

## **Resolution on Climate Change and Inequality**

Whereas, the effects of man-made climate change are happening at an ever-increasing rate and Southern California is experiencing these effects through increased droughts, wildfires and other natural disasters.

Whereas, California has been a model for developing policies that address climate change. Green house gas emissions have been decreasing in California while our economy has grown faster than the rest of the nation after the Great Recession.

Whereas, despite the economic growth, California's income inequality has grown, leaving low wage earners spending a larger percentage of their income on food, water, and energy.

Whereas, job sectors that predominantly employ low socioeconomic groups are the sectors that will be affected by climate change the most. For example, the agricultural industry will be experiencing fundamental change in how we grow due to the shifts in precipitation patterns. As the climate becomes more volatile, our jobs will become less predictable.

Whereas, low wage workers have less access to insurance, less access to affordable capital, and fewer financial resources that will create insurmountable hurdles after extreme weather events. Reconstruction of homes and businesses in the lower socioeconomic groups will take longer after floods, wildfires and other natural disasters caused by our changing climate.

Whereas, our communities and economy are at risk when climate change is not addressed.

Therefore let it be resolved that the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council supports cities and counties that are implementing policies to address climate change should track and publically release all investments from local, state, and federal funds to ensure an appropriate amount of public funds are invested in lower socioeconomic communities to uphold community resiliency in the face of the effects of climate change.

Therefore be it further resolved that the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council supports all climate change funding, as suggested in the Climate Convening Report, to create a sustainable economy that lifts up working families and strengthens our middle-class ensuring green jobs maintain and create pathways into the middle-class by Local Hire Agreements, joint labor-management apprenticeship partnering opportunities, workforce safety standards and certifications, and responsible contractor criteria. These are some of the tools that policy makers and decision makers can employ to create family-sustaining jobs that provide upward mobility and career opportunities.