

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HOLLY J. MITCHELL
AND HILDA L. SOLIS

August 31, 2021

RECOGNIZING “CLEAN AIR DAY” IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The [American Lung Association’s 2021 State of the Air Report](#) ranked Los Angeles as the metropolitan area with the highest ozone levels and fourth-highest particulate matter pollution levels in the United States. This report shines a light on the fact that Los Angeles County (County) communities are breathing some of the most polluted air in California and the United States. This means that our communities are facing health impacts of air pollution which include higher rates of cancer, heart and lung disease, stroke, low-birth weight, and early death.

In the Los Angeles region, the major sources of air pollution include emissions from vehicles, industrial sites, and wildfires, which are exacerbated by our changing climate and extreme heat events. While air pollution is a Countywide problem, people of color and low-income communities are disproportionately affected due to the pervasiveness of industrial and hazardous exposures, a legacy of racist and exclusionary land use decisions that sited hazardous land uses near sensitive populations. As a result, communities of color are over three times more likely to be breathing the most polluted air in the nation.

Despite the scale of the problem, there are actions that can and must be taken, from the individual to the federal government level, to improve air quality, human health

MOTION

MITCHELL _____

KUEHL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

SOLIS _____

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and the environment. The Board of Supervisors has the opportunity and responsibility to raise community awareness on air quality and environmental justice issues and to leverage our resources to help improve air quality and health outcomes for all County residents. To this end, the County has participated, for the past two years, in “Clean Air Day,” a collective day of action centered around a commitment to improve air quality. In 2020, the County was one of more than 500 government, nonprofit, and business partners that activated 1.6 million Californians across the state to act on Clean Air Day. Clean Air Day actions take many forms, such as biking to work, sharing educational resources, promoting clean transportation options, or launching new air quality initiatives.

This year, we ask all County departments, employees, and residents to commit to take action to improve air quality by October 6, 2021. In recognizing Clean Air Day early, we intend for County departments and employees to identify impactful actions that will educate communities in the County and inspire others to make a commitment to improving air quality for all.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Recognize “Clean Air Day” on October 6, 2021 in Los Angeles County (County).
2. Encourage all County departments and agencies as well as all County residents, community institutions, businesses, and community organizations to commit to take action to improve air quality at <https://www.cleanairday.org/pledge/> by October 6, 2021.

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