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February 22, 2021

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Fesia A. Davenport
Chief Executive Officer

REPORT BACK ON ADOPTING THE COUNTY'S FIRST-EVER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (ITEM NO. S-1, AGENDA OF AUGUST 6, 2019)

Background

When the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the OurCounty Sustainability Plan (OurCounty Plan) in August 2019 (motion by Supervisors Kuehl and Solis), the Board directed the Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) to undertake a stakeholder-driven process to produce an annual list of priority actions to implement the OurCounty Plan. The motion also instructed that the priorities list inform the Chief Executive Officer's recommended budget for the upcoming fiscal year. This memo delivers the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 Priorities List (Priorities List) and the related items identified in the motion. Many of the actions have been carried over from the FY 2020-21 Priorities List. As was the case with the FY 2020-21 Priorities List, some actions are multi-year efforts while others may be completed within one year.

Developing Priorities

A draft list of near-term priorities was developed through an iterative process led by the CSO, in collaboration with the County Sustainability Council, which is comprised of all County of Los Angeles (County) departments. County departments were asked to identify near-term actions from the OurCounty Plan that they considered to be priorities for implementation in the year ahead; many of these were based on the prior year's Priorities List. Much like last year, the CSO provided strategic guidance and overarching perspective while primarily relying on the input of lead departments for identifying the priority actions.

While the Priorities List has substantial overlap with the FY 2020-21 Priorities List, there are several changes. Three actions from the FY 2020-21 Priorities List were completed and,

therefore, have been removed from the current list. These are: Action 14 - to enact a permanent rent stabilization ordinance for eligible rental units in unincorporated areas; 2) Action 15 - to adopt an inclusionary housing ordinance that promotes mixed-use housing; and 3) Action 81 - to adopt and implement the Principles of Universal Design for County parks, open space, natural areas, and recreation programs. Two other actions have been removed as priorities and will be deferred. These are: Action 58 - to regularly update the building code, fire code, and Hazard Mitigation Plan to reflect best practices in wildland-urban interface, which was deferred to better align with existing code cycles; and Action 152 - to obtain a Transformative Climate Communities implementation grant, which was deferred due to lack of funding for the grant at the State level. Seven new actions have been added to the Priorities List to reflect alignment with the near-term efforts of lead departments, including an action related to the County Climate Action Plan and actions related to water and waste management. Notably, two of the added actions are related to food access, reflecting the County's urgent priority to address heightened food insecurity due to the COVID-19 crisis, and the work of the CSO in response.

The draft Priorities List was released for public review on December 4, 2020, and the CSO collected public comments on the draft list of near-term priorities through January 8, 2021. The CSO reviewed the public comments and incorporated stakeholder feedback into the Priorities List shown in Attachment I. A qualitative summary of the public comments received for high-interest actions on the Priorities List is shown in Attachment II.

The CSO received over 20 comment letters and held 13 virtual office-hour listening sessions with individual stakeholders and stakeholder groups. The CSO also co-hosted a virtual workshop for the business community, which was attended by more than 40 stakeholders. Overall, stakeholder feedback demonstrated strong support for the draft Priorities List. Some stakeholders provided suggestions or expressed concerns about actions and how they will be implemented. These types of comments have been provided to the lead department responsible for implementing each action, to inform their implementation process. Additionally, some stakeholders sought to remove actions from the Priorities List and/or to add new actions to the Priorities List. None of these suggested changes received strong unilateral stakeholder support; as a result, the CSO has not added nor removed any actions from the draft Priorities List as it prepared the final list.

<u>County FY 2021-22 Budget and External Funding to Support the Plan Priorities</u>

As intended by the Board, the Priorities List is meant to help inform the FY 2021-22 Recommended Budget with the OurCounty Plan. The CSO has made clear to departments and the public that not all actions on the Priorities List will be funded this year, and some actions may only receive partial funding. The CSO also continues to work with departments and other stakeholders to secure external funding for priorities. For example, the CSO coordinated with several County departments to secure a $1.5 million grant from the

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to support Action 43, the development of an urban forest management plan, which was included as a priority in both FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22.

Conclusion

The CSO found strong support for the Priorities List during the public comment period. Stakeholders also highlighted the need to incorporate lessons learned from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic into the OurCounty Plan actions and implementation, elevating actions related to public health, equity, and community resilience.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me or Gary Gero, Chief Sustainability Officer, at (213) 974-1160 or ggero@ceo.lacounty.gov.

FAD:JMN:TJM
GG:RF:jg

Attachments

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel

Fiscal Year 2021-22 Priorities List

The following chart shows the list of the OurCounty Sustainability Plan (OurCounty Plan) near-term priorities. The "Action No." column references the numbering used in the OurCounty Plan. The "Condensed Action Description" column displays a short-hand description of the full text of the action in the OurCounty Plan. The "Lead Department" column lists the lead County of Los Angeles departments. All supporting departments listed in the OurCounty Plan for specific actions are still in place but are not noted here for the sake of brevity. Actions that are new to the list this year are indicated with an asterisk next to the action number.

