**November 2021**

**CDP Resolution Packet**

*Lead Co-Chairs: Agi Kessler & Brandon Zavala*

*Saturday, November 13, 2021*

**RESOLUTION 21-11.001**

**Justice for Haitian Refugees**

WHEREAS on September 19, 2021 national press reported images of Border Patrol agents on horseback hounding Haitian migrants near the U.S.-Mexico border, more than 14,000 of whom were camped under the Del Rio bridge, and dozens of state police vehicles blocking entrance across the river; and

WHEREAS Department of Justice statistics reported by NPR and the Associated Press have shown that "[Haitian] ... people are [the refugee group] most likely to be denied U.S. asylum," and "from October 2018 through June 2021, of 4,202 applications [for refugee status from prospective Haitian immigrants], only 194 were granted during this period."

WHEREAS the wave of Haitian migrants are fleeing a nation that just this summer experienced both a magnitude 7.2 earthquake and storm that killed approximately 2200 people and the assassination of its Haiti’s former president which exacerbated violence and instability, all while the nation has yet to recover from a 2010 earthquake that affected 3 million people and irreparably destroyed infrastructure some of which has not been rebuilt.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party joins President Joe Biden and Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas in condemning the actions taken at the U.S. – Mexico border; and urges the administration to enact just policies and tactics that provide the equitable granting of asylum claims for Haitian refugees, including those Haitian immigrants underway on American soil.

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**RESOLUTION 21-11.002**

**Defending Election Certification Process**

WHEREAS Republicans are using a new strategy to subvert elections by packing county and statewide election certification boards with officials willing to commandeer the certification process to deny duly elected Democrats their seats; and

WHEREAS current efforts in Congress are focused on protecting voting rights of individuals, but what is not being addressed is protection of the entire electoral process through to final election certification; and

WHEREAS state election certifications should be protected by federal provisions to prevent election results from being overturned by partisan interference;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party urges the California Democratic Congressional delegation to defend the election certification process to guarantee the will of the voters is upheld in each state.

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**RESOLUTION 21-08.028**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REFORMING U.S. TAX CODE TO REDUCE THE RACIAL WEALTH & INCOME INEQUALITY GAP**

WHEREAS, many of the provisions from the 2018 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act expanded the wealth of wealthier Americans but did very little to level the playing field for Black families and other minority groups; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party aims to build a stronger, fairer economy, it must do so through tax reform that benefits everyone, not just the wealthy. On April 15, 2021 the State and Local Tax Caucus was created to advocate for the removal of the $10,000 cap on the SALT deduction. Removal of this cap allows wealthier households to lower their federal taxes by writing off a larger amount of state and local tax. National organizations and various committees such as the Joint Committee on Taxation, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the Tax Policy Center, and the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy, have reported that SALT deductions over the current cap will predominantly benefit high-income taxpayers.

WHEREAS, for initiatives that aim to change the tax code, all income levels should benefit. Without Congressional action to end preferential tax policies, Black families and other minority groups will continue to be invisible in a system that purports to value equality.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Orange County, in the pursuit of an equitable tax system for everyone, supports tax policy change aimed at giving serious consideration to reducing the racial wealth and income inequality gap for low-income and working-class people, particularly Black families and other minority groups.

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**RESOLUTION 21-08.038**

**Removing Barriers to Low-Cost Housing**

WHEREAS zoning or other policies that limit housing density in certain neighborhoods makes it difficult for low and middle-income Californians to live near their jobs, leads to long commutes and more pollution, causes schools to be racially segregated, and concentrates development in places at risk of gentrification or on contaminated industrial land, and

WHEREAS President Biden has called for eliminating exclusionary zoning that keeps people of color and low-income families out of communities with more economic mobility, California tenant organizations have called for protecting communities vulnerable to displacement while also creating housing opportunities in all parts of the state, and all governments have the duty to affirmatively further fair housing by fighting discrimination and helping people afford homes where they want to live, and

WHEREAS Removing restrictions on multifamily dwellings will allow us to achieve inclusionary housing in all communities, more homes on existing lots will also reduce water usage, energy consumption for heating and air conditioning, and such reductions are an important part of meeting our climate goals;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party supports removing barriers to truly affordable housing, such as zoning restrictions that limit multifamily dwellings, to provide housing that is more within people’s means, to address our state’s homelessness crisis and build more equitable and diverse communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by incentivizing a transition to smaller homes with more homes on existing lots, we can reduce energy usage and help meet our climate goals.

