

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles (PSR-LA) is an environmental justice and health advocacy organization with decades of experience working with directly impacted environmentally overburdened communities. We are also members of the STAND-LA coalition, the ACT-LA coalition, and the California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA), who was one of the sponsors of SB 1000 (Leyva, 2016). As the City of Los Angeles continues its endeavor to become a healthy, safe, and livable place for all Angelenos to thrive, it is critical that it prioritizes historically underserved communities, centers their concerns, and adequately addresses historic environmental justice issues and conditions. The recently adopted updates to the City of LA's "Plan for Healthy LA" and "Safety Element" do not adequately address the risks to LA residents of existing and future environmental hazards such as drought, intense heat, wildfires and floods due to climate change, nor do they paint an accurate picture of community demographics or other environmental burdens in LA City. Furthermore, they do not adequately plan to redress legacies of racist land use practices—including redlining and systematic disinvestment in Black and Brown communities—which continue to leave frontline residents isolated from community-serving spaces and vulnerable to climate-related impacts. PSR-LA supports and urges the City to create a standalone EJ element to guide development and adoption of future community plan and General Plan updates. We also support the creation of an Environmental Justice Working Group composed of representatives of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office and the Climate Emergency Commission, resident leaders and community organizations representing impacted communities, subject area experts, and City staff from relevant departments to co-develop targeted environmental justice priorities, policy recommendations, and solutions-oriented implementation actions. Additionally, as a key requirement of SB 1000, as well as of equitable planning processes more generally, the city should appropriately plan for meaningful community engagement in the public decision-making process, and we uplift its goal to develop a strategy for thorough public outreach and community engagement, especially to marginalized, historically underserved, and disadvantaged communities. As the most

populous city in the state with well over half a million of its residents living in communities impacted by polluted air, water, and soil, the City of LA must be a leader for social and environmental justice and set an optimal example by creating a strong standalone environmental justice element led by meaningful public participation.