

## Communication from Public

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**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a constituent in Council District 11, and a member of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, Protect Playa Now, and other groups. Please do not cut the money for climate response and ecology. Please cut the policing budget instead. One lesson from the COVID-19 crisis is the need for preparedness to threats. The greatest threat to LA and the entire human civilization is the ongoing mass extinction and impending ecological collapse due to global heating, resource over-extraction, pollution and habitat loss. Although slower moving, these will dwarf the coronavirus epidemic. Global heating is predicted by scientists to cause devastating droughts, floods, fires, food shortages and societal conflict. To avert the worst of the climate catastrophe, we cannot make up for lost time in eliminating greenhouse gas emissions. LA had started small steps to transition to clean energy, and Mayor Garcetti had touted his Green New Deal. The City created the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO), a Climate Emergency Commission, and Community Assemblies. There was a program of urban forestry, to plant and care for trees in the city. The 2020-2021 budget completely eliminates the Office and the commission. It also removes the Wildlife Pilot Study, and does not mention urban forestry. The climate and ecological crises are also health crises. The pollution from burning of natural gas and gasoline causes breathing problems and deaths. And a green transition will directly improve health and save lives. And CEMO would serve vulnerable populations. Yes, the city needs to deal with the epidemic and resulting economic crisis. It should provide emergency shelters, health and hygiene services, food for seniors and poor people, and rental assistance. To fund such programs, as well as climate and ecology action, the city should decrease the policing budget. Policing will not serve the needs of Angelinos; it will not help our communities deal with any of the ongoing crises. It will only increase the suffering of the most vulnerable, as LAPD has a history of harassing and often brutalizing Black, Latino and unhoused folks. The police budget has been too large for years. It is proposed to be \$1.857 billion. This can house everyone in LA who currently does not have a home. There is even less need for policing during the shelter in place, as crime has decreased. So we should deeply cut the policing budget, and use the money to ease

the suffering of Agelinos and so address a important cause of crime.