



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

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Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

September 18, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich  
  
From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

**MOTION TO SUPPORT THE UNITED STATES SENATE'S PASSAGE OF COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION AND ADVOCATE TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS WHICH EMPOWER LOCALITIES TO ACHIEVE SIGNIFICANT ENERGY SAVINGS AND EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS AND SEND A FIVE-SIGNATURE LETTER ACKNOWLEDGING THE COUNTY'S SUPPORT OF FEDERAL CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION (ITEM NO. 14, AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2009)**

Item No. 14 on the September 22, 2009 Agenda is a motion by Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Zev Yaroslavsky directing the Chief Executive Office's Intergovernmental and External Affairs Office to support the United States Senate's passage of comprehensive climate change legislation and actively advocate that provisions which empower localities to achieve significant energy savings and emissions reductions be included in the final version of climate change legislation, to include support for carbon trading allowances to local governments, funding for local public transportation projects, eligibility of offset credits for local governments that reduce carbon emissions and support for local government adaption planning.

In addition, the motion calls for a five-signature letter to Senator Barbara Boxer as the Chair, and Senator James Inhofe as the Ranking Member, of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, to acknowledge Los Angeles County's support and collaboration in showcasing the efficacy of local government's efforts to promote clean energy and reduce the impacts of climate change, as well as advocate for the provisions described above.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

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On June 26, 2009, by a vote of 219 to 212, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2454 (Waxman, D-CA), the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, which is a comprehensive climate change measure intended to create clean energy jobs, achieve energy independence, reduce global warming pollution and transition to a clean energy economy.

Specifically, H.R. 2454 would, among other things, set a national renewable electricity standard that requires utilities to supply an increasing percentage of their demand from renewable energy (6 percent in 2012, 9.5 percent in 2014, 13 percent in 2016, 16.5 percent in 2018, and 20 percent in 2021 – 2039); cap and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) annually, so that GHG emissions from capped sources are reduced to 97 percent of 2005 levels by 2012, 83 percent by 2020, 58 percent by 2030, and 17 percent by 2050; establish a federal GHG registry; and set forth provisions governing the disposition of emission allowances. H.R. 2454 was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar on July 7, 2009.

The Senate has not yet introduced comprehensive climate change legislation. Senator Boxer recently announced that her committee would introduce comprehensive energy reform legislation by the end of September. However, recent news articles indicate that climate legislation is moving down the priority list as Democrats wrestle with health care reform.

**The recommendations to include in the final climate change bill direct support for carbon trading allowances to local governments, funding for local public transportation projects, eligibility of offset credits for local governments that reduce carbon emissions and support for local government adaption planning, are all consistent with existing County climate change policy.**

This policy includes:

- Support legislation that directly funds local government efforts to combat climate change;
- Support the creation of climate change markets whereby statewide reductions in emissions would be achieved through a combination of direct regulation and “cap and trade” market limits for certain industrial sectors;
- Support “cap and trade” to the extent that government programs that reduce emissions would contribute toward industrial sector goals;

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- Support funding for projects to build, improve, repair and maintain highways and other transportation infrastructure in Los Angeles County;
- Support legislation to provide credits directly to local governments for greenhouse gas reduction programs; and
- Support funding to assist local government compliance with existing and pending regulations to reduce emissions from both mobile and fixed sources.

As instructed by your Board, upon approval of the motion, this office will actively advocate that provisions which empower localities to achieve significant energy savings and emissions reductions be included in the final version of climate change legislation. If the motion is approved unanimously, this office will prepare the five-signature letter to Senators Boxer and Inhofe acknowledging Los Angeles County's support for federal climate change legislation, offer Los Angeles County's support and collaboration in showcasing the efficacy of local government's efforts to promote clean energy and reduce the impacts of climate change, and advocate for the provisions described above.

WTF:RA  
EW:lm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Internal Services Department  
Department of Public Works  
Department of Regional Planning