

September 10, 2024

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Support for Proposition 4: Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought

Preparedness and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024

Los Angeles County is home to over 10 million people facing the catastrophic impacts of climate change. A recent report by the Center for Climate Integrity estimated that LA County alone will need to invest over \$12.5 billion to protect residents from worsening climate hazards, including wildfire, torrential floods, coastal erosion, and climate-induced public health threats. These investments do not include the cost of recovering from disasters, which are far higher. From a public health perspective, climate adaptation is essential to ensuring our neighborhoods remain livable and safe.

The County has already taken steps to finance projects that protect residents from climate change. In 2018, LA County voters passed Measure W, a parcel tax which is investing nearly \$300 million every year in water supply, water quality, flood control, and multi-benefit projects in all 88 cities of LA County. Similarly, in 2016, LA County voters approved Measure A, which provides nearly \$100 million in annual funding to protect parks, beaches, and other open spaces. In addition, the County spends millions of dollars each year on other climate adaptation and mitigation projects. However, these resources are insufficient to fund all the long-term resiliency projects needed to safeguard our communities. The County has developed detailed,

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equity-informed plans for climate action that include shovel-ready projects that will transform and improve environmental justice communities. Yet, without a continuous and robust investment from the State of California, these projects will remain unfunded and shelved, leaving our residents vulnerable to the already deadly impacts of the climate crisis.

Proposition 4 represents a landmark opportunity to shift our approach from responding to climate emergencies to actively preventing them. The \$10 billion in funding from this bond will go towards projects to prevent wildfires and related air pollutants, provide safe and clean drinking water, protect our iconic natural resources and coastline, build the clean energy economy, and combat extreme heat. The summer of 2023 was the hottest on record, and recent wildfires alone caused over \$400 billion in economic losses in the state. As the climate crisis worsens at an unprecedented pace, we can no longer delay funding these essential projects. We need to make these critical investments now to ensure a sustainable and safe future for all Californians.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors take an official position to support of Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024.

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