

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached comments.



November 19, 2024

Via Electronic Submission

To: Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, Chair, Energy and Environment Committee;
Councilmember Tim McOsker, Vice Chair, Energy and Environment Committee

RE: Council File 22-1402 (Climate Budget)

To the Chair Yaroslavsky, Vice Chair McOsker and Members of the Energy and Environment Committee:

On behalf of Sierra Club and our more than half a million members and supporters statewide, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Council File 22-1402: *Community and Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory / Carbon Reduction Goals / Climate Impact Team / Capital and Technology Improvement and Expenditure Program (CTIEP)*. Sierra Club has been engaged in Los Angeles' climate goals for decades and we are pleased with the progress the city has made, while we still acknowledge Los Angeles has a long way to go.

While we understand that, as the August 7, 2024 [City Administrative Officer report](#) outlines, a majority of emissions come from departments that are not directly controlled by the City Council (LADWP, LAWA, POLA), we still find it critical that the City Council play an active role in pushing these departments to drastically reduce their emissions. As mentioned in the report, LADWP accounts for 93.3% of CO2 emissions in Los Angeles. While the City Council does not directly control LADWP, they do have an oversight role in approving LADWP's Strategic Long Term Resource Plan (SLTRP). We urge the City Council to allocate funds to City staff that can oversee and work with LADWP to ensure they meet their city-mandated goal of being 100% carbon-free by 2035.

Regarding departments that are council-controlled, we urge the City Council to direct funds that will support emissions reductions in all of these sectors including transportation, buildings, and LASAN, rather than only focusing on budgetary needs for the City's vehicle fleet operations, as the CAO's report suggests. Allocating funds to efforts to reduce emissions from the City's vehicle fleet is important, but it should not be the only climate focus for the upcoming 2025-26

Budget. Additionally, we agree and would like to emphasize the point made in the CAO's report that "limiting new activities to zero GHG emissions, or offsetting activities like carbon sinks, will also be required to continue to make progress" (page 5). Furthermore, to meaningfully make progress on emissions reductions, we find it most important to ensure new activities in the City's 2025-26 budget do not increase emissions. In order to meaningfully combat climate change, it is necessary to ensure that new activities and infrastructure are as zero-emissions and carbon-neutral as possible, rather than relying on carbon offsets to meet the City's ambitious climate goals.

We encourage the LA City Council to allocate as much funding as possible to all departments within the City for climate related work. Los Angeles has an opportunity to be a trend setter in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and it will take proper funding to do so. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julia Dowell
Senior Campaign Organizer
Sierra Club