RESOLUTION 2018-2019-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE REDWAY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

URGING CALPERS TO DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES

WHEREAS, the climate crisis is a serious threat to current and future generations here in Redway, California and around the world; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report found that global warming is already causing costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world, including changes in extremes of temperature and precipitation with more frequent and longer heat waves and drought; a reduction in permafrost and the melting of Arctic ice; the warming and acidification of the ocean and rise in global mean sea level; and, that the risks of abrupt or irreversible changes increase as the magnitude of the warming increases; and

WHEREAS, almost every government in the world has agreed through the 2009 Copenhagen Accord that any warming above 2°C (36°F) rise would be unsafe; and

WHEREAS, for the purpose of this ordinance, a “fossil fuel company” shall be defined as any of the two hundred publicly-traded companies with the largest coal, oil, and gas reserves as measured by the gigatons of carbon dioxide that would be emitted if those reserves were extracted and burned, as listed in Fossil Free Indexes’ Carbon Underground 200 list, updated annually; and

WHEREAS, oil companies including BP and Shell have confirmed that burning all known fossil fuels would result in more than 2°C of warming; and

WHEREAS, in its “unburnable Carbon” report, the Carbon Tracker Initiative found that fossil fuel companies possess proven fossil fuel reserves that would release approximately 2,795 gigatons of CO2 if they are burned, which is five times the amount that can be released without exceeding 2°C of warming; and

WHEREAS, over the past three and five years, respectively, global stock indexes without fossil fuel holdings have outperformed otherwise identical indexes that include fossil fuel companies; and
WHEREAS, Trillium Asset Management estimates that CalPERS already lost $3 billion due to their holdings in equity assets of the world’s 200 largest coal, oil, and gas companies over the 2014-2015 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the exposure of CalPERS portfolio to climate-related financial risk may threaten the financial security of retired, current and/or future employees covered by a CalPERS’ pension or benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Redway Community Services District believes that investment should support a future where all citizens can live healthy lives without the negative impacts of a warming environmental; and

WHEREAS, the Redway Community Services District contracts with CalPERS for health coverage; and

WHEREAS, Redway Community Services District contributions are being invested in the fossil fuel industry that is negatively impacted our ability to thrive on a planet with a dangerously disrupted climate; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of the Redway Community Services District urges the Board of CalPERS to review their investment portfolio to identify holdings that include direct or indirect investments in fossil fuel companies; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Redway Community Services District urges CalPERS to ensure that none of its investments or commingled assets include holdings in fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within 5 years as determined by the Carbon Tracker list; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Redway Community Services District urges CalPERS to release quarterly updates, available to the public, detailing progress made towards full divestment including indirect and commingled assets; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Redway Community Services District urges CalPERS to prepare a report discussing options for investing funds removed from fossil fuel stocks in a way that maximizes the positive impact by seeking out investments in opportunities to limit the effects of burning fossil fuels or help to mitigate its effects including, but not limited to, clean technology & renewable energy, sustainable companies or projects, and sustainable communities with an emphasis on investments that would support local projects and local jobs; and
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of the Redway Community Services District shall send a copy of this Resolution, along with a cover letter, to the Board of California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) urging them to divest their holding from fossil fuel companies over a period of 3 years.

AYES: (5)
Arthur McClure
Linda Sutton
Dian Griffith
Michael McKaskle
Scott Kender

Arthur McClure, Chairman of the Board

CERTIFICATION

I, Nancy D. Jurens, duly appointed and Secretary to the Board of the Redway Community Services District, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and approved by the Board of Directors of the Redway Community Services District on the 19th day of September, 2018.

September 20, 2018  
Date

Nancy Jurens, Secretary to the Board