

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: June 16, 2020

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso  Council File No: 20-0002-S38
Chief Legislative Analyst Assignment No: 20-06-0634

SUBJECT: Resolution to support SB 45 (Allen)

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Rodriguez – Blumenfield) to include in the City's 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 45 (Allen), the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which would create a ballot measure to authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5.51 billion to finance projects for wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection.

SUMMARY

SB 45 (Allen) finds that due to climate change, there is a greater need than ever to invest in projects and programs to help make California more resilient to the changes in climate. This is especially prevalent in Los Angeles, where wildfires pose a threat to our communities, businesses, and ecosystem.

SB 45, the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, introduced on December 3, 2018, authorizes the sale of \$5.51 billion in general obligation bonds upon approval by voters at the November 3, 2020 statewide general election. Bond funds would be used for projects related to wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection.

The Resolution therefore recommends support for SB 45 (Allen), the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020 to effectively meet the challenges of climate change.

BACKGROUND

The Resolution (Rodriguez – Blumenfield) notes that an integrated Statewide initiative that prevents wildfires and other natural disasters, reduces near-term climate change risks, and increases long-term resilience to climate change will save State and local agencies billions of dollars in relief and re-construction efforts. Further, it notes that the bonds issued by SB 45 would benefit the City of Los Angeles, as the funds could be used to augment local wildfire prevention efforts, improve water quality, and support regional watershed management plans such as the Upper Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan.

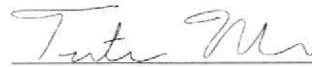
The Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020 would direct bond proceeds as follows:

- \$2.2 billion for wildfire prevention and community resilience from climate impacts.
- \$1.47 billion for the protection of California's water supply and water quality.
- \$970 million for protecting coastal lands, oceans, bays, waters, natural resources, and wildlife from climate risks.
- \$620 million for protecting fish and wildlife from climate risks.
- \$190 million for protecting agricultural land from climate risks.
- \$60 million for climate resilience, workforce development, and education.

SB 45 would require that state agencies administering programs pursuant to the bill must prioritize projects that reduce near-term risks of climate impacts while promoting long-term resilience; promote equity and benefit disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations; incorporate natural and green infrastructure solutions; avoid solutions that would transfer climate impact risks from one area to another; and advance solutions that prevent displacement of low-income residents.

BILL STATUS

12/03/18	Introduced.
01/16/19	Referred to Committees on Natural Resources and Water, Environmental Quality, and Governance and Finance.
03/05/19	Amended.
04/25/19	Referred to Committee on Appropriations.
09/10/19	Amended and re-referred to Committee on Appropriations.
01/23/20	Amended.
01/29/20	Passed and ordered to the Assembly with urgency clause.
01/30/20	Read in Assembly. Held at desk.


 Tristan Noack
 Analyst

SMT:tcjn

Attachment: Resolution

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal government body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the State's changing climate creates increased risks of catastrophic wildfire, drought, floods, severe heat events, intense rain events, and sea level rise that will impact its residents, agriculture, water supply, water quality, the forests, watersheds, and the economy; and

WHEREAS, climate change threatens and undermines the State and local agencies ability to provide access to clean, safe, and reliable drinking water; and

WHEREAS, reducing vulnerability to fire, flood, drought, and other climate change-related events, and building a trained workforce needed to accomplish this goal, requires significant Statewide investment and planning; and

WHEREAS, an integrated Statewide initiative that prevents wildfires and other natural disasters, reduces near-term climate change risks, and increases long-term resilience to climate change will save State and local agencies billions of dollars in relief and re-construction efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature seeks to meet this goal through SB 45 (Allen) which would enact *The Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020*, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5,510,000,000 to finance Statewide projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection; and

WHEREAS, SB 45 (Allen), if approved by the State Legislature, would place the proposed Bond Act on the Statewide ballot for voter consideration on November 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the approval of the proposed Bond Act would benefit the City and its residents inasmuch as the funds would be used to augment local wildfire prevention efforts, improve water quality, and support regional watershed management plans including the Upper Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 45 (Allen) which would enact *The Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020*, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5,510,000,000 to finance projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection.

PRESENTED BY:


MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL