

Department Statement Board of Supervisors Meeting: April 16, 2024

Public hearing on Project No. 2019-002015-(1-5), Advance Planning No. RPPL2019003630 to adopt the Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan and certify the Final Environmental Impact Report associated with Environmental Assessment No. RPPL2019003635. This project will amend the County's General Plan Air Quality Element goals, policies, and implementation programs and replace the Community Climate Action Plan with the 2045 Climate Action Plan. The Board of Supervisors will also consider the certification of the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), which includes the Final PEIR and Recirculated Draft PEIR; and adoption of the CEQA Findings of Fact, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and County Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. (On November 15, 2023, the Regional Planning Commission recommended approval of this project.)

The Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan (2045 CAP) implements the Board of Supervisors' climate action directives by developing an updated CAP with a new greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory, future reduction targets, and strategies and actions to guide the County to meet these targets. The 2045 CAP is a policy document that supports development allowed under the General Plan and supports the General Plan's guiding principle to provide the foundation for a strong and diverse economy. The 2045 CAP strategies, measures, and actions were informed by GHG emissions data; GHG sectors best known practices; the General Plan; other County plans, such as the OurCounty: Los Angeles Countywide Sustainability Plan; State climate initiatives; and stakeholder input.

The 2045 CAP is a qualified CAP with a programmatic level environmental document that allows development projects to voluntarily (elect to) streamline environmental review of GHG impacts. The County's previous CAP expired in 2020.

The 2045 CAP, a subcomponent of the General Plan's Air Quality Element, is consistent with the other General Plan Elements, including the Housing and Economic Development Elements. Program 3 of the Housing Element requires the update to the CAP to ensure that meeting the housing goals of the County is complemented by actions to reduce air pollution and improve community health, particularly focusing on areas disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution. Reducing GHG emissions within unincorporated Los Angeles County will further pro-housing strategies, such as encouraging housing near transit through transit-oriented development programs. The 2045 CAP helps implement the Economic Development Element,

including developing renewable energy economic sectors and encouraging employment opportunities in proximity to housing.

There is often a misperception that climate action costs more than inaction. In many cases, costs over time are lower for emissions-reducing activities compared to the consequences of inaction. The costs of inaction include continued damages and losses from climate-induced disasters. In the last ten years, damages from floods, droughts, and wildfires in California totaled \$26.9 billion to \$32.9 billion. The economic damage from climate change is astounding at the state level, but it is equally significant at the local level. With just one fire alone, the Woolsey Fire cost the region \$3-5 billion in insured losses, while the County and taxpayer dollars paid \$52 million in fire suppression. Major insurance companies are starting to exit the California market and no longer offering homeowners insurance policies to new homeowners or requiring exponentially higher premiums for existing policy holders. This may lead to even greater economic damage from future wildfires as homeowners seek government relief to rebuild.

In addition, the federal government recognizes the need for proactive climate action. It has earmarked over \$140 billion in funding for climate action-related projects through the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Local jurisdictions with detailed plans for addressing the climate emergency will have a significant advantage when applying for these funding opportunities. The 2045 CAP will demonstrate the County's readiness and make the County competitive for these grants.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'De L S J'.

Amy J. Bodek, AICP
Director of Regional Planning

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