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July 23, 2024

**Report on Initiatives to Protect Los Angeles County Residents from Extreme Heat**

Extreme heat is the deadliest climate risk facing Los Angeles. The 2021 UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change "Code Red" report projected that as global temperatures rise, the frequency and intensity of heat waves will increase commensurately. Los Angeles experiences the most extreme heat waves within the state, our region is two degrees warmer than it was in the 1950s, and the California Fourth Climate Change Assessment Report estimates that the temperature in the County will continue to increase by four to five degrees over the coming decades. Just weeks ago, the National Weather Service described our region's "seemingly never-ending heat wave" which has been unprecedented and set record high temperatures in numerous communities in Los Angeles County and across California.

According to the California Department of Public Health, extreme heat can lead to heat-related illness, such as heat exhaustion and heat strokes; has been associated with increased risk of acute renal failure, stroke, and suicide; and aggravates pre-existing health conditions, like diabetes and heart disease. High heat during pregnancy increases risks of

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congenital heart disease, preterm delivery, and stillbirth. Older adults, young children, those with preexisting health conditions, and our unhoused neighbors are most vulnerable to the health impacts from extreme heat. The Los Angeles County Climate Vulnerability Assessment has mapped at a community level those facing the greatest risks from extreme heat, which like most environmental justice threats, disproportionately impacts low-income and communities of color burdened by the urban heat island effect.

Los Angeles County, through our Office of Emergency Management operates awareness campaigns to communicate the risks to communities from extreme heat as well as available county resources. The County operates a network of cooling centers, pools, splash pads, and other publicly available infrastructure during excessive heat events. Educational resources and the locations of cooling centers can be found at <http://ready.lacounty.gov/heat>. These efforts build on resources from other levels of government including the Biden Administration's <http://heat.gov>, Governor Newsom's <http://HeatReadyCA.com>, and the City of Los Angeles' [Heat Relief 4 LA](https://www.climate4la.org/heat-relief-4-la/) <https://www.climate4la.org/heat-relief-4-la/>.

Additionally, County departments, led by the Chief Sustainability Office are preparing a Los Angeles County Heat Action Plan. This equity-guided framework organizes several departments along strategies to reduce the burden of extreme heat through programs, policies, and infrastructure investment over the next two to five years. Highlights include:

- Development of tenant protections from high indoor temperatures;
- Strategies to expand the urban canopy in tree-poor neighborhoods;
- Improving health safety communications and expanding cooling centers.

Given the increasingly dangerous summer heat, the Board of Supervisors and the viewing public, will benefit from a presentation that clearly articulates the health risks,

resources, and initiatives underway to keep Angelenos safe from extreme heat.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Health, the Chief Sustainability Office, and the Office of Emergency Management, to provide a verbal report at the July 30, 2024 Policy Presentation Board Meeting to discuss the health risks of climate-exacerbated extreme heat in Los Angeles County, resources and communication strategies to protect vulnerable communities - including people experiencing homelessness – and planned initiatives underway including the Los Angeles County Heat Action Plan .

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