

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](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org).

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

#### Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(8) Nay(2) Abstain(3) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 06/15/2020

Type of NC Board Action: For

#### Impact Information

Date: 07/02/2020

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0482

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary:



Mayor Eric Garcetti  
Los Angeles City Council  
City Hall  
200 N. Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

Mayor Garcetti and Honorable members of the Los Angeles City Council:

If there is a lesson we have learned over the course of the coronavirus pandemic, it is that we ignore crises at our peril. In that vein, Empowerment Congress West Area NDC objects to the proposed budget as described in CF 20-0600, and we support CF 20-0482, which will classify any efforts to reduce greenhouse gas and toxic emissions as essential emergency services.

Unfortunately, the climate crisis can't be put on hold while we address the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. While 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, these programs should not be eliminated. We do not want to repeat the mistake made by the federal 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
- Reductions in funding for protection and maintenance of existing mature trees throughout the city—trees are vital to the health of our communities

We have felt the effects of the escalating climate crisis for many years, each year bringing more extreme weather and wildfires. Although the speed at which we are experiencing the impacts of these two crises is different, make no mistake that the climate crisis is causing increasing numbers of human deaths. To continue to react to short-term threats while postponing, or outright ignoring, whole-system issues is dangerous. It would be better to treat the immediate crisis as a part of our overall strategy for dealing with the larger one that we know will be a multi-generational, global endeavor.

We do not want to return to the way things were, we want to do better. At the end of the day, this budget a statement of our values.

Sincerely,

Empowerment Congress West Area NDC