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Support The Paris Climate Agreement and add Los Angeles County to the We Are Still In Coalition

It is well-established scientific consensus that human activity, especially the combustion of fossil fuels since the beginning of industrialization, is the primary cause of climate change. Now, more than ever, climate change has become a real and significant threat with impacts being felt today here in Los Angeles and across the globe. Climate change has the potential to harm our current and future generations' safety, public health, economy and quality of life.

The impacts from climate change that we can anticipate include less frequent but more intense rain events, more frequent and longer droughts, increased wildland fires and urban forest die-offs, more vector-borne disease, rising seas, increased temperatures leading to decreased air quality, and longer and hotter heat waves. Vulnerable people - such as the elderly, children, communities of color, and low-income communities - will bear an increased and disproportionate burden of the negative health and economic impacts of climate change. Additionally, these impacts will disrupt our critical physical infrastructure. The County will increasingly face community impacts of

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climate change when delivering services including public health, construction and maintenance of infrastructure, land use planning, fire, public safety, and emergency coordination.

All nations, including the United States, vowed to address climate change through the Paris Agreement reached in December 2015 by enacting programs to limit global temperature increases to no more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The federal government has now abdicated leadership on this issue, increasing the importance of local action in avoiding the most dangerous and costly effects of climate change. That is why over 2,300 governors, county officials, mayors, city councils, businesses, and other entities from across the United States, representing over half of the U.S. population, have signed the *We Are Still In* declaration to demonstrate their intent to continue to ensure that the U.S. population remains a global leader in reducing emissions despite federal inaction. Los Angeles County should join them.

In 2015, the County adopted the Community Climate Action Plan, which set targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions levels consistent with AB 32 of at least 11% lower than 2010 levels by 2020. This plan is now being updated by the Chief Sustainability Office as part of the Countywide Sustainability Plan. Additionally, the County has already taken actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance quality of life in our communities by launching the Clean Power Alliance of Southern California, supporting the construction of affordable housing near high-quality transit centers, developing a cool roofs ordinance, joining the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator's Transportation Electrification Partnership, and promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy through the Southern California Regional Energy Network and

the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program.

The County desires to protect and enhance quality of life for all those who live, work, learn, and play in our community, now and in the future. As such, we must be fully committed to fighting climate change, building community resiliency, and adapting our programs and services to address climate impacts.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors take the following actions:

1. Join with other U.S. states, counties, and cities in supporting the goals of the Paris Agreement;
2. Accelerate the implementation of policies and programs to meet these commitments, such as promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy, reducing transportation emissions, and advancing efficient resource use through our policies, programs, and purchasing power, especially in a way that prioritizes the needs of vulnerable populations;
3. Complete a new inventory of the County's greenhouse gas emissions, establish future emissions targets, and develop and adopt an updated climate action plan through the Chief Sustainability Office's Countywide Sustainability Plan process;
4. Authorize and direct the Chief Executive Office through the Chief Sustainability Office to register the County of Los Angeles with the *We Are Still In* coalition in support of combating the threat of climate change; and
5. Encourage other counties to stand with state and national climate leaders and become partners in the *We Are Still In* coalition.