



## **RESOLUTION OF THE SAN DIEGO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION CALLING FOR AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE POLLUTERS PAY CLIMATE SUPERFUND ACT AND CAMPAIGN**

**WHEREAS** extreme weather events have become more frequent, damaging, and expensive due to the climate crisis, with the number of presidentially declared significant catastrophes more than tripling over the past 40 years;

**WHEREAS** government agencies are spending more on disasters than their yearly discretionary budget, with the estimated cost of the 2025 LA fires being over \$250 billion alone and costing California taxpayers dearly;

**WHEREAS** in January 2024, heavy flooding in San Diego County, made more severe by climate change, damaged thousands of homes and displaced 1,200 people, damage which could have been avoided if a \$459 million funding shortfall in 2018 had not prevented the upgrading of aging stormwater infrastructure;

**WHEREAS** communities across California are ill-equipped to recover from increasingly prevalent natural disasters, with the increasing cost of disaster insurance leaving many without a lifeline;

**WHEREAS** vulnerable and frontline communities are bearing the brunt of these unjust impacts, and are in dire need of improved infrastructure, relief from disasters/pollutants, and green job training;

**WHEREAS** fossil fuel companies have been burying the truth of the climate crisis since the 1960s, intentionally misinforming the public through greenwashing and harmful campaigns as they reap increasingly high profits in the trillions of dollars during the hottest decade on record;

**WHEREAS** a mere ninety companies have been responsible for the majority of historic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and current developments in attribution science allow scientists to pinpoint who is at fault;

**WHEREAS** the San Diego Education Association (SDEA) has enacted support of other climate policies, including CalSTRS fossil fuel divestment, and our district would benefit directly from the bill's funding for electrified school infrastructure, heat pumps, and air filtration systems;

**WHEREAS** the states of New York and Vermont have already implemented similar Climate Superfunds, and as a leader in climate action California should do so similarly;

**WHEREAS** California's Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act (SB 684 and AB 1243) would hold fossil fuel companies financially accountable for the damage caused by the sale of their product, requiring their contribution to a statewide superfund;

**WHEREAS** this would apply to fossil fuel companies responsible for more than 1 billion metric tons of GHG emissions from 1990-2024, and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) would determine the costs and administer the program until 2045;

**WHEREAS** the fund would be exclusively distributed towards projects responding to and mitigating climate change, reducing the strain on our people and government and ensuring 40% of funding is allocated towards environmental justice communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the San Diego Education Association (SDEA), recognizing the importance of broad coalition support of the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund for a rapid, just, and financially solvent response to climate change, urges the California Teachers Association (CTA) to endorse the immediate enactment of California's Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025 (SB 684 and AB 1243).