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**RESOLUTION 21-08.042**

**Improving California Strategic Water Management Strategies through Cooperation with Israel and Investigating Conservation Practices of International Partners**

WHEREAS California has been in a prolonged drought causing wells to run dry, rampant

price increases accelerated by a new water futures market, and crumbling infrastructure initially built for 10 million people but now servicing 40 million, and

WHEREAS Israel recycles over 90% of wastewater while California recycles under 15%, and

has developed a water surplus through contiguous years of drought while California has experienced severe water shortages in similar conditions, and as Israel uses drip agriculture universally, California agriculture still relies heavily on methods such as flooding and sprinklers that waste water through evaporation and Israel has focused on increasing the quality of agriculture water, which helps farmworkers who can be exposed to under-treated recycled agriculture water, and

WHEREAS California and Israel share a memorandum of understanding fostering cooperation on many fronts, including water management and having hosted joint conferences focusing on continued cooperation on water conservation and management practices; continued investigations of conservation practices of other nations such as Japan, Australia, and other countries of the European Union, which also practice sustainable water conservation and management are ongoing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party affirms clean, safe, and

affordable water as a human right, especially for disadvantaged communities that are disproportionately affected by poor water infrastructure, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party supports existing

strategic ties and closer cooperation between California, Israel and other nations for sustainable water management, conservation, and reclamation practices.

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**RESOLUTION 21-11.006**

**Supporting a Pandemic Recognition Bonus for Essential Workers**

Whereas, Covid-19 has hit all persons hard in California, taking many lives, leaving many without jobs, many losing homes, facing uncertain times, and

Whereas, many workers who retained employment, were able to work from the safety of home with family members beside them, confident in the knowledge they were sheltered and safe from the Covid-19 virus, and

Whereas, at the same time essential workers risked Covid-19 infection daily while caring for patients in hospitals, protecting residents in nursing homes, feeding our families by staying at their jobs in supermarkets, and keeping our communities safe; many were not able to go home and be with their family members for extended periods of time for fear of infecting them, thereby suffering severe physical and mental hardships.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the California Democratic Party supports the creation of a special fund by the State of California which would provide bonuses to the essential workers who have been on the front lines throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

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**RESOLUTION 21-11.007**

**Supporting Sycuan Workers**

WHEREAS, the California Democratic Party recognizes and acknowledges that the land on which we live and work is the ancestral land of American Indian Nations and that tribal casino workers in California have been struggling for dignity, respect and a union for 30 years; and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2015 the State of California entered into an agreement with the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation (Sycuan), regarding the terms for owning and operating a Las Vegas-style casino, including the adoption of a Tribal Labor Relations Ordinance (TLRO) which establishes that if a union commits not to strike, picket, boycott, nor disparage the tribe, that the tribe would commit to remain neutral and allow workers to organize a union without interference; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2019, UNITE HERE Local 30 submitted a Notice of Intent to Organize, committing not to strike, picket, boycott, nor disparage the tribe, to which Sycuan responded by initiating an anti-union campaign, and at this time the matter is in the hands of the courts.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party reaffirms its opposition to anti-worker initiatives and union-busting activities; and supports collective bargaining and worker’s right to organize.

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**RESOLUTION 21-11.008**

**Electrifying All New Construction in California**

WHEREAS the Democratic Party strongly supports the Paris Climate Agreement goal of keeping the rise in earth’s temperatures below 2°C, and if possible, below 1.5°C, and California has set a goal of carbon neutrality by 2045 in support of that Agreement; and

WHEREAS not achieving this goal will result in increasingly severe impacts such as extreme heat, water shortages, and sea-level rise which fall disproportionately on the less affluent and exacerbate existing social inequities, and also threaten our basic infrastructure and economy; and

WHEREAS transitioning away from natural gas appliances used for heating and cooking is urgently needed to meet our climate goals, supporting expansion of the efforts already being made in 50 cities in California, to require all new construction be all electric, is an important step in meeting the existential threat of climate change;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party recognizes the urgent need to move away from natural gas fueled appliances used for heating and cooking, and strongly supports efforts to make all new construction all electric to meet the climate crisis.

