

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

February 3, 2026

Adoption and Equitable Implementation of the Los Angeles County Heat Action Plan

Extreme heat is among the most dangerous climate hazards facing Los Angeles County, and one that will intensify for decades to come even with aggressive climate mitigation efforts. The consequences are already severe: in LA County, emergency medical service calls increase by an estimated 15% during extreme heat days, and elevated heat is associated with over 200 deaths per year. Beyond these acute crises, chronic heat exposure takes a profound toll on daily life. It impairs student learning in classrooms, causes worker injuries, and strains household budgets. The burdens fall disproportionately on communities of color and low-income neighborhoods that have long endured limited outdoor shade, aging housing stock without adequate cooling, and cumulative environmental harms. This is environmental injustice, and we must confront it with urgency and resolve.

LA County has already demonstrated strong leadership on extreme heat. The County’s Extreme Temperature Plan, Community Forest Management Plan, and Maximum Indoor Temperature Ordinance reflect our commitment to equity, shade, and safe housing. The 2025 OurCounty Plan further elevates resilience, environmental justice, and community protection as core responsibilities across government. These

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initiatives provide a strong foundation for a comprehensive and coordinated countywide approach to heat resilience.

On July 25, 2023, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to develop a framework for protecting communities across LA County from the impacts of heat. In November 2023, Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) reported back with a proposed framework outlining guiding principles, structure, and scope for a comprehensive Heat Action Plan. In June of the following year, CSO began an extensive engagement process to create the Los Angeles County Community Heat Action Plan (CHAP). The Chief Sustainability Office partnered with leaders from across county government, city agencies, technical experts, and communities to identify and develop equitable solutions to extreme heat. This collaboration produced a roadmap that bridges current efforts into a holistic set of interventions and collaborations to more effectively address rising temperatures across the diverse ecosystems and communities of the region.

Critically, this plan recognizes that we must act on multiple timescales. We must prepare for the immediate dangers of the upcoming heat season with effective messaging and new partnerships. At the same time, we must make long-term investments, infrastructure and policy changes that will protect future generations from temperatures that will be significantly higher than today. It takes time and a roadmap to make feasible, lasting adaptations to our world's changing climate. The CHAP identifies the following 3 crosscutting goals:

1. Cool Outdoor Spaces: Create cooler, more livable outdoor environments

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through strategic shade, green infrastructure, and heat-reducing surfaces that protect residents and ecosystems while fostering vibrant community spaces.

2. Create Heat-Resilient Indoor Spaces: Promote safe, efficient design and operations for the buildings where County residents live, work, and learn.

3. Expand Heat Safety Communications and Programs: Build robust community networks and emergency management operations that promote heat safety and connect vulnerable people to cooling resources.

To achieve these important goals, the CHAP presents priority strategies and detailed actions that require sustained commitment and coordination across County departments, partnership with the County's 88 cities, and engagement with community organizations, businesses, and residents throughout the region.

By adopting and implementing the CHAP, Los Angeles County will be better prepared to protect all residents—especially the most vulnerable—from the immediate dangers of extreme heat events while building long-term resilience to rising temperatures. This plan positions the County as a national leader in equitable heat resilience and demonstrates our commitment to creating a safer, healthier, more livable region for current and future generations.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt the Los Angeles County Heat Action Plan (CHAP) as the County's comprehensive framework to protect communities and guide strategic investments in equitable heat resilience;

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2. Direct the Chief Sustainability Office (CSO), in coordination with Public Works, the Internal Services Department, the Department of Public Health, the Office of Emergency Management, Department of Regional Planning, and all other relevant departments, to integrate CHAP goals and strategies into related plans and budget requests;
3. Direct the Chief Executive Office, through the Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, to align the County's local, State, and Federal legislative agenda with CHAP priorities, including support for funding, regulatory protections, and policies that safeguard vulnerable communities from extreme heat;
4. Direct the CSO to engage and coordinate with the 88 Cities and Councils of Governments on CHAP implementation and develop shared resources that support regional collaboration;
5. Direct the CSO to provide an annual written report regarding progress on equitable implementation of the CHAP on priority strategies; and
6. Grant delegated authority to the Executive Office – Chief Sustainability Office to apply for, accept, and administer CHAP-related grants for a five-year period to expand resources for implementation.

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