

Tuesday, January 5th 2021

Re: City Council Agenda Item #17 - Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Hearing 1/5/21

Dear Jennifer Ly and Long Beach Development Services,

Thank you for all of your hard work preparing the City of Long Beach's first ever Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) for council review. The proposed draft plan is an achievement, especially as the City starts afresh in the New Year.

We look forward to the staff presentation on the CAAP tonight, and we will prepare suggestions to complement the proposal in its current form, with the intention to create a set of actionable and implementable items. There are numerous specific programs and policies in the proposed draft CAAP that can be measured and evaluated in comparison and consonance with the LA County Climate Action Plan, now in draft through the public comment period open until this Friday the 8th of January, along with existing municipal climate action plans regionally and statewide.

We request that written testimony from the public on the LB CAAP relevant to tonight's hearing and issues therein, be accepted through this Friday the 8th of January, 2021 - especially where and as they are relevant to the County CAP - but also to accommodate the limited public noticing and engagement on the plan over the holidays, and with new City Council members and Staff positions - some with less than one month and one full decision-making meeting in office.

Such an extension for the inclusion of written testimony on the CAAP would be greatly appreciated.

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Presently, there are a number of questions and issues to raise with the proposed draft CAAP:

How does the "best available science" on climate change get integrated into the CAAP moving forward?

When are we going to have more recent emissions inventory data than that calculated for 2015?

How will total emissions be calculated to include the tremendous growth in development, construction, and added energy-intensity of land uses aggregate in Long Beach from 2015-2020?

Do these calculations put the onus on individual per capita reductions city-wide, or on the effective sector or industry or place-type responsible for emissions load, growth, and intransigence?

Does the City have a publicly reviewable plan for the managed decline and phase-out of oil and gas extraction and sales by the City of Long Beach?

Does the City have available an analysis of the costs of inaction of not having a Community Choice Aggregation program in place?

Where does one find the complete emissions reduction potential, per annum, with adopting a Community Choice Aggregation program and greater consumer choice over renewable energy content in their electricity usage?

Does the City have calculated the Social Cost of Carbon associated with both the Production and Consumption inventories developed for the CAAP?

How does the City account for the total contribution of oil and gas development locally to attributable climate change over the past 100 years? How would the growth paths and attendant forms of economic development be analyzed, measured, and assigned based on existing City data?

The proposed set of (potential) adaptation and mitigation actions has the virtue of equity strategies listed for each action, but frequently conflates the equity 'goal' with the implementation 'method' germane to the strategy - How does the City update these potential actions, and their assessed co-benefits and anticipated equity goals, without extensive community engagement and participation? Would it be possible to add an "implementation strategy" or "community engagement strategy" to analyze, compare, prioritize, and schedule potential actions by impact/stressor type?

How might the City utilize the (limited) new funding from Measure US to develop research on how to implement the CAAP city-wide?

Where is Ozone being monitored locally in the City of Long Beach, and how does that relate to existing and proposed regulatory agency measurement and monitoring?

Just like with our transmission numbers of COVID-19, it is not enough to "flatten the curve" of planetary greenhouse gas emissions - we have to bend the curve, down to zero.

Long Beach is taking the right first step in confirming the proposed plan, and in making the plan iterable in light of new data and evidence.

LONG BEACH ALLIANCE  
FOR CLEAN ENERGY

This city has been at the heart of the dirty-energy growth paths and carbon-intensity of American living over the past century - What actions can it take in this year, 2021 coming out of the global pandemic, to decouple economic growth and prosperity from greenhouse gas pollution?

Due to the lag in atmospheric forcing and resultant impacts, we know that significant adverse climate impacts are "baked in" - i.e. set in advance - over the next two decades. So, what actions can we undertake together over the next decade to ensure that Long Beach is a livable, thriving, vibrant place for all who work, live, and visit here in this third century as a municipality?

Since our founding over two years ago, the Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy has engaged with climate action and environmental justice policies at multiple levels, including municipal, county, state-wide, and national. We are a group of BIPOC educators of/by/for/from Long Beach deeply versed in climate science and are committed to equity-focused and evidence-based pathways to effective climate stabilization in our city.

We applaud you for all of your hard work and effort moving our city forward with the adoption of the CAAP

We look forward to being in touch with you at your earliest convenience, and to the full submission of written testimony for the CAAP this Friday, January 8th.

Thanking You,

Dr. Elaine Villanueva Bernal  
Tiffany Semoy Davy  
Dave Shukla  
Derald Tucker