

June 15, 2020

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Vice President*

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Secretary*

Asaad Alnajjar

Lori Choi

Brandii Grace

Mihran Kalaydjian

David Lasher

Becky Leveque

Hassan Memarian

Mayor Eric Garcetti
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council Files 20-0482 (Climate as Essential Services) and 20-0600 (Proposed Budget)

Dear Mayor Garcetti:

If there is any lesson many of us in the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance have learned over the course of the coronavirus pandemic, it is that we have to be forward-thinking and prepare for what we know will come; we ignore predicted crises at our peril. In that vein, we object to the proposed budget as described in Council File 20-0600, and we support Council File 20-0482, to classify as essential emergency services any efforts to reduce greenhouse gas and toxic emissions. Unfortunately, the climate crisis will not wait on hold while we address the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, and although we expect to see some cuts to climate mitigation programs in order to close the budget gap caused by the projected drop in revenue and unexpected costs due to the pandemic, those programs should not be eliminated; we do not want you to repeat the mistake made by the Trump administration in disbanding the Office of Global Health Security and Biodefense prior to the pandemic. Specifically, our concerns include:

- the elimination of the Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization, the Climate Emergency Commission, and Community Assemblies (all of which were just about to launch, and which would have engaged low-income communities, who are particularly vulnerable to the climate crisis as well as this pandemic, in a just transition to a sustainable economy)
- the elimination of the Wildlife Pilot Study, which protects habitat connectivity
- reductions in funding for protection and maintenance of existing mature trees throughout the city—now more than ever, we need to protect the lungs of Los Angeles

We have known about and felt the effects of the escalating climate crisis for many years—each year breaking new records with more extreme weather and wildfires. Although the speed at which we are experiencing the impacts of these two crises is different, make no mistake that the climate crisis is causing increasing numbers of human deaths. To continue to react to short-term threats while postponing, or outright ignoring, whole-system issues is near-sighted and dangerous. Far better would be to treat the immediate crisis as a part of

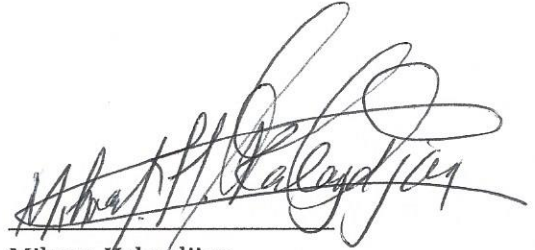
Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

our overall strategy for dealing with the larger one that we know will be a multi-generational, global endeavor. This is a painful time, but we do not want to return to the way things were; we want to do better. And this budget is, at the end of the day, a statement of our values.

Respectfully Yours,
Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council



Hassan Memarian, Ph.D.
Chair, Sustainability Committee
1st PRNC Liaison to the NCSA



Mihran Kalaydjian
2nd PRNC Liaison to the NCSA

cc: Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA)