

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
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September 15, 2021

**Developing a Comprehensive Strategy for a Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in Los Angeles County**

While Los Angeles County (County) continues to take steps to combat climate change and the related environmental health threats, it must at the same time ensure a just transition towards an environmentally sustainable economy. A just transition requires that the County break down false dichotomies between jobs and the environment and develop strategies that improve economic, health, and environmental outcomes for all.

Recognizing this, the County Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the [OurCounty Sustainability Plan](#) in August 2019 which specifically called for the creation of a ‘Just Transition’ plan. Subsequently, on September 29, 2020, the Board adopted a motion titled [“Facilitating the Development of a ‘Just Transition’ to Clean Energy”](#) that directed the creation of a Just Transition Strategy (Strategy), with focus on properly plugging and abandoning idle and orphaned oil wells in the unincorporated areas of the County. The motion cited goals in the Board-adopted OurCounty Sustainability Plan that prioritized a transition away from fossil fuels, and the creation of an inclusive economy, noting that the Strategy “must treat both the environmental transition and workforce transition as coequal goals.” The Sustainability Plan also recommends that the County coordinate and collaborate with the City of Los Angeles and other local jurisdictions on this effort. The motion further described the need to address the numerous wells in the unincorporated

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areas of the County that were improperly abandoned or have been left idle for long periods of time, which may pose public health and safety risks.

The initial Strategy, presented to the Board on June 3, 2021, recommended expansion of the scope to better address the needs of workers and frontline communities. This expansion was recommended based on feedback from the diverse taskforce that was designed to support development of the Strategy, which included representatives from labor, industry, environmental justice stakeholders, academia, and local governments. A comprehensive Strategy will require investments and partnership across all sectors and levels of government to inclusively create a vision for Los Angeles' energy and economic future that ensures that no one is left behind. This work will include building climate-resilient infrastructure that supports human health, and developing and resourcing a transition plan for workers at all career stages.

A sustainable County is one in which a healthy economy and healthy communities are not mutually exclusive. As the County responds to the urgency of our current moment and begins to transition away from fossil fuels, it is imperative that we develop a comprehensive Strategy in coordination with the relevant stakeholders to ensure that this transition does not come at the expense of people's livelihoods, health, safety, or dignity.

**WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Direct the Chief Sustainability Office to implement the recommendations outlined in the initial Just Transition Strategy report, including the following:
  - a. Expand the Stakeholder Taskforce to be inclusive of frontline and tribal communities, including indigenous communities and representatives of local Native Nations, additional industry representatives and workers, and workforce development partners;
  - b. Identify and address key data gaps, including the demographics of fossil fuel workers and economics of the fossil fuel industry in Los Angeles County (County), to inform a Just Transition Strategy; and

- c. Broaden the scope of the Just Transition Strategy for fossil fuel workers in the County, in coordination and collaboration with other relevant jurisdictions, including the City of Los Angeles, and provide a written progress report to the Board within 180 days with an annual update thereafter.
2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer to explore options to increase revenue dedicated to the ongoing implementation of the Just Transition Strategy, including relevant state and federal funding sources, and report back in writing within 60 days.

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