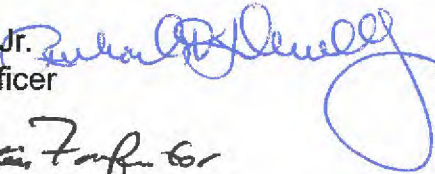


CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

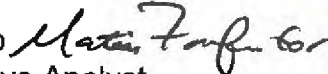
Date: April 12, 2019

To: City Council
Energy, Climate Change and Environmental Justice Committee

From: Richard H. Llewellyn, Jr.
City Administrative Officer



Sharon M. Tso
Chief Legislative Analyst



Subject: **SECOND REPORT BACK ON ESTABLISHING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION DEPARTMENT (C.F. 18-0054)**

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council:

1. Receive and file the report; no further action is recommended at this time.

SUMMARY

On March 19, 2019, the Energy, Climate Change and Environmental Justice Committee (Committee) considered a Report prepared by the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) relative to the potential establishment of a Climate Emergency Mobilization Department (CEMD), governance options and policy items for consideration. The Committee requested the CAO and CLA to report back on a variety of items associated with the matter at its April 16, 2019 meeting.

Our Offices met with representatives of Council District 6 (Committee Chair) and Council District 5 (Committee Vice Chair), and Leap LA and CEMD advocates to discuss the Leap LA proposal regarding the CEMD; and to prioritize the report back requests for the upcoming meeting. The parties agreed that the additional and remaining report back requests would be addressed in future reports (these items are identified on page 3 of this report).

The following section identifies and elaborates on the prioritized report back requests. This report also provides next steps for the evaluation of the Leap LA proposal, its merits and a community engagement component.

Prioritized Report Back Requests

Meet with Leap LA and CEMD advocates to gain further clarity on the objectives, priority and expectations of the proposal.

The CAO, CLA and Council Districts 6 and 5 staff met with the Leap LA coalition and CEMD advocates on April 3, 2019 to gain further insight on their proposal's objectives and primary issues of concern. The primary issues of concern expressed by the coalition and advocates were that the City should do more to address environmental issues in "marginalized and front-line communities;" and that the quality of public health in these communities is in critical need of improvement. In addition, they believe the Mayor's current sustainability initiatives should be refined to address the specific needs of marginalized communities within the City. Finally, they have requested the opportunity to provide input and influence change at the policy making and programmatic level.

Review Leap LA proposal to inform and identify opportunities for inclusion of all strategies. Develop a framework for a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a consultant to perform a stakeholder engagement process.

The Leap LA proposal is still under review and requires additional input from relevant City departments, including the Office of the City Attorney, relative to the proposed operational and governance approach. The Leap LA proposal is comprised of three components, which will be reviewed for feasibility and applicability:

- *Establishment of a new department* – Create a CEMD and transition existing city staff (current Chief Sustainability and Resilience Officers) into the new department. The CEMD is proposed to have oversight authority of existing departments and boards regarding planning and coordination of the City's response to climate change, including public education and outreach. In addition, the CEMD would measure and track ongoing greenhouse gas emissions and pollutants, develop an annual climate emissions budget, identify grant funding opportunities and identify critical research needs and recommend key studies.
- *Oversight Commission and seven Area Planning Commissions* – Create and establish permanent bodies such as commissions which would provide direction to the CEMD and Citywide mobilization efforts on climate change. The organizational structure could be similar to the existing system of Area Planning Commissions.
- *External Community Engagement* - Provide regular on-going assemblies for external community engagement and collaboration to engage the community and allow for input on new policies and programs which affect "marginalized and front-line communities." As part of this process, the proposal further recommends that community capacity

building in the form of training and education be provided, and that potential pilot projects be considered which could be tested in these communities.

With regard to the three components, City staff discussed various existing forums for community and civic engagement such as the Neighborhood Councils and the Area Planning Commissions. However, the CEMD advocates expressed concern that these forums are too broad in their mission even if they are accessible to a diverse array of communities. Based on discussion and feedback from the advocates regarding the proposal's components, our Offices recommend that the External Community Engagement component be prioritized and reviewed as a first step.

