

## Communication from Public

**Name:** UCLA Sustainable LA Grand Challenge

**Date Submitted:** 06/01/2020 04:06 PM

**Council File No:** 20-0584

**Comments for Public Posting:** The Sustainable LA Grand Challenge, UCLA's campus-wide initiative to help transform Los Angeles into the most sustainable megacity by 2050, supports the Motion (City Council File: 20-0584) introduced by Councilmember David Ryu to create incentives for businesses and government officials to work from home. While remote work is not a panacea for the climate crisis, making the practice more widespread and permanent in Los Angeles could help to reduce vehicle air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Teleworking is just one of many tools in our toolbox that we must utilize to fight the climate crisis and create sustainable air quality improvements to our region. By improving air quality, we also create healthier Angelenos. Air pollution is linked to a host of health problems and makes people more vulnerable to COVID-19. A recent UCLA study found that approximately 14,000 premature deaths could be avoided annually if California decreases greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. Underserved communities who suffer the most from air pollution would see disproportionately higher level of benefits from cleaner air, the study also found. UCLA researchers may be available to provide additional research and commentary in support of this motion. We look forward to working with the City Council as the motion is considered, and evaluating the legislation as it advances.

President Nury Martinez  
Chair, Energy, Climate Change and  
Environmental Justice Committee  
City Hall  
200 N Spring St, Suite 470  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Paul Koretz  
Chair, Personnel and Animal Welfare  
Committee  
City Hall  
200 N Spring Street, Suite 440  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

May 29, 2020

RE: Support for City Council File: 20-0584

Dear President Martinez and Councilmember Koretz,

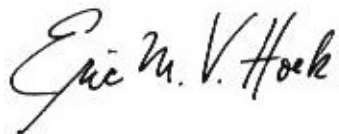
The Sustainable LA Grand Challenge, UCLA's campus-wide initiative to help transform Los Angeles into the most sustainable megacity by 2050, supports the [Motion \(City Council File: 20-0584\)](#) introduced by Councilmember David Ryu to create incentives for businesses and government officials to work from home.

While remote work is not a panacea for the climate crisis, making the practice more widespread and permanent in Los Angeles could help to reduce traffic congestion, traffic related accidents, vehicle air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Teleworking is just one of many tools in our toolbox that we must utilize to fight the climate crisis and create sustainable air quality improvements to our region.

By improving air quality, we also create healthier Angelenos. Air pollution is linked to a host of health problems and makes people more vulnerable to COVID-19. A recent [UCLA study](#) found that approximately 14,000 premature deaths could be avoided annually if California decreases greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. The study also found underserved communities who suffer the most from air pollution would see disproportionately higher level of benefits from cleaner air.

UCLA researchers may be available to provide additional research and commentary in support of this motion. We look forward to working with the City Council as the motion is considered and evaluating the legislation as it advances.

Sincerely,



Eric M.V. Hoek, Ph.D.  
Director, Sustainable LA Grand Challenge  
Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering

cc: Council Member David E. Ryu  
Council Member Gil Cedillo  
Council Member Paul Krekorian  
Council Member Bob Blumenfield  
Council Member Monica Rodriguez  
Council Member Marqueece Harris-Dawson  
Council Member Curren P. Price, Jr.  
Council Member Herb J. Wesson, Jr.  
Council Member Mike Bonin  
Council Member John Lee  
Council Member Mitch O'Farrell  
Council Member Jose Huizar  
Council Member Joe Buscaino