

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Laura Gracia

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**Council File No:** 15-0103

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Laura Gracia, I work with Communities for a Better Environment and support our community members in understanding and planning for climate adaptation. CBE is in support of agenda item #8, the motion introduced by Councilmember Raman to instruct L.A. City Planning to establish a process to truly satisfy Senate Bill 1000, the Planning for Healthy Communities Act. And to urge the L.A. City Council to create and adopt a stand-alone Environmental Justice Element. We held community meetings with Wilmington residents to receive feedback on the community plan and health and safety element. Members were unhappy with the lack of environmental justice policies. L.A. City's 2021 SB 1000 compliance update was deficient and L.A. City Council must direct L.A. City Planning to craft a stand-alone Environmental Justice element to satisfy SB 1000 requirements. Additionally, L.A. City is relying on outdated data from the 2015 Plan for a Healthy L.A. and 2013 L.A. City Safety Element to create Environmental Justice programs and policies. This prevents L.A. City Planning from (1) identifying and (2) effectively reducing disproportionate pollution burden in disadvantaged communities throughout Los Angeles. This is an exciting opportunity for L.A. City Council to serve as a model for other jurisdictions required to satisfy SB 1000. Creating a strong Environmental Justice Element would encourage other jurisdictions to do the same, reversing decades of harmful land use decisions that have concentrated pollution in vulnerable communities. Meaningful public participation is the cornerstone of SB 1000. Failing to perform adequate community outreach and public engagement deprives impacted communities of the opportunity to weigh in on local planning decisions that will directly impact their communities, built environment, and personal health.