Recommend how the use of existing funds can be used to develop the Leap LA proposal and positions requested.

Approximately \$500,000 was set aside in the Unappropriated Balance, in a special purpose fund appropriation entitled, Climate Change Emergency Mobilization Program as part of the 2018-19 Adopted Budget. At this time no funds have been expended and the full balance remains available. It is recommended that these funds be reappropriated as part of the 2019-20 Adopted Budget, and that a portion be used for a Third Party Assessment and Evaluation to explore climate change issues in all communities, including "marginalized and front-line communities." The findings from this assessment and evaluation can inform City staff, advocates and policy makers on next steps for consideration, including the potential establishment of a CEMD.

Report back with suggestions for funding in the upcoming fiscal year budget.

The City Council may determine during the upcoming budget deliberations that climate change and the establishment of a CEMD is a higher priority than other unfunded Citywide budgetary requests. The CAO, if directed, may develop a cost estimate for necessary resources (direct and indirect costs) and identify eligible funding sources. However, if funding is not identified in the Mayor's 2019-20 Proposed Budget for these resources, the Council will need to identify additional City revenue and/or off-setting General Fund/special fund appropriations to fund them.

How much funding is in the proposed Mayor's budget for the Sustainability Plan and Resilience Plan?

The Mayor's 2019-20 Proposed Budget is scheduled for release no later than Monday, April 22, 2019 based on the Charter deadline of April 20th falling on a Saturday. However, the Mayor may elect to release the 2019-20 Proposed Budget before the due date. At this time it is unknown how much funding is dedicated for these plans or efforts.

Additional Report Back Requests

The following items consist of questions and report back requests raised by the Committee at its March 19, 2019 Meeting. These items are still pending review and will be discussed in future reports associated with the potential establishing of a CEMD.

- Provide recommendations on governance structure and policy considerations; and how the City can incorporate the Leap LA proposal into existing policies and programs into the proposed department, and prepare a roadmap with timeframe for next steps.
- Identify how much the City has reduced its emissions, including by sector.
- Does a Blue Ribbon panel have to be a traditional panel or can it have front-line community members?
- There was a study done called 'Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves' that said every federal dollar spent now on climate change mitigation will save \$6 dollars in the future. What's your response to this?
- Report back on the Green New Deal as an accelerator of social equity.
- Report back on the creation of a task force ending the school to prison pipeline.
- How can we include a healing component in Green New Deal policies in order to discourage racial divides.
- Report back on ways to guard against Disaster Capitalization as part of the Green New Deal.
- Report back on how we can expand on the Cool Blocks program, potentially Citywide.
- Define front-line communities.
- What will be the relationship between the CEMD and the Department of Water and Power?
- How will the CEMD be a vehicle for new projects?
- What will be the relationship between the CEMD and the State of California, CalTrans, and other outside agencies in delivering projects along the LA River.
- Can we develop a sustainable funding source for the CEMD proposal that isn't reliant on grant funds?

Next Steps and Timeline

In order to thoroughly evaluate the Leap LA proposal and the potential establishment of the CEMD, at the direction of the City Council, our Offices can work with the Leap LA coalition and CEMD advocates to develop a framework for the review of the proposal, and related matters. With regard to our recommendation to develop a draft Request for Proposal (RFP), as noted in the March 19, 2019 report (C.F. 18-0054), the Leap LA coalition and CEMD advocates have an opportunity to provide input on the scope of work, eligibility and evaluation criteria for the draft RFP.

The draft RFP's scope of work may include a consultant conducting an assessment and evaluation of what departments are currently doing to mitigate climate change, determine whether improvements can be made, and if so, how improvements may be implemented. Concurrently, the scope of work may call for a consultant conducting a community engagement/pre-assembly process to gather input.

Our Offices can present the proposed framework of the draft RFP to the Committee for review and consideration in the near future. In addition, our Offices can report on the remaining report back requests.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

This memorandum is provided for informational purposes only. There is no fiscal impact at this time.

RHL:SB:ir: 10190106