

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

January 7, 2025

Preparing Los Angeles County for Proposition 4: The Climate Bond

In November 2024, California voters took a significant step forward in supporting climate action by approving Proposition 4, the Climate Bond. With nearly 60% of voters in favor, this ballot measure authorizes a \$10 billion state bond to fund natural resources and climate resilience projects. With one-quarter of the State’s population, and with LA County facing the most natural hazards of any in America, we must quickly move to bring those resources home.

The funding will support a variety of initiatives within eight broad categories. An estimated \$3.8 billion will increase the quantity and quality of water available for people to use and reduce the risk of flooding, including a \$80 million earmark for LA River revitalization and parkway connectivity. Approximately \$1.5 billion will fund forest health and wildfire prevention projects. Another \$1.2 billion will address sea-level rise and coastal area projects. Roughly \$1.2 billion will be allocated to land conservation and habitat restoration, including a \$211 million earmark for the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and Baldwin Hills and Urban Watershed Conservancy. \$850 million will support the state's transition to more renewable energy sources. \$700 million will go towards expanding, renovating, and

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repairing local and state parks. \$450 million will be used to reduce the effects of extreme heat on communities. Lastly, \$300 million will help farmers respond to the impacts of climate change and adopt more sustainable practices.

Los Angeles is home to over 10 million people already 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 is far higher. From a public health perspective, climate adaptation is essential to ensuring our neighborhoods remain livable and safe.

While the County faces substantial climate risks, it has also taken significant actions toward prevention and adaptation. This past summer, the Chief Sustainability Office launched the County Heat Action Plan and the Climate Ready Communities initiative to ensure that infrastructure safeguards Angelenos from more frequent and intense climate risks. Additionally, the County adopted the Community Forest Master Plan to serve as a roadmap to protect and expand neighborhoods trees that ensure shade from extreme heat and enhance biodiversity. The Coastal Resiliency Initiative is protecting and expanding County beaches from rising sea levels. The LA County Water Plan unites LA's more than 200 water agencies towards a shared goal of reaching 80% local water supply by 2045. The unprecedented Los Angeles Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment identified park needs across the County to inform planning, decision-making, and resource allocation.

The County has developed equity-informed climate action plans and has shovel-ready projects poised to transform and improve our communities. Proposition 4 provides a critical opportunity to expand and accelerate the work. Therefore, the County must take immediate action to ensure its residents receive at least a proportional amount of funding, given the risk we face and our enormous population.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct:

1. The Chief Sustainability Office, in coordination with the Chief Executive Office, Department of Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Beaches and Harbors, and Fire Department to report back in writing in 90 days with the following:
 - a. A description of the eligible project categories in the bond, whether funding will be based on formulas or competitive processes, and expected programming they can support;
 - b. A list of priority projects and initiatives from each department that will be seeking funding from Proposition 4;
 - c. Explanation of the criteria used to evaluate the project's priority position and how it relates to the County's targets outlined in OurCounty Sustainability Plan; and
 - d. Estimated costs and timelines for projects and initiatives.
2. The Chief Sustainability Office, in collaboration with Department of Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Beaches and Harbors, Fire Department, and CEO Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations to advocate on behalf of the County to relevant State stakeholders regarding Proposition 4 implementation and grant guidelines.

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