

Communication from Public

Name: Chase Engelhardt

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Council File No: 21-1071

Comments for Public Posting: Please see the attached letter from Climate Resolve.

Los Angeles City Council
200 N Spring St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

October 8, 2021

Support: Coastal Equity and Environmental Justice Policy (Council File: 21-1071)

Dear City Councilmembers,

Climate Resolve strongly supports the Coastal Equity and Environmental Justice Policy. Los Angeles remains one of the [most racially segregated metro areas](#) in the United States, and in the coastal zone, people of color are largely underrepresented, with White people being overrepresented by [more than double the county average](#) in many communities.

This racial exclusion goes much beyond access to a view of the beach. Average annual extreme heat days in the central city area are set to increase more than double compared to neighborhoods in the Coastal Zone, and neighborhoods in the San Fernando Valley are set to see an increase of three to four times higher than the Coastal Zone according to [Cal-Adapt](#).

To compound future risks, conditions today have immediate impacts. [CalEnviroscreen](#) shows that Neighborhoods in the Coastal Zone face substantially less pollution, and Tree People's [Tree Canopy Viewer tool](#) shows that the Coastal Zone has some of the highest percentages for tree canopy in the County.

These disparities are not an accident. Trends like the ongoing demolition of multifamily housing in Oakwood to make way for single unit developments (as explored in [this analysis](#) of net dwelling unit loss by Pacific Urbanism), continued exclusionary zoning, and vehement community opposition to new transit and affordable housing, have put these high opportunity areas out of reach for many BIPOC communities, and displaced many of those who grew up there.

Finally, affirmatively furthering fair housing in Los Angeles is not only a necessary precondition for housing justice, it is also absolutely vital in addressing the climate crisis. The Westside community plan area has approximately [139,000 units of housing and 256,000 jobs](#). A study from UC Berkeley shows that addressing the housing/jobs imbalance with urban infill could [mitigate over 930,000 Metric Tons of CO2 in the City of Los Angeles](#).

This motion is a very important step towards environmental justice and we respectfully urge you to support it.

Sincerely,
Chase Engelhardt
Policy Analyst and Organizer
Climate Resolve