



Sponsor of the Los Angeles Eco-Village Neighborhood Demonstration

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May 16, 2016

TO:

COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KREKORIAN, CHAIR

COUNCILMEMBER MITCHELL ENGLANDER

COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KORETZ

COUNCILMEMBER BOB BLUMENFIELD

COUNCILMEMBER MIKE BONIN

CC: Richard Williams

Date: 5/13/14

Submitted in Budget & Finance Committee

Council File No: 16-0600

Item No.: 1

~~Item~~ Communication from the Public

Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: CONSIDERATION OF MAYOR'S 2016-17 PROPOSED BUDGET – NCSA COOL BLOCKS LA PILOT PROGRAM

Dear Budget & Finance Committee members:

No matter how much good public policy the City creates, or how much regulation, nor how much budgeting it does for change, the most important path to reducing our GHG emissions, our carbon footprint, and becoming a truly resilient city is behavior or culture change.

The Empowerment Institute has a track record for doing just that: changing behavior resulting in culture change. In fact, interestingly, one of the residents in my community was flying back and forth to visit her son who lives in LA until she went through the Empower Institute program in Connecticut. Realizing how huge her carbon footprint was from those flights, she moved here.

The Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance is prepared to work with the Empowerment Project to make behavior change happen here in Los Angeles via the Cool Blocks program.

The Cool Blocks program supports the Sustainable Cities plan, and it's ready to go right now with major trainings scheduled for next week. And the program does important double duty by preparing neighborhoods for emergencies, thereby encouraging and supporting the City's excellent CERT program.

Most importantly, the City of Los Angeles still has the dirtiest air in the U.S. and is an international destination point and has among the most visitors and residents from countries around the world.

CRSP is a nonprofit organization committed to education and training for small ecological cooperative communities founded 1980. Los Angeles Eco-Village is a sustainable community-in-process founded 1993. We are affiliated with the Ecovillage Network of the North America (ENNA) <www.ecovillage.org>

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The international press is here from almost every country in the world, always seeking stories about how their countrymen and women are living in LA. Imagine our impact worldwide when they start reporting on folks from all over the world who are radically changing the way they live in our city.

Yes, indeed, we can change the world from right here in the great City of Los Angeles with that well known small group of people, as Margaret Mead reminds us decade after decade.

I urge this Committee to support the Cool Blocks program.

Sincerely,



Lois Arkin

Executive Director

CRSP Institute for Urban Ecovillages

At Los Angeles Eco-Village

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