



Joint Declaration

To

*Support Sustainable Economic Development,
and the Exchange and Application of Mutually Beneficial
Sustainable Urban Infrastructure, Water Management, Biodiversity,
Transportation, Applied Science, Energy and Climate Change Technologies and
Policies*

between

The State of California of the United States of America

and

The Government of the French Republic

Joint Declaration

To

Support Sustainable Economic Development and the Exchange and Application of Mutually Beneficial Sustainable Urban Infrastructure, Water Management, Biodiversity, Transportation, Applied Science, Energy and Climate Change Technologies and Policies

Between

The Government of the French Republic

And

The State of California of the United States of America

This Joint Declaration is entered into by the Government of the French Republic (“France”) and the State of California of the United States of America (“California”).

WHEREAS, France and California are world-renowned for their natural beauty, as well as their rich agricultural lands and forests;

WHEREAS, these abundant natural resources have tremendous ecological value and provide numerous economic benefits;

WHEREAS, France and California are global leaders in the fields of communication and innovation, and home to internationally renowned urban centers, academic institutions, and hubs for advanced technology development;

WHEREAS, the impact of climate change imposes a grave danger to the natural resources in France and California, threatens human health and public safety, as well as agriculture and food security, and threatens economic prosperity;

WHEREAS, France and California face similar environmental challenges from the impact of climate change, including watershed management and supply, drought, flooding, wildfire, heat waves and coastal erosion;

WHEREAS France and California seek to enhance the development and commercialization of innovation through applied-research partnerships that build on the scientific and technical expertise of French and Californian advanced research institutions in the fields of Sustainable Urban Infrastructure, Water Management, Biodiversity, Transportation, Applied Science, and Energy and Climate Technologies and Policies;

1. PURPOSE

This joint declaration is being signed on the occasion and in the spirit of the COP21 international climate talks being held in Paris, France in December 2015, to promote cooperation on ambitious responses to climate change and related environmental issues, including Sustainable Urban Infrastructure, Water Management, Biodiversity, Transportation, Applied Science, Energy, and Climate Technologies.

2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

France and California agree to cooperate on these specific areas in consideration of the following premises and terms:

Climate change mitigation: France and California deem it necessary to escalate their response to the cause and consequences of climate change while supporting sustainable low carbon economic growth, including reporting of greenhouse gases emissions, developing carbon pricing systems and other market based instruments, promoting reductions of emissions from forest management, developing climate planning, promoting renewable energy, and cooperating to advance multilateral and subnational action on climate change. France acknowledges and endorses California's efforts to support subnational leadership on climate change through the Subnational Global Climate Leadership Memorandum of Understanding, known as the "Under2MOU," which seeks to limit global warming to 2°C or less in line with what a majority of scientists believe is necessary to avoid the most dangerous climate change impacts;

Carbon pricing: French President François Hollande and California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. are both members of the Carbon Pricing Panel, a group convened by World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim and International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde to spur further, faster action on carbon pricing. France and California will work together to support efforts to impose a price on carbon;

Adaptation and resiliency: Climate change will subject areas across France and California to more intense and extreme weather events such as flooding and wildfires, and require new methods to adapt to changing conditions. To create opportunities that will strengthen and improve resiliency, France and California will work together to develop solutions that integrate applied science and result in collaboration with local and regional authorities and institutions of higher education through the sharing of successes and lessons learned;

Water management: France and California face challenges to their water resources, both in terms of quality and quantity. France and California will work together to share best practices on water resource management including agricultural supply, floodplain management and rising sea levels;

Transportation: France and California are global leaders in clean transportation technology and policy development, each specializing in specific areas of expertise including high-speed rail, zero emission vehicles and the supporting infrastructure, public transit, and coordination between transportation and land use planning. In addition, California is a founding participant of the International Zero Emission Vehicle Alliance (ZEV Alliance), a collaboration of world-leading jurisdictions taking action to accelerate

the adoption of ZEVs. France and California will work together on local and regional transportation technologies and policies to advance electrification of the transportation sector;

Clean energy: France and California provide models of integrated and sustainable energy systems. France and California will share information on encouraging the development and deployment of renewable energy, as well as energy storage, smart grid solutions, and energy efficiency technologies and policies at the metropolitan and State level;

Sustainable building and cities: France and California are home to world-recognized energy efficient and sustainably built cities. France and California will work together to develop scientific cooperation, innovative multi-benefit projects, and new financial models in the design of building codes, energy efficiency, transit planning and other factors that lead to a sustainable metropolitan area;

