

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Chair Pro Tem
Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Supervisor Janice Hahn

From: Los Angeles County Youth Climate Commission

Subject: **RECOMMENDATION TO PROTECT LONG-TERM CLIMATE RESILIENCE INVESTMENTS IN THE 2026-27 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET**

The Los Angeles County Youth Climate Commission (YCC) advises the Board of Supervisors and County departments on climate-related goals, policies, and initiatives. As the Board prepares the 2026-27 supplemental budget, the Commission writes to urge that the County protect and prioritize the long-term climate resilience investments that its own sustainability plan calls for. In 2025, the Board adopted an updated OurCounty Sustainability Plan that places even greater emphasis on climate resilience. The supplemental budget is where that commitment is either honored or quietly set aside, and the YCC asks the Board to honor it.

The YCC's Youth Climate Priorities Report, based on a survey of more than 1,300 young people, found that 91 percent already feel the effects of climate change in their daily lives, and many report that those effects reach their households financially. Across all five Supervisorial Districts, their top priorities were consistent: Cleaner Air (Priority 1), Green Spaces (Priority 2), and Green Buildings (Priority 3).

These priorities share a defining feature. They call for investments whose benefits arrive on a generational delay. Storm drains, resilient buildings, and shade trees funded today will do their most important work decades from now, protecting the young Angelenos who will still be here when the next fire, flood, or earthquake arrives. Los Angeles County is already living through these disasters, and they fall hardest on the households with the fewest resources to recover. The YCC understands that the County faces real budget pressures. We write not to add to them, but to ask that scarce resources be protected for the investments this generation of youth will spend their lives relying on.

The YCC respectfully recommends that the Board take the following actions in the 2026-27 supplemental budget. We also urge the Board to shield the departments that deliver frontline climate and youth services, including Parks and Recreation, Fire, and Children and Family Services, from further reductions.

- (1) **Cleaner Air: Protect the Sustainability Investments.** Increase the County's own funding in sustainability-related work, including energy efficiency improvements, career pathways in urban forestry, and stormwater and urban runoff reduction. These

investments advance cleaner air and green jobs for young people, and the County's own goals for a green economy and a fossil fuel-free future (OurCounty Goals 4 and 7).

- (2) **Green Buildings: Invest in Resilient Infrastructure.** Fund the buildings and infrastructure built to endure what is coming, including stormwater and flood systems and the County's seismic safety program. Los Angeles faces compounding hazards, including fire, flood, extreme heat, and earthquake, and a genuinely climate-resilient built environment is one that withstands all of them. This is the heart of OurCounty Goal 2, buildings and infrastructure that support human health and resilience.
- (3) **Green Spaces: Plant and Maintain the Urban Forest.** Fund not only the planting of trees but their ongoing maintenance, through the County's Community Forest Management Plan. A healthy, mature tree canopy is among the most effective and equitable defenses against extreme heat, and it improves air quality at the same time. Because tree canopy across Los Angeles County remains unevenly distributed, a legacy of past disinvestment, this funding also advances shade equity (OurCounty Goals 1 and 6).
- (4) **Sustained Funding: Advocate at the State Level.** Continue and strengthen the County's advocacy to the State of California for wildfire recovery and climate resilience funding. As federal support for climate and disaster resilience grows less certain, sustained County leadership in securing state resources is essential to protecting these long-term investments (OurCounty Goal 12). **These issues are intersectional and impact environmental justice and public health.**

Los Angeles County will face more climate disasters in the years ahead, and today's young people will live with the results the longest. Young Angelenos are watching how the Board responds. The YCC urges the Board to use the 2026-27 supplemental budget to fund the resilient future that its own OurCounty Plan envisions, and to protect the investments that will safeguard the communities, natural resources, and residents who inherit this County.