



December 13, 2021

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
 California State Assembly
 State Capitol Building
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Concurrent Resolution 109 (Gonzalez) -- SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are pleased to offer our strong support for Assembly Concurrent Resolution 109 which calls upon California’s public agencies and departments to invest resources in building resilience to extreme heat, prioritizing communities that are most vulnerable.

The impacts of extreme heat are here, and they not only magnify the effects of other climate challenges, but also pose a tremendous threat to public health and safety, infrastructure, agriculture, and water and energy security. During extreme heat waves, workers in both outdoor and indoor workplaces are at risk of heat-related illnesses, and children face challenges with learning, especially when they attend schools

that are ill-equipped to mitigate heat. Studies estimate that in the United States an average of 5,600 heat-related deaths occur each year, but because heat-related deaths are severely undercounted, the actual numbers are likely to be significantly higher. Additionally, California's Fourth Climate Assessment predicts that even if greenhouse gas emissions are reduced at a moderate rate, extreme heat days as measured in Fresno, for example, would still increase from an average of four per year in 2005 to 26 per year in 2050.

Some communities are equipped with amenities that reduce and mitigate the felt effects of excessive heat, but often low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately impacted and face elevated risks.

Unless the state takes immediate and ambitious action to strengthen its resilience to extreme heat and protect those most vulnerable, countless lives will be lost as extreme weather events become more frequent and severe.

However, effective mitigation and adaptation measures exist and include nature-based solutions such as increased urban forestry and vegetation in urban areas. ACR 109 would affirm the Legislature's recognition of extreme heat as a serious and urgent threat and help catalyze transformative change.

For these reasons, we are in strong support of ACR 109, and applaud your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Sona Mohnot
The Greenlining Institute

Manny Gonez
TreePeople

Claire Robinson
Amigos de los Rios

Cindy Blain
California ReLeaf

Bryan Tassej
Tree Partners Foundation

Ken Knight
Your Children's Trees

David Wilkinson
Woodland Tree Foundation

Darleen DeMason
Victoria Avenue Forever

Isabel Wade
Just One tree

Mark Kenyon
North East Trees

Jackie Heyneman
Save Our Forest

Christine Viterelli
City of Arvin

Manuel Alonso-Martinez
Earth Team

Fatima Malik
Del Paso Heights Growers' Alliance

Markos Major
Climate Action Now!

David White
Center for Regenerative Agriculture

Kelaine Vargas Ravdin
Urban Ecos

Paula White
The Watershed Project

Antony V. López
Avenal Historical Society & Museum

Mario Becerra
A Cleaner Greener East LA

Rachel Payne
The Tree Pledge

Dan Efseaff
Paradise Parks & Rec District

Susan Stephenson
California Interfaith Power

Jeanne McConnell
Angelenos for Trees

Tori Kjer
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Betsy Reifsnider
Mono Lake Committee

Torri Estrada
Carbon Cycle Institute

Marissa Llanes
Community Nature Connection

Michael Wellborn
Friends of Harbors,
Beaches and Parks

Jonathan Matz
Safe Routes Partnership

David Read
Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture

Betsy Reifsnider
Sacramento Area Congregations
Together

Katelyn Roedner Sutter
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Madera Coalition
Community Justice

Matthew Baker
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Caitlin Dalby
Butte Environmental Council

Alexis Sutterman
California Environmental
Justice Alliance

Andria Ventura
Clean Water Action

Adam Livingston
Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Catherin Garoupa White
Central Valley Air
Quality Coalition

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Ellie Cohen
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Industrial District Green

Nikita Koraddi
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Defense Council

Redgie Collins
California Trout

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Climate Resolve

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Chris Conlee
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