Development of solutions at the regional and local level: France and California are home to world-class centers of innovation and institutions of higher education. France and California recognize that bilateral cooperation relies on outcome-oriented local and regional cooperation for effective climate change mitigation and adaptation. France and California will work together to establish project-specific applied research programs around smart growth, sustainable urban infrastructure technology and policy development, and to create stronger ties between local and regional authorities to promote mutually beneficial exchanges;

3. FORMS OF COOPERATION

BE IT NOW RESOLVED, that France and California jointly declare to support sustainable economic development and the exchange and application of mutually beneficial policies and technologies in the areas of sustainable urban infrastructure, water management, biodiversity, transportation, applied science, energy and climate change.

Forms of cooperation under this Joint Declaration may include the following:

- 1) Endorsing the Subnational Global Climate Leadership Memorandum of Understanding, known as the “Under2MOU;”
- 2) Sharing information and experiences about policies and programs that have effectively reduced greenhouse gas emissions and strengthened climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, as well as efforts that have protected and enhanced human health and the environment;
- 3) Sharing policy initiatives and providing capacity-building and technical support to develop and implement climate change policies, including emissions trading programs;
- 4) Inviting the other Participant to comment on programs, policies and rule-making processes relevant to the agreed upon areas of cooperation;
- 5) Discussing the possibility of policy and program alignment for mutual environmental and economic benefits;
- 6) Facilitating the exchange and temporary assignment of relevant personnel between France and California;
- 7) Encouraging cooperative research on, and the development and deployment of projects related to clean, energy efficient and/or low carbon technologies;
- 8) Joining and participating in the International Zero Emission Vehicle Alliance;
- 9) Facilitating business-to-business networking, collaboration and partnerships;
- 10) Jointly organizing symposia, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, and training;

- 11) Building collaboration through California's "innovation hubs" (iHubs), which have been established to promote entrepreneurship, economic growth, and job creation through innovation; and
- 12) Cooperating in any other form that France and California consider may contribute to the goals of this Joint Declaration.

4. FOLLOW UP

France and California agree to establish a bilateral group or groups, led by officials representing France and California, to maintain coordination and communication in monitoring cooperation under this Joint Declaration. As part of their coordination, France and California intend to consider the need for in-person meetings, subject to available resources.

5. THIRD PARTY PARTICIPATION

If France and California agree to deem it helpful and feasible, individuals and entities from the private, public, academic, research, and other sectors may be invited to support the cooperative activities described herein, provided that they can directly and meaningfully contribute to the objectives of this Joint Declaration.

6. ADDITIONAL COOPERATION

This Joint Declaration may serve as reference for signing further collaborative instruments in the areas of cooperation provided in this Joint Declaration.

7. FUNDING

Neither France nor California is obligated to provide or allocate funding for any of the activities referred to in this Joint Declaration. France and California may utilize resources already allocated in their respective budgets, as these resources become available and as stipulated by their own legislation. Each Participant intends to pay for expenses related to its own participation, unless alternative financial mechanisms can be used for specific activities, as appropriate and as approved by their respective authority.

8. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

France and California agree, to the extent possible, that all useful, non-confidential information that supports the objectives of this Joint Declaration may be shared amongst them in order to achieve the objectives of this Joint Declaration.

10. AMENDMENTS

This Joint Declaration may be modified in writing by mutual consent of France and California.

11. DURATION

Unless otherwise extended in writing, this Joint Declaration is effective for a period of 4 years from the date of signing. Either France or California may discontinue its participation in this Joint Declaration, through written communication sent to the other Participant thirty (30) calendar days in advance. In this case, the ongoing cooperative activities that have been approved or initiated and that have not been concluded will continue, unless otherwise decided by France and California.

12. FINAL PROVISIONS

France and California acknowledge that this Joint Declaration is only intended to provide for cooperation between them and does not create any legally binding rights or obligations under national or international law. To the extent that any other provision of this Joint Declaration is inconsistent with this paragraph, this paragraph shall prevail.

France and California sign this Joint Declaration in good faith and declare their intention to develop cooperation to the fullest extent possible, subject to any changes in relevant policy that they may adopt.

This Joint Declaration is signed in Paris, France on December 7th, 2015 in two originals, with both the English and French language originals being equally valid.

For the Government of the French Republic

Ségolène Royal
Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development
and Energy

For the State of California
United States of America

Edmund Gerald Brown Jr.
Governor