



**THE CLIMATE
MOBILIZATION**



April 10, 2018

Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Leap L.A. Support for Motion for the Establishment of a Los Angeles Climate Emergency Mobilization Department (Council File # 18-0054)

Dear Council President Wesson and Los Angeles City Council:

I am writing on behalf of Leap L.A., a coalition of environmental justice groups, community organizations and national advocacy groups organizing for an intersectional mobilization of Los Angeles that addresses the crises of racial justice, inequality, and climate catastrophe faced by our members and communities. The climate emergency is of the utmost importance to our coalition. We believe that it poses an existential threat to the health and safety of our communities, as well as all people and species, and that a just, equitable and effective mobilization must begin now to restore a thriving planet for current and future generations.

We respectfully express our support for an ordinance to establish America's first Climate Emergency Mobilization Department (CEMD) in Los Angeles. We are grateful to Councilmembers Koretz and Blumenfield for introducing motion CF#18-0054, which directs the Chief Legislative Analyst, Chief Administrative Officer, and Personnel Department to report back on the establishment of a Climate Emergency Mobilization Department to plan and coordinate Los Angeles's climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience programs across departments and sectors.

Last year, 9,133 fires burned over 1.2 million acres across California, killing 46 people and costing an estimated \$180 billion in fire suppression, insurance and recovery expenses. In December, the Thomas fire became the largest wildfire in California's modern history, leading to the largest mobilization of firefighters in our state's history, destroying 1,063 structures, and burning an area larger than New York City, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco combined. Those blazes were primarily fueled by dry conditions and intense winds. According to climate

research, human-induced climate change is intensifying this long-running dryness and is dramatically increasing the odds of the Southwest shifting into devastating mega-drought conditions.

Many plans have been made to address global climate disruption, but an adequate implementation of those plans at the scale and speed necessary to protect the health and safety of Angelenos has not yet emerged. As the Trump administration continues to roll back existing environmental protections and attacks California's landmark vehicle emissions standards, cities have emerged as a last hope for true leadership in this effort. Given the level of climate disruption that is already occurring locally and worldwide, with record wildfires and mudslides devastating our region, the time has come for a response commensurate with the crisis. By taking full responsibility for our substantial climate impacts, and actively leading a full-scale climate mobilization, Los Angeles can inspire a much more rapid and broader movement among cities around the country and around the globe.

The proposed CEMD explicitly includes the concept of a "just transition" as an essential core element. Specifically, the motion requires that frontline, low-income communities of color who have suffered the most under the extractive fossil fuel economy receive the first benefits of the climate mobilization effort, including economic and job development, and any workers displaced by the transition to a regenerative, renewable, and zero emissions economy will be prioritized for retraining and job placement in positions of equal pay.

The Climate Emergency Mobilization Department will provide the level of governmental leadership and response necessary to respond to the existing climate emergency. The CEMD will coordinate the citywide mobilization, oversee interdepartmental efforts, and ensure that programs are developed and implemented under the principles of a "just transition." To ensure that this commitment to a "just transition" is met, we respectfully request that the CEMD include a commission primarily composed of community leaders to oversee its activities and hold it accountable for its mission.

To protect the health and safety of our communities and future generations, we urge the City Council to vote swiftly to establish the Los Angeles Climate Emergency Mobilization Department within this city budget cycle.

Thank you for your attention and your action to address the greatest threat and greatest opportunity of our time. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Martha Dina Arguello
Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles

Bill Gallegos
Communities for a Better Environment

Gloria Walton
Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE)

Nancy Ibrahim
Esperanza Community Housing

Lydia Ponce
American Indian Movement SoCal

Anna Cummins,
5 Gyres

Russell Greene & Ezra Silk
The Climate Mobilization

Avi Lewis
The Leap