

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRISBANE CALLING 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 City Council of the City of Brisbane 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.

Clifford R. Lentz, Mayor

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2016-10 was duly and regularly adopted at the meeting of the Brisbane City Council on May 19, 2016 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Sheri Marie Spediacci, City Clerk



IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE, APRIL 7, 2015

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MENLO PARK PASSES RESOLUTION TO BAN CLEARCUT LOGGING IN CALIFORNIA

Menlo Park, CA— On Tuesday April 7, 2015, Menlo Park’s City Council passed a resolution to call on the state legislature and governor to ban clearcut logging in California, making it the fifth California municipality to pass a resolution. Other cities to pass such a resolution are Daly City, San Francisco, Davis, and Monte Sereno. Saratoga and Sunnyvale have taken other supportive actions.

Why are a growing number of cities, where no clearcutting occurs, speaking out against clearcutting?

“Given how critical water is to all Californians and how important healthy forest ecosystems are to California's water production, we need to do what we can to protect water at its source.” stated City Councilmember Ray Mueller who initiated the action. Logging operations on private lands are regulated by the governor and the state legislature. Passing resolutions to ban clearcutting is an effective means of letting them know their constituency wants them to take action.

Clearcutting is an ecologically destructive form of logging in which nearly all native vegetation is removed, soils are deep-ripped, and herbicides are applied across the landscape. It harms water quality, wildlife habitat, and exacerbates climate change. It replaces diverse forests with tree farms that can have a higher risk of catching fire.

Timber can be harvested using a less destructive method known as selective logging, which involves the carefully planned removal of some trees while leaving the forest intact. Selective logging is the method used in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

What happens in the forests – especially in the Sierras – is important to Bay Area Cities. 60% of Bay Area water is stored in and filtered through Sierra forest watersheds, and 15% comes from the forested Santa Cruz Mountains. In addition, at least 15% of California’s carbon dioxide emissions are sequestered by California forests, and clearcutting both reduces the amount of carbon forests can retain, and releases excess greenhouse gases.

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CALIFORNIA CITY RESOLUTION *(Continued)*

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.”

Figure 1 – 20 Acre Clear-Cutting West of Lassen Peak(Google Maps).



Figure 2–Selective Logging. Note the difference between this practice and clear-cutting.



Figure 3 –Industrial Clear-cut Logging