

MOTION

PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

Climate change is an urgent and dangerous threat to the all people. Each year the studies, reports, and projections of the impacts of climate change on Los Angeles remind us of what we already know from recent experience – we’re experiencing increasingly frequent, long-lasting, and severe heat storms, wildfires, and drought. Numerous studies clearly demonstrate that the impacts of local air pollution and global climate change will disproportionately affect low-income communities as well as communities of color, regardless of income. With studies showing the primary sources of greenhouse gases - such as motor vehicles, power plants, manufacturing, and buildings - are also the primary sources of local air pollution, efforts to combat climate change will also improve our local air quality and public health outcomes.


The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reports that one in four Black children in Los Angeles is afflicted with asthma, which is more than triple the rate in white children. Additionally, Black and Latinx populations are exposed to higher levels of toxic air pollution and, as a result, suffer from higher rates of cardiovascular disease. Just last year, the Los Angeles County’s Chief Sustainability Office released a comprehensive Climate Vulnerability Assessment showing that, while about 50% of the County’s population is Hispanic/Latinx, this population comprises 67% of the people in communities that have a high vulnerability to extreme heat. The majority of these communities are within the City of Los Angeles.

The City of Los Angeles adopted its first Climate Action Plan in 2001 (CF: 98-0676) and has prepared many others since. More recently, Mayor Garcetti, through his Green New Deal, has established a bold vision for protecting our communities from the severe health impacts of a changing climate and the City has enacted many of these policies. Nevertheless, it is imperative that these climate goals and policies be codified into legally enforceable actions.

Many cities and counties across California and the U.S. have adopted Climate Action and Adaption Plans (CAAPs) as part of their General Plans, thereby ensuring ongoing commitment to action that outlasts political changes. Additionally, the State of California offers numerous incentives for adopting CAAPs into a local jurisdiction’s General Plan, including streamlined California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) assessments and priority for grant funds. Despite this, the City has never amended a climate plan into its General Plan.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Planning Department, in consultation with the City Attorney, the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office, and other departments as appropriate, report to the City Council within 60 days on the process, timing, costs, potential funding sources, and benefits of adopting a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan into the City’s General Plan.

PRESENTED BY:


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SECONDED BY:



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