Click [here](#) to watch Supervisor Dave Cortese’s speech at the Climate Restoration Forum

Contact: Janice Rombeck
Office of Supervisor Dave Cortese
70 West Hedding Street, San Jose, CA 95110
408-299-5030; 408-803-2095 (cell)
Janice.rombeck@bos.sccgov.org

News Release
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Cortese Calls on Local Governments to Respond to Climate Crisis at U.N.
Supervisor Speaks at First Climate Restoration Forum in New York City

Addressing the first annual Climate Restoration Forum at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, Supervisor Dave Cortese on Tuesday, September 17, called on local governments across the country to follow the lead of Santa Clara County and declare a climate emergency now and take action to respond to the environmental crisis.

Referring to President John F. Kennedy’s question of 55 years ago, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country,” Supervisor Cortese said we face a new question now for another generation: “Ask now what your planet can do for you, ask what you can do for your planet, and humanity itself.”

The global implementation required to respond to this humanitarian crisis, he said “will occur one individual at a time; one town at a time; one city at a time, one county or province at a time, until we have knit together a global movement that is unstoppable. “
Supervisor Cortese was the only elected official invited to speak at the forum, which was hosted by the Foundation for Global Climate Restoration as an event leading into the 74th Session of the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday. The event was supported by the United Nations Office for Partnerships in partnership with Earth Day Network and Future Coalition.

Specifically, he called on local leaders to take the action that Santa Clara County has, by pledging to use every resource, every tool available to address this crisis. Santa Clara County is the only government in the U.S. to declare a climate emergency with a restoration component.

Cortese asked other governments to:

- Declare a climate emergency now. (The Board of Supervisors declared a climate emergency on August 27.)
- Pledge to make your own government 100% renewable.
- Shift your procurement to green fleet vehicles.
- Start a Youth Climate Club in your community, empowering your children to change the world.
- Create green energy utilities and enroll your local households and business customers leading them away from fossil fuels. (The County created Silicon Valley Clean Energy).
- Adopt policies that will reduce vehicle miles traveled and vehicles idling on roadways.
- Adopt “Reach Codes” requiring carbon restoration in your own building codes and permits in your own cities.
- Invest in renewable energy storage as efficiently and as quickly as you can.

For more information, please call the Office of Supervisor Dave Cortese at 408-299-5030.