MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

Transformative Climate Communities in Unincorporated East Los Angeles

Los Angeles County has committed to addressing the impacts of climate change by supporting the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement to be carbon neutral by 2050, adopting the OurCounty Sustainability Plan that calls for the elimination of fossil fuels in the County by 2050, and by supporting policies and programs to reduce air and climate pollution and preparing communities for the damaging impacts of climate change. As a result of Los Angeles County’s history of redlining, and unequal investment, some communities in the County, such as unincorporated East Los Angeles, have experienced and will experience these impacts disproportionately more than others.

The legacies of inequities in investment, harmful land use policies, and environmental catastrophes have left a lasting imprint on the health, wellbeing, and quality of life of residents in unincorporated East Los Angeles (ELA) today as freeways, traffic, industrial facilities, and lead contamination from the former Exide facility continue to have far-reaching consequences on this community. These issues have been further compounded by the climate crisis as unincorporated ELA experiences more extreme heat days and air pollution, while at the same time having fewer resources that would support climate resilience, such as trees, green spaces, safe multimodal opportunities, adequate housing, and healthy food options. In 2018, the County applied and

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received a Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) planning grant for unincorporated ELA through the State’s Strategic Growth Council (SGC) which sets some of the groundwork on how we can transform and correct these unequal investments.

To support implementation of this plan, SGC encourages TCC planning grantees to apply for their implementation grant. The grant would not only help the County implement the recommendations developed in the planning grant titled “Nuestra Tierra, Nuestro Futuro: A Sustainable Community Ownership and Land Stewardship Pilot in Unincorporated East Los Angeles”, which include the development of a Community Land Trust and the development of local food systems and parks/open spaces in unincorporated East LA; it would also allow the implementation of strategies that can transform the community into an equitable, sustainable, and resilient community. A community that ensures its residents are thriving and empowered as inevitable climate related changes occur. The grant can help the County ensure that there is cohesive community connectivity to resources by creating the recommended community land trusts, ensuring there is access to safe and reliable, affordable housing, multimodal transportation options, and open spaces, access to healthy foods via the development of local food systems, the creation of green infrastructure, a well thought out transition to a green economy and a way to support the small businesses that are a part of the social and economic fabric of the community.

Work has already begun on how the County can implement these strategies via projects.
Supervisorial District 1 staff, the Chief Sustainability Office staff, Fideicomiso Comunitario Tierra Libre, Little Tokyo Service Center and Sandra McNeill Consulting have collaborated to think through the specifics on how to implement potential strategies and projects. This group also toured the community in October 2022 to ground truth and better understand the opportunities in the community. If the County can implement the strategies and projects then the impacts of climate change can become something of the past and residents of unincorporated ELA have the potential to thrive living in a community where resources are well-connected neighborhood assets are valued and greenhouse gas emissions are inherently reduced.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Chief Sustainability Office to collaborate with the Department of Regional Planning, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Public Works, Internal Services Department, the Department of Parks & Recreation, Metro, and other relevant departments, to develop draft strategies and potential projects in unincorporated East Los Angeles for application consideration. This should include stakeholder engagement.

2. Delegate authority to the Executive Office of the Board to enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to support the Chief Sustainability Office in its efforts to complete the application and conduct stakeholder engagement.

3. Direct the Chief Sustainability Office in coordination with the above-named
departments to apply for the Transformative Climate Communities Grant Round 6.

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