

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Morgan Goodwin  
**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2020 12:54 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-0482  
**Comments for Public Posting:** See attached letter from Sharon Koch, chair of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter



Angeles Chapter  
3250 Wilshire Blvd. #1106  
Los Angeles, CA 90010-1513

To: Mayor Eric Garcetti, Council President Nury Martinez, and the Los Angeles City Council:

Regarding: CF#20-0482 (Motion) & CF#20-0600 (Budget file)

The Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club appreciates the efforts made by the Mayor and the City of Los Angeles to establish an Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization. We strongly support the action proposed by Councilmember Paul Koretz in Council File, CF#[20-0482](#), (Koretz, Climate as Essential Services). The motion states that “the City Council direct the Emergency Management Department to include in its list of essential emergency City services which shall continue during the COVID-19 crisis all efforts consistent with City policy to reduce greenhouse gas and toxic emissions, including but not limited to, building renewable energy projects, electrifying our buildings and transportation network, enforcing the reduction of plastic pollution, planting trees, protecting wildlife habitat connectivity, recycling and reducing food and other waste, expanding clean mobility alternatives, and other such efforts.”

COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on the residents of the City of Los Angeles, but we will recover from its hardships. While the City is moving to protect its residents, other forces have been working to reduce environmental regulations. The federal government is making concessions offered to fossil fuel providers, rollbacks in the protections afforded by the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and reductions to motor vehicle fuel standards all under the guise of Covid-19 response. These actions are setbacks in our efforts for a more sustainable society for all residents. Failure to act now in the Climate Emergency will result in more long-lasting misery for the people of Los Angeles, particularly those in traditionally underserved communities.

Although we recognize that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have had an unforeseen effect on the City’s budget planning, we oppose cuts to climate change programs. The City of Los Angeles can provide leadership in the near-term health crisis as well as the longer-term climate crisis. **We should restore funding for the Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization (\$500k), including the Climate Emergency Commission (\$200k), and the Community Assemblies and pilot projects (\$300k) for a total of \$1 million to the proposed budget.** The Climate Emergency Department is critical to engaging our City’s frontline communities to shape a just and sustainable recovery that builds a healthier and more resilient future for Angelenos. **In addition, please reinstate the four staffers working on the Planning Department’s Wildlife Connectivity project.** These portions of the overall budget can bring enormous short and long-term benefits to the people of Los Angeles, particularly to low income communities of color that are being disproportionately impacted by climate change and the COVID-18 pandemic.

Failure to address the Climate Emergency as part of plans to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic is not an option. The Sierra Club Angeles Chapter strongly supports the motion by Councilmember Koretz to

include climate issues as essential services. We urge the restoration of funding for these initiatives to the 2020-2021 proposed budget.

Thank you for putting the people's health and security in the forefront of your planning for today and the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Lee Koch

Chair, Executive Committee

Angeles Chapter

Sierra Club

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Edward Garren

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2020 10:22 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0482

**Comments for Public Posting:** I stand with Councilmember Paul Koretz and the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance in support of protecting efforts to mitigate our Climate Crisis. Our country has wasted many valuable years ignoring the Climate Crisis, or reducing it to a small, marginal issue, something that is an extravagance for the wealthy. I would propose that instead of eliminating the Climate Emergency Commission and the departments that support it's mission, the city should consider adding a tax to all carbon in the city. This would include natural gas, gasoline and diesel fuel, new gas appliances sold for domestic and commercial use, etc. The tax could be introduced as a very small addition to devices that use petroleum, such as cooking ranges, water heaters and heating devices. Water heaters specifically are often the principle device in most homes that generate Carbon Dioxide. The tax could be very small in the beginning, that would serve to specifically be used to fund the Climate Emergency Commission and related departments and their work mitigating the Climate Crisis, and increase the education of the community as to why we must change our thinking on very small items like petroleum powered appliances and transit. Later, as the economy regains strength it could be increased as a direct incentive to think twice about continuing the use of petroleum based appliances and automobiles. As an Angeleno who has moved my entire life away from carbon (all electric home in South Los Angeles and TWO electric cars, as well as a 5 Kilowatt solar system) it is essential to push daily life away from all appliances, home heating and air conditioning and our transit (personal and public) away from carbon usage, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE !! We know the city is facing a shortfall of revenues, but this is NOT the place to save money. If anything, there is a probably connection between the Climate Crisis and increasing pandemics around the planet. If less than two months on "lockdown" can devastate the economy of our city, state and country, imagine what ocean rise is going to do? Imagine what worsening droughts are going to do? Now is the time to move boldly into the future with a strong commitment to mitigating the Climate Crisis. It is NOT the time to flee into the past. Regards, Edward Garren, M.A., L.M.F.T.



Mayor Eric Garcetti  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

May 7, 2020

Re: Council Files 20-0482 (climate as essential services) and 20-0600 (proposed budget)

Dear Mayor Garcetti and the City Council:

If there is any lesson many of us in the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance have learned over the course of the coronavirus pandemic, it is that we have to be forward-thinking and prepare for what we know will come; we ignore predicted crises at our peril. In that vein, we object to the proposed budget as described in Council File 20-0600, and we support Council File 20-0482, to classify as essential emergency services any efforts to reduce greenhouse gas and toxic emissions.

Unfortunately, the climate crisis will not wait on hold while we address the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, and although we expect to see some cuts to climate mitigation programs in order to close the budget gap caused by the projected drop in revenue and unexpected costs due to the pandemic, those programs should not be eliminated; we do not want you to repeat the mistake made by the Trump administration in disbanding the Office of Global Health Security and Biodefense prior to the pandemic.

Specifically, our concerns include:

- the elimination of the Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization, the Climate Emergency Commission, and Community Assemblies (all of which were just about to launch, and which would have engaged low-income communities, who are particularly vulnerable to the climate crisis as well as this pandemic, in a just transition to a sustainable economy)
- the elimination of the Wildlife Pilot Study, which protects habitat connectivity
- reductions in funding for protection and maintenance of existing mature trees throughout the city—now more than ever, we need to protect the lungs of Los Angeles

We have known about and felt the effects of the escalating climate crisis for many years—each year breaking new records with more extreme weather and wildfires. Although the speed at which we are experiencing the impacts of these two crises is different, make no mistake that the climate crisis is causing increasing numbers of human deaths. To continue to react to short-term threats while postponing, or outright ignoring, whole-system issues is near-sighted and dangerous. Far better would be to treat the immediate crisis as a part of our overall strategy for dealing with the larger one that we know will be a multi-generational, global endeavor.

This is a painful time, but we do not want to return to the way things were; we want to do better. And this budget is, at the end of the day, a statement of our values.

Sincerely,

Steering Board Members of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance

Shelley Billik

Don Dwiggin

Lisa Hart

Ernesto Hidalgo

Loraine Lundquist