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**RESOLUTION 21-11.009**

**Keep Kids Learning Safely in Schools**

Whereas, distance learning in the pandemic has created real learning loss, putting school-age children on average five months behind, exacerbating major social, emotional, academic and equity issues for students, staff and families; and

Whereas, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, a myth that children are not affected by COVID-19 continues to grow despite more than 600 children dying of COVID-19, and hundreds of thousands more facing possible long-term health impacts and school-based interventions such as public health education, vaccine mandates, regular testing, contact tracing, proper use of masking, physical distancing and student consent increase vaccination rates and promote education equity, especially for immunocompromised families; and

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) misinformation continues to spread creating an “infodemic” making it harder to combat diseases like COVID-19 for all communities--especially for traditionally underserved communities; and communities need a variety of public health policy tools that have proven to stop the spread of COVID-19-- including access to safe and effective vaccines;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Democratic Party supports scientifically-sound public health policies that keep students learning safely in schools and help maintain healthy facilities for the protection of our children, staff and families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we support efforts by our Democratic leaders to combat the ‘infodemic’ by putting science ahead of the disinformation being spread by anti-vaccine extremists.

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**RESOLUTION 21-11.010**

**Supporting and Welcoming Afghan Refugees**

WHEREAS the recent takeover of the Afghan government by the Taliban has created a humanitarian crisis, leading to deteriorating human rights conditions, reducing safety of vulnerable individuals, including, but not limited to: women and girls; members of the LGBTQ+ community; those who have direct ties to the U.S. government; members of ethnic minority communities; those who are Shi'a Muslim; adherents of non-Muslim faiths, including those of Sikh and Hindu faiths; and individuals who work for or have ties to aid organizations; and

WHEREAS the U.S. federal government evacuated nearly 130,000 people out of Afghanistan, with tens of thousands of these evacuees slated to be resettled in the United States, and as a result, federal, state, and local leaders have the unique responsibility to openly accept Afghan refugees in our communities, assisting in the successful resettlement of vulnerable groups, providing support to organizations with missions centering service delivery to the Afghan community, and showing support for the Afghan community during this difficult time; and

WHEREAS refugees and their families face a multitude of challenges when arriving in the United States, including, but not limited to: resettlement, language barriers, financial hardship, finding work and obtaining permanent legal status, and California is uniquely positioned to accept Afghan refugees because it is the home of the largest concentration of Afghans in the United States; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party supports welcoming Afghans into our communities and providing these individuals resources and support to successfully resettle in the United States, and commends community organizations working to support refugees; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party affirms and recognizes the contributions of immigrants to California, and the unique contributions of the Afghan community in particular, and welcomes Afghan families to achieve their inherent right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

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**RESOLUTION 21-11.011**

**Recognition of Ecocide as a Crime**

Whereas, the Orange County, California, coast is experiencing an ecological disaster with immeasurable impact, with over 126,000 gallons of crude oil spilled into coastal waters at the beginning of October, 2021, harming fish, bird and other wildlife ecosystems with permanent, detrimental effects.

Whereas, a coalition of 15,364 scientists warned in 2017 that “humanity is not taking the urgent steps needed to safeguard our imperiled biosphere,” and that “we have unleashed a mass extinction event, the sixth in roughly 540 million years, wherein many current life forms could be annihilated or at least committed to extinction by the end of this century.”

Whereas, indigenous island communities of Vanuatu and the Maldives, along with many others, are facing elimination of their ancestral communities and their environment and are calling such ecocide to be recognized as a crime.

Be it therefore resolved, that the California Democratic Party recognizes ecocide as a crime defined as the extensive damage to, destruction of or loss of ecosystems of a given region, whether by human agency or by any other causes.

Be it therefore resolved, that the California Democratic Party recognizes ecocide as a crime that is appropriately punishable, whether ecological damage is caused by individuals, corporations and/or the State.

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**RESOLUTION 21-11.012**

**Encouraging Governor Gavin Newsom’s Healthy California For All Commission to Plan for A Single-Payer, Universal Healthcare System**

WHEREAS, Governor Gavin Newsom and the California legislature launched the Healthy California For All Commission in December 2019 in order to develop a plan to achieve a health care delivery system for California that provides coverage and access through a unified financing system; and

WHEREAS, a single-payer unified financing system would enshrine health care as a human right by guaranteeing comprehensive, lifetime, high-quality care to all California residents, and establish a health care cost-control system; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy California For All Commission heard testimony from Community Voices (a coalition of California’s largest community non-profit organizations and foundations) to the Commission that there is strong majority support for "a single government-run healthcare system for all Californians" across all ethnic groups, ages, income levels, and across all regions of the State;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the California Democratic Party supports the idea of the Healthy California For All Commission articulating an operational path for a single-payer unified financing system in its final report to the Governor and legislature, especially in a manner that eliminates the role for private and for-profit health plans or risk-bearing intermediaries that make it harder and/or more expensive to access care.

