

Communication from Public

Name: Andy Hattala

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Comments for Public Posting: To the Transportation Committee, As Co-Chair of the Climate Reality Project Los Angeles Chapter and on behalf of its membership, I am writing in support of the ordinance to reduce vehicle idling as well as the creation of an outreach campaign educating the public regarding the associated emissions of harmful air and climate pollutants in Los Angeles caused by vehicular idling. It is commonly thought that leaving the car or truck idle was better for the engine and that it was more cost efficient than to turn the engine off. However, according to Oak Ridge National Laboratory Summary of OEM Idling Recommendations from Vehicle Owner's Manuals, that is not true. It is just the opposite. Excessive idling can create engine wear and carbon soot buildup in the engine and component parts causing the cost of vehicle upkeep to increase and overall fuel mileage to decrease. Although gas powered vehicles have come a long way in reducing harmful exhaust chemicals, there are still factors where this exhaust is harmful to humans. For example, the line of cars idling during school pick-up creates an increase of emissions which affects air quality and health, especially for children. Idling emissions can cause cancer, exacerbate heart conditions and cause or exacerbate asthma. The children and the elderly are especially vulnerable. Three million tons of carbon dioxide are emitted annually from parked, idling vehicles in California, which contributes to/exacerbates climate change. Transportation amounts to 41% of California greenhouse gas emissions according to the Air Resources Board, so this is an easy way to reduce emissions from a principal source. Just as we became aware of other sustainable practices through education and public awareness such as turning off the lights when leaving a room or reducing and recycling, turning off the engine of our vehicles while waiting in line or specifically while in a parked position is a simple energy conserving habit we need to adopt. As a chapter, we urge all committee members to vote for the motion "to prepare and present an ordinance to restrict parked vehicle idling to one minute or less; and, directing LADOT to prepare an education campaign about the new regulations and the dangers of parked vehicle idling."