

**MOTION**

The disruptions to our economy and society due to the global pandemic have illustrated the value of investments in emergency preparedness and crisis avoidance. Looming large is another imminent and pervasive threat to our way of life: severe climate disruption and its crisis-level impacts to the local and global economies, to migration patterns, ecological systems, natural disasters from flood, drought, fire, and the City's infrastructure.

It is in the City's interest to minimize climate change and avoid further upheaval, and, toward this end, the City has had the foresight to launch an Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization, an effort which inspired 1,500 other jurisdictions to declare climate emergencies and take aggressive steps toward climate emissions reductions.

With Mayor Garcetti as chair of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, the 96 cities around the world working together on climate issues, Los Angeles has an outsized influence and therefore an important responsibility to continue to act with all due haste.

The worldwide quarantine response to the COVID-19 outbreak has dramatically reduced the use of fossil fuels and therefore has reduced deadly greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants. The clear skies above Los Angeles are evidence of the usual local and toxic impact of our daily commute and transportation emissions.

According to the World Meteorological Organization, although scientists expect emissions to drop by 5% in 2020, the quarantine is having little impact upon climate disruption. While we strive to mitigate loss of life from COVID-19 and the economic hardships across our society, we must pursue a recovery that is fairer, cleaner and lasting. The prevention of a climate disaster requires continued focus and urgent, structural change.

Meanwhile, the fossil fuel industry is using the coronavirus as a smokescreen to undercut federal and local environmental protections, expand oil and gas drilling, increase single-use plastic and toxic pollution, and avoid government oversight. Although there are current, temporary industry disruptions, when it returns to full business, its negative impacts will be the same.

As we continue the urgent, collective and life-saving response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is vital for the well-being of all Angelenos that the City continue to accelerate its efforts to transition to cleaner operations and carbon free fuels and products to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to increase resilience and adaptation efforts to the already-existing and coming ravages of severe climate disruption, and protect existing natural resources.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Emergency Management Department to include in its list of essential emergency City services which shall continue during the COVID-19 crisis all efforts consistent with City policy to reduce greenhouse gas and toxic emissions, including but not limited to, building renewable energy projects, electrifying our buildings and transportation network, enforcing the reduction of plastic pollution, planting trees, protecting wildlife habitat connectivity, recycling and reducing food and other waste, expanding clean mobility alternatives, and other such efforts.

PRESENTED BY:



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