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this matter, please refer to the
Council File No.: [09-1857-S1](#)

OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

April 11, 2018

Council File No.: [09-1857-S1](#)

Council Meeting Date: April 10, 2018

Agenda Item No.: 21

Agenda Description: ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the regulation and impacts of dewatering practices.

Council Action: ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT - ADOPTED

Council Vote:

YES	BOB BLUMENFIELD
YES	MIKE BONIN
ABSENT	JOE BUSCAINO
ABSENT	GILBERT A. CEDILLO
YES	MITCHELL ENGLANDER
YES	MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
YES	JOSE HUIZAR
YES	PAUL KORETZ
ABSENT	PAUL KREKORIAN
YES	NURY MARTINEZ
YES	MITCH O'FARRELL
YES	CURREN D. PRICE
YES	MONICA RODRIGUEZ
YES	DAVID RYU
YES	HERB WESSON

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ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
REPORT relative to the regulation and impacts of dewatering practices.

Recommendations for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Bonin - Koretz):

1. INSTRUCT the Chief Legislative Analyst, Bureau of Engineering, and Bureau of Sanitation; and, REQUEST the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to report in regard to:
 - a. Strategies to recapture and recycle the groundwater from dewatering activities associated with construction and development
 - b. If other jurisdictions have undertaken similar efforts to regulate dewatering practices, and what the costs and benefits have been in other jurisdictions
 - c. If dewatering has any negative impacts on the City's storm water management program.
2. INSTRUCT the CLA and REQUEST the City Attorney to report that analyzes the ability of the City, through legislation, to cap the length of time allowed for dewatering, or to add dewatering fees to development projects in order to disincentivize wasteful dewatering practices.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On March 20, 2018, your Committee considered a Motion (Bonin - Koretz) relative to the regulation and impacts of dewatering practices. According to the Motion, dewatering is a construction practice where water is removed from the ground around a property to facilitate subterranean development. Dewatering is particularly prevalent where water tables are high nearer to our coast, though dewatering can be a necessity for subterranean development anywhere in the City. The dewatering process often lasts months, and in some cases even years. Large amounts of water are being effectively flushed down the drain and neighbors who are doing their part to conserve water - limiting the days they water their lawns and taking shorter showers - understandably feel like their conservation efforts are similarly being flushed down the drain when they witness dewatering in action.

No formal study has been undertaken on the best practices of other cities in recapturing and reusing water generated from dewatering. While the subterranean development often makes good use of space in our otherwise crowded metropolis, we need to explore all available options for reuse and recapture of the pumped water during the construction process. With no clear justification provided for the city's current dewatering practice, the city should investigate the practice and determine if the practice can be improved to minimize waste.

After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion as detailed in the above recommendation. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MEMBER **VOTE**

MARTINEZ: YES

KORETZ: YES

KREKORIAN: YES

CEDILLO: YES

O'FARRELL: YES

ARL

3/20/18

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-