

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council

Name: Julia Jaye Posin

Phone Number:

Email: julia@hcnc-adlt.org

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(0) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 05/12/2020

Type of NC Board Action: Against unless Amended

Impact Information

Date: 06/09/2020

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0600

Agenda Date: 05-12-2020

Item Number:

Summary: We object to the proposed budget as described in Council File 20-0600, and we instead support Council File 20-0482, to classify as essential emergency services any efforts to reduce greenhouse gas and toxic emissions.

Mayor Eric Garcetti 200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

May 12, 2020

Re: Council Files 20-0482 (climate as essential services) and 20-0600 (proposed budget)

Dear Mayor Garcetti and the City Council:

We object to the proposed budget as described in Council File 20-0600, and we instead support Council File 20-0482, to classify as essential emergency services any efforts to reduce greenhouse gas and toxic emissions.

Los Angeles has demonstrated strong commitment to ensuring the safety of our residents during this pandemic. We are in challenging and unprecedented times, and city leadership is needed more than ever before. This leadership needs to both address COVID-19, and the ongoing crises of climate change, which remains an existential and overwhelming threat to our people and planet. Both of these crises require bold, innovative, and unrelenting efforts from our government.

In the past few months we've seen [the Trump administration neuter the EPA](#), allowing coal-fired power plants to release more mercury into our air and water. At the exact same time, coal and gas companies got [millions of dollars in government loans from the stimulus bill intended for small businesses](#). The [102-year-old Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) was weakened to allow more businesses to kill birdlife without consequence.

Unfortunately, the climate crisis will not wait on hold while we address the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. Although we expect to see some cuts to climate mitigation programs in order to close the budget gap caused by the projected drop in revenue and unexpected costs due to the pandemic, those programs should not be eliminated; we do not want you to repeat the mistake made by the Trump administration in disbanding the Office of Global Health Security and Biodefense prior to the pandemic.

Specifically, our concerns include:

- the elimination of the Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization, the Climate Emergency Commission, and Community Assemblies (all of which were just about to launch, and which would have engaged low-income communities, who are particularly vulnerable to the climate crisis as well as this pandemic, in a just transition to a sustainable economy),
- the elimination of the Wildlife Pilot Study, which protects habitat connectivity,
- and reductions in funding for protection and maintenance of existing mature trees throughout the City of Los Angeles — now more than ever, we need to protect our city's lungs.

Over 200,000 Americans die every year from air pollution alone. These essential programs that are slated to be cut are some of the only resources our city residents have to fight for their lives. We urge you to treat the immediate crisis as a part of our overall strategy for dealing with climate change.

Budgets are a statement of values. Despite the uncertainty during these unprecedented times, we have an opportunity to affect unprecedented change as we influence how our culture gradually switches back on. Let's keep striving together for an equitable, regenerative, and sustainable world.

Sincerely,

The Arts District, Little Tokyo Neighborhood Council