



Mandy Morales <mandy.morales@lacity.org>

25-0600 Climate emergency office emergency

1 message

c h-w <radicalstory@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 24, 2025 at 11:38 AM

To: mandy.morales@lacity.org, tim.mcosker@lacity.org, eunisses.hernandez@lacity.org, heather.hutt@lacity.org, bob.blumenfield@lacity.org, katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org

Cc: cityclerk@lacity.org

April 24, 2025

Budget and Finance Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street, Room 1010
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 25-0600 – Oppose Elimination of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office**Dear Honorable Councilmembers and all,**

As a former Co-Chair of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council and a former Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Budget Advocate, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed elimination of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO) in the FY 2025-26 budget. In the face of a declared climate emergency, it is counterintuitive to dismantle the very office tasked with coordinating our city's response to climate challenges.

Los Angeles allocates nearly \$50 million annually to the LAPD's helicopter program, equating to approximately \$3,000 per flight hour. Despite this significant expenditure, audits have found little evidence that these helicopters effectively reduce crime. In fact, 61% of their flight time is not dedicated to high-priority incidents. Moreover, the environmental impact is substantial, with the fleet emitting thousands of metric tons of CO₂ each year, exacerbating the very climate issues we aim to combat.

In contrast, CEMO has been instrumental in advancing climate resilience and equity across Los Angeles. The office has led initiatives such as the Climate Equity LA series, fostering community-driven climate policies, and the Heat Relief 4 LA campaign, which provides vital resources during extreme heat events. These programs are not only cost-effective but also essential in protecting our most vulnerable communities from the escalating impacts of climate change.

Recent events underscore the urgency of bolstering, not dismantling, our climate infrastructure. The Palisades and Eaton wildfires earlier this year resulted in over 16,000 structures destroyed and economic losses estimated between \$135 and \$150 billion. These disasters highlight the critical need for a dedicated office like CEMO to coordinate preparedness and response efforts, ensuring our city is equipped to handle such emergencies.

Given the substantial costs and questionable efficacy of the LAPD's helicopter program, I urge the Council to consider reallocating a portion of those funds to preserve and strengthen CEMO. Investing in climate resilience is not only fiscally responsible but also essential for the health and safety of our communities. Let us prioritize programs that offer tangible benefits and align with our city's commitment to sustainability and equity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles Herman-Wurmfeld

Former Silver Lake Neighborhood Council co-chair

Former Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Budget Advocate

Current Silver Lake stakeholder

sent from me to you, dear reader