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June 10, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

The Chief Sustainability Office is releasing the first OurCounty Annual Progress Report for public comment today. But, I know that for so many of us in Los Angeles County, especially those of you who have long collaborated with us to center equity in the creation of the OurCounty Sustainability Plan, this is a very difficult and painful time. I too am angered and saddened by the institutionalized and ongoing violence against black people.

The systemic racism that enables police brutality is the same driving force behind racial inequities that are evident across all aspects of daily life, from housing and education to employment and health. And, we have worked with you to identify and start to address these injustices in the plan that we crafted together.

To honor the past work of our partners and realize our shared vision of sustainability, we are continuing to move forward with implementing the plan. Although we know that many of you are currently focused on addressing the critical issue of police violence, we invite and welcome any level of input or feedback that you can provide regarding the implementation of the OurCounty Sustainability Plan and your priorities.

It is with renewed urgency that I call on my team, the County, and all our partners to continue centering equity in our daily work and to seek out new ways to advance racial justice. I believe that together we have the power to transform our communities.

In solidarity,

Gary Gero
Chief Sustainability Officer