

A RESOLUTION TO END BIOMASS CONTRACTS

WHEREAS, the City of Arcata is committed to ensuring and safeguarding the health, safety, and environment of the residents of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt Sawmill Company's biomass plant is the largest stationary source of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in Humboldt County, emitting nearly 300,000 metric tons of CO₂e along with fine particulates and air toxics which increase rates of heart disease, asthma attacks, strokes, cancer, adverse birth outcomes, learning disabilities, and premature death;

Whereas the climate emergency requires immediate and substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions while 40% of RCEA's renewable energy portfolio is biomass whose emissions warm the planet for decades;

Whereas, the Humboldt Sawmill Company has been repeatedly cited by the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District for multiple violations of the Clean Air Act and by the Northern Coastal Regional Water Quality Control Board for multiple violations of the Clean Water Act during the time it has provided power to RCEA; and

Whereas the climate and health consequences of biomass pollution disproportionately harm BIPOC and low income people, youth and elders; and

Whereas the Humboldt Del Norte Medical Society has called for an end to biomass contracts; and

Whereas RCEA's biomass contract contains a provision allowing RCEA to exit prematurely if the biomass plant violates environmental laws;

Therefore be it resolved that the City of Arcata reiterates its 2019 commitment to 100% clean and renewable energy by 2025 by calling on RCEA to terminate its biomass contract with Humboldt Sawmill as soon as clean energy is available to replace it and to permanently remove biomass incineration from its portfolio; and that Arcata's representative to the RCEA Board will introduce and vote for a resolution to this effect.

If that resolution fails, Arcata's RCEA Board representative will introduce and vote for a resolution that RCEA not enter into any new contracts for biomass combustion and permanently remove it from their portfolio when the current contract expires in 2031.