
CLIMATE EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION DEPARTMENT

To: Members of the Los Angeles City Council
Date: 6/21/2018
Re: Climate Emergency Mobilization Department
Council File: 18-0054 (see bit.ly/lacemdcouncilfile)
From: Leap / Just Transition Coalition

INTRODUCTION: On January 17th, Councilmembers Bob Blumenfield and Paul Koretz introduced Council File 18-0054, a motion directing the Chief Legislative Analyst, Chief Administrative Officer, and Personnel Departments to report back within 30 days on the establishment of a Climate Emergency Mobilization Department tasked with planning and coordinating a citywide response to climate change. The Energy, Climate Change & Environmental Justice Committee voted to approve the first moving clause 4-0-1 on April 17th and the City Council passed the clause 13-0-2 on April 27th. On May 7th, the Budget Committee voted 5-0 to earmark \$500,000 in the Unappropriated Balance (UB) to “establish a new Climate Change Emergency Mobilization Program within a new Environmental Affairs Department focused on climate change issues,” with the City Council voting to approve the budget recommendation on May 21st.

JUST TRANSITION: The motion explicitly requests that the Department operate under the principles of a just transition as the City shifts to a regenerative, renewable energy economy: “The City must therefore aggressively move to reduce and remove greenhouse gas emissions and adapt and restore ecosystems by rapidly adopting legislation to mandate such efforts Citywide and by doing so in such a way that lower-income and frontline communities of color benefit first from mitigation and adaptation funds.”

ENDORSEMENTS: The follow groups and individuals have endorsed the motion (see attached letters of support and list of supporters): Teamsters Local 848, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy, Communities for a Better Environment, Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE), Esperanza Community Housing, Pacoima Beautiful, American Indian Movement SoCal, The River Project, The Center for Biological Diversity, The Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, Global Green, Heal the Bay, The Trust for Public Land, Grid Alternatives, SoCal 350 Climate Action, 5 Gyres, The Climate Mobilization, The Leap, South Bay 350 Climate Action, Surfrider Foundation, Californians Against Waste, and Ed Begley, Jr.

RECOMMENDATIONS: We recommend that the Department’s core focus areas include grant writing, inter-departmental and city-wide coordination, inter-governmental coordination, just transition, and research & strategy. Additionally, we recommend that the inclusion of a commission with a wide range of stakeholders from frontline environmental justice communities, labor unions, business groups, and neighborhood councils.