

## TREES FOR LIFE

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 6, 1989

*Reviewed by Board of Managers January 2010*

- WHEREAS, The increasing concentration of carbon dioxide permits the sun's rays to enter the atmosphere but prevents the heat's escape (global warming); and
- WHEREAS, Scientific reports indicate that one tree is capable of absorbing 13 pounds of carbon dioxide per year, thereby converting it and releasing life-giving oxygen into the atmosphere; and
- WHEREAS, Conservation is a concern because only one tree is planted for every four that die or are destroyed in American cities; and
- WHEREAS, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) studies indicate that the "global warming" effect is causing droughts and extreme weather throughout the country; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts develop projects to encourage the planting and preservation of trees suited to a particular locale in terms of climate, adaptability and disease resistance to counteract the effects of "global warming;" and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts inform local organizations and agencies of the importance of planting and preserving trees; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts invite business or other organizations to participate by donating trees or money for tree planting projects; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at the June 1989 National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

###

### BACKGROUND SUMMARY

Scientists all over the world have become deeply concerned about the recent changes in climate. More frequent droughts, fiercer storms and a warmer environment are components of the "global warming" trend known as the **Greenhouse Effect**. The increasing concentration of carbon dioxide permits the sun's warm rays to enter the atmosphere, but prevents the heat from escaping. The primary source of this carbon dioxide is the result of burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gasoline.

*Continued on next page*

Contributing to the “global warming” is deforestation throughout the world; approximately 28 million acres of forest are destroyed annually, according to World Watch. Scientists at the

University of California, Berkeley, attribute an average nine degree summer temperature increase in the San Fernando Valley to the destruction of orchards to make way for homes, stores, parking lots and highways.

A National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) study predicts that current droughts and weather extremes foreshadow future problems. The warming trend will raise the sea level by melting polar ice caps, thereby flooding cities and towns. As the ocean warms and evaporation increases, more fierce storms will be created, according to the Goddard Institute for Space Studies. Agriculture will be adversely affected, as will the availability of drinking water.

We **can** help counteract this trend by nurturing and planting trees. Trees grow by converting carbon dioxide into oxygen. Properly planted, the right species of trees can provide enough shade to cool hot urban areas, thereby saving energy expended on cooling.

Caring people, working together, can do something more than talk about the weather; they can help to change it for the better.