AGENDA NO.

December 19, 2023

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Add a "<u>Establishing an LA County Climate Budget to Achieve Carbon Neutral County Operations</u>"

[The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) unanimously adopted the OurCounty Sustainability Plan (OurCounty) in August 2019, setting ambitious targets covering all aspects of sustainability, including achieving carbon neutrality in County operations by 2045. The Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning) subsequently drafted the 2045 Climate Action Plan (CAP), which if adopted, will incorporate these and other State-mandated goals into our General Plan. While these plans present a pathway for the County to show leadership and do its part to combat the climate crisis, to date, the County has not adequately resourced climate action. Doing so would require direct alignment between capital planning, budgeting, and greenhouse gas reduction goals: a climate budget.

The County's strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across unincorporated Los Angeles cover a range of sectors, including decarbonizing energy supply, reducing single-occupancy vehicle trips, conserving water, minimizing waste, and implementing sustainable agricultural practices and land conservation that sequester carbon. In addition to reducing GHG emissions, some of these strategies will have co-benefits for nearby residents, such as reduced air pollution, and can help advance Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion

<u>MOTION</u>

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Initiative (ARDI) goals around equity in the environment. In the draft CAP, Regional Planning prepared a GHG inventory for communities in County unincorporated areas, which is proposed to be updated regularly to track progress towards achieving emissions reduction.

The Board also directed several strategies detailed in OurCounty focused on reducing GHG emissions from County operations. Because of the breadth and size of County operations, the County's leadership can meaningfully contribute to meeting community-wide emissions goals. The County has a goal of reducing its own operational GHG emissions by 25% by 2025, 50% by 2035, and achieving carbon neutrality by 2045. Sector specific goals include:

- Effective immediately, deploying organic waste separation and collection at all County facilities in compliance with SB 1383.
- All new buildings being net-zero energy by 2025, and building renovations being 50% net-zero carbon by 2025, 75% by 2035, and 100% by 2045.
- 5,000 electric vehicle charging stations deployed at County facilities by 2025, 15,000 by 2035.
- By 2035, 100% of medium-duty vehicle purchases to be zero-emissions and by 2045, 100% of the County fleet to be zero-emissions or better.
- Maximizing the installation of solar and energy storage systems on County property and eliminating fossil fuels in County operated co-generation facilities.

Many cities, including Los Angeles and New York City also prepare a municipal GHG inventory, which measures the cumulative greenhouse gas emissions of municipal operations (including the emissions from powering buildings, operating vehicles, processing waste, and moving water). The County has not prepared a municipal GHG inventory in nearly ten years. The California Air Resources Board's *Local Government Operations Protocol* provides internationally agreed upon standards for calculating "scope one" and "scope two" emissions. Establishing a new baseline for emissions, and regularly updating progress will be especially useful as we prepare to issue a new Countywide Sustainability Plan in 2025.

Achieving these emissions reductions will require significant investment, and presents a challenge given scarce resources and overlapping priorities facing the Board. Thankfully, there are many ways to pay for these priorities beyond traditional capital (debt) and Net County Cost funds. Between the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, and recent California State Budget surpluses, there is currently a once-in-a-generation supply of grant resources to support this work. Additionally, Energy Services Companies (ESCOs) regularly offer government agencies contracts that allows work to be completed with no upfront cost and repaid through projected energy savings. The scale of investment required to meet the County's goals merits consideration of new financing, budgeting, and planning approaches.

Without adequate investment and accurate data, the County will be unable to achieve its carbon neutrality goals. Data collection, planning, and investment must be overhauled to ensure combatting the climate crisis is appropriately resourced in our County's budget.]

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors [(Board) direct the Department of

Internal Services (ISD), with the assistance of the Department of Regional Planning (DRP), the Chief Executive Office (CEO), Public Works (PW), and Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) to report back in writing within 120 days with a plan to regularly prepare and present an accounting of the greenhouse gas emissions of County operations, including from energy, buildings, transportation, water, and waste, in order to measure progress towards achieving decarbonization. The inventory should be consistent with established Local Government Operations Protocol for Greenhouse Gas Inventories. The report should identify cost estimates for resources needed to implement this strategy.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Board direct the CSO, with the assistance of the CEO, ISD, DRP, PW, and other relevant departments to:

1. Present a list of projects funded in each year's budget that are intended to advance the County's climate change mitigation and adaptation goals. The list should identify in which tier of the ARDI Equity Explorer a project is located. Findings should be submitted annually to the Board alongside the recommended budget.
2. Report back in writing within 120 days with a plan to annually prepare and recommend a minimum climate mitigation investment target for each budget year. This target should utilize available metrics, including rate of return on County investments, and should be based on GHG reductions to date.
3. Report back in writing within 120 days with a plan to identify annual opportunities for external grant support and proactively message those findings to relevant departments,

leveraging existing platforms such as InfrastructureLA.

4. Report back in writing within 120 days with an analysis of barriers to climate mitigation investments at County facilities and recommendations to address such barriers. Barriers could include purchasing procedures, procurement rules, human resources, capacity to pursue grants, accounting for energy savings, misaligned incentives for departmental managers, or other factors that have traditionally been barriers to investing in climate change mitigation projects.
5. Report back in writing within 120 days regarding cost estimates for resources needed to implement this strategy.]

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