

14-1035

MOTION

There are significant risks, cost concerns, and numerous challenges that are beyond the losses of buildings that need to be figured out as it is crucial for the City of Los Angeles to prepare a master plan to ensure seismic safety. Emergency preparedness saves lives each year, yet a large percentage of the City's population does not have necessary items if an emergency occurs. Not only are many City residents unaware of what to purchase, but many cannot afford to purchase some of these items.

There are over twenty U.S. states that have annual sales tax holidays where certain items are designated as sales tax-exempt for a defined period of time. Further, states such as Virginia have Severe Weather Preparedness sales tax holidays that act as an incentive for residents to prepare for emergencies and create an awareness about preparation and action in an emergency with the use of specific items. Municipalities that participate in these sales tax holidays normally enact legislation that details which items can be purchased, the total amount that can be purchased, and maximum price per single item purchased.

There will be an earthquake in the City of Los Angeles, and this is a hard fact. The City is located in an earthquake zone in addition to the on-going threats of flood and fire, and there are several ways in which residents can prepare for a natural disaster, including obtaining food, water, light, and shelter supplies. There is a need for the City to designate an Emergency Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday as City residents and emergency preparedness responders can only benefit from maximizing the number of residents who prepare themselves for an emergency.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the CLA and CAO, and any other relevant departments be instructed to report back with recommendations on the feasibility and process to follow with the California State Board of Equalization to designate an annual Statewide Emergency Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday.

PRESENTED BY



TOM LABONGE
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY



ORIGINAL

JUL 29 2014

