan promote compact and environmentally-sustainable development through goals and policies that balance the need for adequate infrastructure, housing, and economic vitality with the need for resource management, environmental protection, and preservation of quality of life for Foster City residents.

2. The General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan eliminate goals, policies, and programs that are no longer relevant and ensure the Project reflects the goals, policies, and programs needed to guide the development and growth of the City while maintaining and enhancing the quality of life of the citizens.

3. The General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan EIR creates a programmatic tiering document that addresses the elements identified at CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(1).

4. The General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan improve mobility options through the development of a multi-modal transportation network that enhances connectivity, supports community development patterns, limits traffic congestion, promotes public and alternative transportation methods, and supports the goals of adopted regional transportation plans.

5. The General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan protect the integrity and quality of residential neighborhoods and commercial areas by establishing goals, policies and implementing regulations that: assure property maintenance and quality design; protect waterways and the community's water-orientation; and continue to emphasize that Foster City is a "master-planned" community with a balance of residential, commercial and recreational uses.

6. The General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan address adverse environmental effects associated with global climate change by facilitating sustainable development, promoting energy efficiency, and promoting development that reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

7. The General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan provide methods for reducing Foster City's greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the direction of the State of California through the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), Governor's Order S-03-05, and Public Resources Code Section 21083.3

8. The General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan are the products of a comprehensive public planning effort driven by members of the public, city

stakeholders, the Planning Commission and the City Council through a series of public meetings, hearings and workshops that resulted in a thoughtful balance of community, economic, development, and environmental interests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Commission of the City of Foster City does hereby recommend that the City Council adopt the Climate Action Plan dated September 2015.

PASSED AND ADOPTED as a Resolution of the City of Foster City Planning Commission at a Regular Meeting held on October 1, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES, COMMISSIONERS: Avram, Dyckman, Pattum and Chair Williams

NOES, COMMISSIONERS: Wykoff

ABSENT, COMMISSIONERS:

ABSTAIN, COMMISSIONERS:

PAUL C. WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

CURTIS BANKS, SECRETARY