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**Help Keep Disabled Veterans in Their Homes**

WHEREAS Disabled Veterans are a disadvantaged group prone to falling into homelessness as a result of high cost of living, including property tax bills and rental burdens; make up a disproportionate share of homeless individuals in California; and 31% of all homeless veterans in the United States live in California; and

WHEREAS Disabled Veterans, especially those who are low-income, face significant economic challenges, a shortage of living wage jobs and affordable housing options, and these factors—combined with the increased likelihood that veterans will exhibit symptoms of PTSD, substance abuse or mental illness — can compound to put veterans at a greater risk of homelessness than the general population; and

WHEREAS, better access to health, housing, legal, educational, career and transition/re-entry resources and more significant economic benefits, including increased property tax credits, rental assistance, housing grants and a rental tax credit could significantly reduce rates of homelessness among Disabled Veterans;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party supports increasing focus on solutions to address the multiple, complex challenges to Disabled Veterans trying to stay in their homes and to explore all economic remedies and benefits, increased resource allocation and policies that safeguard this vulnerable population from falling into homelessness and give them increased opportunity to remain in dignified housing.

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**RESOLUTION 21-11.014**

**Resolution in Support of Enhanced Access to Rooftop Solar and Net Metering**

WHEREAS, Over the past two decades, hundreds of thousands of Californians have invested in rooftop solar to combat climate change, lower energy bills, and invest in local communities; and

WHEREAS, The State of California encouraged these investments via policies like net metering, which lets solar users share their extra energy with their neighbors for a bill credit and today rooftop solar, often paired with battery storage, is an increasingly affordable investment embraced by working class communities as a common and increasingly affordable solution to wildfires, blackouts, and rate increases; and

WHEREAS, net metering and, therefore, rooftop solar is at risk of being jeopardized by California’s investor-owned utilities, who are opposed to the growth of rooftop solar and storage because it threatens their business model, which depends on building an ever bigger and more expensive grid at the expense of ratepayers;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mendocino County Central Committee calls on Governor Newsom and the California Public Utilities Commission to:

1. Keep rooftop solar growing to fight climate change and build a safer, more resilient grid;

2. Prioritize equity by bringing rooftop solar and storage to more lower-income families and disadvantaged communities; and

3. Make solar-charged batteries standard with rooftop solar by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mendocino County Central Committee calls on Governor Newsom and the California Public Utilities Commission to reject any proposals by investor-owned utilities or organizations that side with them to slash solar bill savings or impose new fees on solar users that collectively would set back California's climate change and environmental justice goals, consign the public to annual power outages, reduce customer bill savings, and harm access to solar energy by lower-income ratepayers.

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**RESOLUTION 21-08.052**

**STOP US TAX-EXEMPTION OF FUNDING VIALATORS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW**

WHEREAS several U.S. non-profit corporations, most prominent among them the Central Fund of Israel, have been granted tax-exempt status as “charities” under IRC 501(c)(3) and are therefore allowed to collect millions of dollars in tax-deductible donations that go to support or promote activities that are illegal or inconsistent with international law, such as Abiding Truth Ministry’s efforts to promote anti-LGBT laws that impose imprisonment or death on same-sex relations or support the operations of the white supremacist Oath Keeper’s militia both of which are either in violation of U.S. law and/or inconsistent with international law.

WHEREAS, from 1978 to 2019, it was the position of the United States Department of State that Israeli settlements in the Israeli occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem were “inconsistent with international law”, until Secretary of State Pompeo reversed this long-held standard and current Secretary of State Blinken has not yet reverted to the previous position despite a June 28, 2021 letter from 73 Democratic members of Congress requesting that he does so.

WHEREAS the United States viewed West Bank settlements as inconsistent with international law and portions of the Geneva Conventions (to which the United States is a party) that prohibit occupying powers from transferring its citizens into occupied territory under its control or otherwise exercising control over non-nationals for any reasons other than security and administration, and Israel’s incentives and implementation of settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem were inconsistent international law, just as encouraging violence against LGBT persons, funding paramilitaries or militias or promoting white supremacy would also be in conflict with international law and granting 501(c)(3) status to non-profits like the Central Fund of Israel, that promote building such settlements and bringing along with it road barriers and checkpoints, which threaten the safety and livelihood of the 3 million Palestinians residing in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and potentially limit options for peace;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party opposes the granting of tax-deductible 501(c)(3) status to organizations that promote or engage in acts that are illegal or inconsistent with international law and encourages the Biden Administration to take such steps to restore long-standing positions with respect to human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories in order to apply these standards to granting 501(c)(3) status.

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