

MOTION

~~BUDGET & FINANCE~~  
ENERGY, ~~ENVIRONMENT~~  
CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

On April 4, 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke about the moral imperative of United States' withdrawal from Vietnam, but his words resonate most poignantly today in terms of the global climate emergency: "We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the *fierce urgency of now*. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late... This call for a world-wide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing and unconditional love for all men. This oft misunderstood and misinterpreted concept...has now become an absolute necessity for the survival of man[kind]."

As unprecedented winter wildfires and ensuing mudslides destroyed parts of our City and region, a climate emergency mobilization of our City has never been more fiercely urgent. Such an effort must end to the maximum extent technically feasible city-wide greenhouse gas emissions in every sector by 2025 and begin a large-scale effort to safely and justly remove carbon from the atmosphere. Without an immediate and drastic change from the status quo, humans will cause irreversible and ever-worsening damage to the Earth's climate. To act too late, or to be too cautious in our vision and do too little, carries the risk of condemning the City and its residents to an increasingly uninhabitable climate and potentially catastrophic economic losses caused by worsening disasters.

While the wildfires and mudslides demonstrate that the climate emergency threatens everyone, the disasters wrought by an abruptly destabilizing climate have so far most devastatingly impacted lower-income communities of color first and worst. Drought, famine, and instability have devastated countries in the Global South. Millions of climate refugees have already left their homes in search of a safe place to live. In the United States, we have seen after Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy, Harvey, Irma and Maria how the environmentally and economically vulnerable have been generally left to fend for themselves.

The City must therefore aggressively move to reduce and remove greenhouse gas emissions and adapt and restore ecosystems by rapidly adopting legislation to mandate such efforts Citywide and by doing so in such a way that lower-income and frontline communities of color benefit first from mitigation and adaptation funds. The City can thereby create a model for other cities to follow and use its global climate leadership standing to lead the way. By doing so, Angelenos can trigger a global mobilization to restore a safe climate, thereby creating the conditions for a future, not of chaos and misery, but of community and dignity.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council direct the Chief Legislative Analyst to work with the City Administrative Officer and the Personnel Department to report back within 30 days on the establishment of a Climate Emergency Mobilization Department with all necessary powers to plan and coordinate all of the City's climate and resilience responses, including emergency climate mitigation, resilience and adaptation programs, beginning with a robust climate emergency public education and outreach stakeholder process that includes the Mayor's Sustainability and Resilience Offices, scientists, social and environmental justice advocates, local labor unions and union federation, the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, local Non-Governmental Organizations, neighborhood councils, homeowners' associations and business groups.

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I FURTHER MOVE that the Council direct all City Departments and proprietaries to report back on maximum emergency reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from their operations feasible by the end of 2025, with the highest priority placed on an equitable and just transition in all sectors.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council direct the Planning Department to report back on opportunities for radical greenhouse gas emissions reductions and carbon drawdown and removal opportunities through the City's General Plan and Community Plan Updates, including on metrics which can prioritize climate-adaptive land use planning.

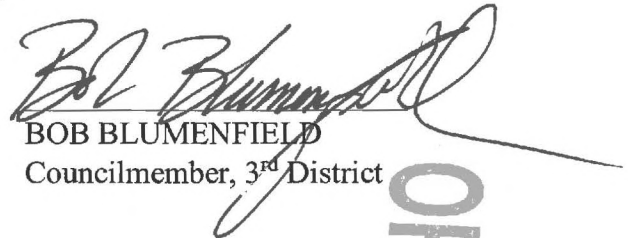
I FURTHER MOVE that the Council direct the City Administrative Officer and Emergency Management Department to report back on opportunities and funding to address climate emergencies and mitigation through existing hazard mitigation programs.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council direct the City Clerk to work with the Department Chief Sustainability Officers to include greenhouse gas impact statements and greenhouse gas removal or reduction statements in all relevant Council motions, much as it currently includes fiscal impact statements.

PRESENTED BY:




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SECONDED BY:



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