

M O T I O N

The City has taken tremendous strides of late in addressing climate change mitigation. Efforts include: creating the world's first Climate Emergency Mobilization Office to put environmental justice at the center of the City's climate policymaking, the LA100 effort where the Department of Water and Power has led the way with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in creating a pathway to 100% clean, renewable energy and, through Council action, shaved ten years off the date by which to attain such, efforts to cool neighborhoods with tree plantings, lighter-colored pavement, and reflective roofs, and efforts to protect and preserve the City's biodiversity and natural areas, which are essential to the health and well-being of Angelenos in the present and in the future.

Yet valid concerns about climate impact vulnerabilities still persist. The September 6, 2020, heatwave sent emergency room visits soaring and created a spike in deaths. 2021 brought the hottest August on record in California, with sweltering triple-digit days that had serious health impacts and sometimes deadly consequences on workers, sensitive receptors, and those unable to seek cool shelter. Premature births also increased.

A *Los Angeles Times* investigation found that California persistently undercounts the death toll from extreme heat by up to six times and has not sufficiently addressed the related growing threat of heat-related illness and death. These deaths and illnesses must not remain invisible.

Experts say an effective state response would include identifying and assisting vulnerable populations and putting in place a surveillance system to track when and where heat-related deaths and injuries are occurring. Impacts fall more heavily upon lower-income, communities of color, the very young, and the elderly. Outdoor workers are often required by employers to continue to work in extreme heat conditions. Other regions, including Arizona and New York City, are taking positive steps towards tracking and addressing heat impacts.

Governor Newsom's administration and state lawmakers have allocated hundreds of millions of dollars to respond to worsening heatwaves. UCLA's Luskin Center for Innovation is researching the State's response to extreme heat and has found that there is no centrally responsible authority. An analysis puts LA County in the top 2 percent of counties nationally for projected increases in heat-related deaths. Extreme heat days will triple or quadruple in the next few decades. As long as greenhouse gases continue to be emitted, temperatures will continue to increase, even above survivable levels.

As the City works to be a model of climate emissions reductions and renewable energy and to mitigate the urban heat island effect by planting trees in the right areas and installing as much cool surface as possible (cool pavement, cool roofs), it should also prepare Angelenos for the inevitable extreme heat days that are already beyond mitigating.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Emergency Management, in consultation with the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office, be directed to report to the City Council in 30 days on the status of the City's extreme heat preparedness efforts, along with recommendations to improve the City's efforts, including early warning systems.

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I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer and the Chief Legislative Analyst, in consultation with the Department of Emergency Management and the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office be directed to report to the City Council in 30 days on available State and Federal funding to assist the City's emergency preparedness planning and implementation for worsening heat waves, and a plan to access such funds if they are available.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Emergency Management be directed to consult with the appropriate State agencies and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and report to the Council in 30 days on the status and cost of a surveillance system for use within the City to track when and where heat-related deaths and injuries are occurring, the identification of vulnerable populations in those locations, and the development of plans to minimize to near-zero deaths related to heat.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Attorney's office be requested to report back in 30 days on an ordinance that would institute a mandatory charge of criminal negligence to an employer for any employee deaths associated with businesses operations that occur due to preventable heat-related deaths.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:





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