WHEREAS: The 2019 report of the Lancet Countdown on climate change and health states that “the life of every child born today will be profoundly affected by climate change, with populations around the world increasingly facing extremes of weather, food and water insecurity, changing patterns of infectious disease, and a less certain future;” and

WHEREAS: The AAP’s Council on Environmental Health warns that “the social foundations of children’s mental and physical health are threatened by the specter of far-reaching effects of unchecked climate change, including community and global instability, mass migrations, and increased conflict;” and

WHEREAS: California’s Fourth Climate Change Assessment finds with very high scientific confidence that California will continue to experience rising temperatures and sea-level and declining snowpack and increased likelihood of drought and wildfire;

IT IS RESOLVED: AAP California, representing all four CA AAP chapters, recognizes that climate change threatens the physical and mental health of all children. We therefore declare a climate health state of emergency and in doing so:

- Support evidence-based & best practice initiatives to educate our patients, their families, the medical community and the public about the effects of climate change on health; and
- Urge California healthcare institutions to take immediate action to review and reduce their carbon footprint and the footprint of their suppliers; and
- Encourage pediatricians in the State of California to urgently communicate with local, state, and national elected officials about the climate health emergency and the need for immediate action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

REFERENCES: