

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

AGN. NO.
April 15, 2025

Proclaiming April 22, 2025 as Earth Day and April 28 to May 4, 2025 as Air Quality Awareness Week

On January 28, 2025, the iconic Doomsday Clock set by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists’ Science and Security Board (SASB), moved one second closer to midnight as global existential threats and challenges endure due to a multitude of factors, such as “nuclear weapons, climate crisis, artificial intelligence, infectious diseases, and conflicts...”¹ This is the closest the Clock “has ever been to midnight in its 78-year history.” As SASB noted, the purpose of the Clock is to act as a reminder for leaders across the globe to have difficult conversations and discussions and create and implement actionable plans to address these “very real existential threats...”²

This year, more than ever, April 22, 2025 or Earth Day, should be used to highlight and bring awareness to the realities of climate change and to support the theme for 2025, which is “Our Power, Our Planet”. This year’s theme “demand[s] rapid renewable energy deployment...”³ given limited natural resources; and it is incumbent on Los Angeles County (County) to be a leader on climate justice and advocate and push for using renewable and alternate forms of energy, such as “solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal,

¹ <https://thebulletin.org/2025/01/press-release-doomsday-clock-set-at-89-seconds-to-midnight-closest-ever-to-human-extinction/>

² Id.

³ <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2025/>

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and tidal energy”.⁴ Additionally, there needs to be significant growth in creating “green jobs” to encourage “equity and improv[e] the health”⁵ of the over 10 million residents in the County. With these efforts combined this can help “combat climate change, preserve biodiversity, protect ecosystems, and eliminate our dependence on fossil fuels.”⁶

Furthermore, with the devastating LA wildfires, we must recognize not just the distressing effect on residents in the impacted areas, but concurrently, the consequential harm to our air. The last week of April, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) observes Air Quality Awareness Week (AQAW) to raise awareness about air quality and bring attention to pollutants in our air that harm human and environmental health quality. The County must do all it can on all levels, locally, statewide, and nationally, to ensure residents are protected from the effects of contaminated air and bring the necessary and relevant resources to our communities.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors to proclaim April 22, 2025 as Earth Day and April 28-May 4, 2025 as Air Quality Awareness Week.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Department of Public Health and the Chief Sustainability Office with the support of County Communications to post information on its websites and social media accounts about Earth Day and how to access resources related to air quality.
2. Direct the Department of Economic Opportunity to highlight “green” jobs and workforce opportunities that the County and its partners offer on its website and social media accounts on Earth Day, while working in partnership with the Chief Sustainability Office and other relevant stakeholders to expand programs and

⁴ Id.

⁵ Id.

⁶ Id.

initiatives that build a climate resilient economy.

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