Action No.	Condensed Action Description	Lead Dept.
Goal 1: Resilient and healthy community environments where residents thrive in place		
1	Limit siting of new sensitive uses, such as playgrounds, daycare centers, schools, residences, or medical facilities, at least 500 feet from freeways.	DRP
2	Expand the minimum setback distance for oil and gas operations from sensitive land uses.	DRP
4	Require oil and gas facility operators to prepare and make available to the public a comprehensive Community Safety Plan, in coordination with County departments, including Fire, Public Works, and Law Enforcement.	DPH
5	Expand the role for DPH in the initial siting process and the ongoing enforcement of regulations for industrial facilities.	DPH
7	Utilize fenceline and community air monitoring data to improve emissions regulations on refineries and other industrial facilities, and expand enforcement resources for these regulations.	DPH
8	Plan and implement a new lead-based paint hazard remediation program.	DPH, LACDA
11	Develop a public engagement, enforcement, and compliance plan for illegal dumping.	DPW
12	Complete development and start implementation of the Green Zones Program.	DRP

Goal 2: Buildings and infrastructure that support human health and resilience		
28 A & B	Conduct a Countywide climate vulnerability assessment that addresses social vulnerability and physical infrastructure, and use it to guide priorities for investments.	CEO
29	Develop a comprehensive heat island mitigation strategy and implementation plan that addresses cool pavements and roofs, pavement reduction, and urban greening.	DPH
34	Invest in multi-benefit water management solutions that diversify and increase reliability of the water supply, reduce dependency on imported water, prioritize solutions that mimic natural systems, and maximize benefits to Native and disadvantaged communities.	DPW
35	Develop a local water supply plan.	DPW
42	Develop a plan to ensure effective, well-maintained flood risk mitigation infrastructure to communities to help identify and address any chronic local flooding issues.	DPW
43	Create and implement a community-informed Urban Forest Management Plan that incorporates equitable urban forest practices.	CEO
Goal 3: Equitable and sustainable land use and development without displacement		
*47	Support the preservation of agricultural and working lands, including rangelands, by limiting the conversion of these lands to residential or other uses.	DRP
49	Expand the number and extent of transit-oriented communities while ensuring that vital public amenities, such as parks and active transportation infrastructure, are included.	DRP
52	Promote walkability through various tools, including zoning that enables a mix of uses, and pedestrian enhancements.	DRP
53	Develop equitable design guidelines that promote high quality living environments for all.	DRP
56	Evaluate options to limit new large-scale development in high climate-hazard areas.	DRP
Goal 4: A prosperous LA County that provides opportunities for all residents and businesses, and supports the transition to a green economy		
59	Collaborate to develop a "Just Transition" plan and task force that examines the impact of the transition to a cleaner economy.	CEO

60	Partner with community-based organizations, educational institutions, and the private sector to connect and place graduates and workers with meaningful on-the-job training and employment opportunities within growth sectors of the economy.	WDACS
65	Promote the development and growth of community land trusts, housing cooperatives, and other models for the provision of permanently affordable rental and ownership housing.	DRP
Goal 5: Thriving ecosystems, habitats, and biodiversity		
*68	Establish comprehensive and coordinated management guidelines for local waterways, which balance priorities such as water management, flood risk mitigation, habitat, biodiversity, and community preference.	DPW
70	Increase coordination among and expand training of County and affiliated personnel with regard to promoting native and climate-resilient species selection, biodiversity, habitat quality, and connectivity.	CEO, DPR
Goal 6: Accessible parks, beaches, recreational waters, public lands, and public spaces that create opportunities for respite, recreation, ecological discovery, and cultural activities		
74	Work with cities to plan, implement, and maintain parks, plazas, vacant lot adoptions, and joint-use green schoolyards in neighborhoods with high park need.	DPR
75	Implement Community Parks and Recreation Plans, and park projects identified in the LA Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment, with priority given to those in Very High/High Need Study Areas.	DPR
78	Collaborate with local tribes to identify and address barriers to observance of traditional practices such as harvesting and gathering, particularly on County-owned land.	CEO
Goal 7: A fossil fuel-free LA County		
85	Collaborate to develop building energy and emissions performance standards that put the County on a path towards building decarbonization.	DPW
88	Maximize the installation of solar and energy storage systems on County property whenever cost-effective.	ISD
90	Develop and implement a strategy to eliminate fossil fuels in County-operated cogeneration facilities.	ISD
92	Install electric vehicle (EV) chargers at County facilities and properties for public, employee, and fleet use, prioritizing locations in disadvantaged communities.	ISD

93	Revise and regularly update the County's fleet policy to require zero-emission vehicles or better whenever available and operationally feasible.	ISD
94	Convert Sheriff's Department fleet to zero emission by partnering with vehicle manufacturers to develop a zero-emission pursuit vehicle and transport bus.	LASD
95	Partner with Los Angeles Fire Department and equipment manufacturers to pilot a zero-emission fire engine.	FIRE
Goal 8: A convenient, safe, clean, and affordable transportation system that enhances mobility and quality of life while reducing car dependency		
97	Support Metro's efforts to study congestion pricing and amplify considerations of equity.	DPH, DPW
99	Develop and implement a comprehensive parking reform strategy.	DRP
100	Offer free transit passes for students, youth, seniors, disabled, and low-income populations.	DPW
104	Pilot an alternative work site program for County employees.	DHR, ISD
105	Implement the County's Vision Zero Action Plan.	DPW, DPH
Goal 9: Sustainable production and consumption of resources		
107	In collaboration with the City of LA, develop and implement an equitable strategy to phase out single-use plastics.	DPW, ISD
108	Adopt and advocate for producer and manufacturer responsibility requirements.	CEO, DPW
110	Conduct regular Waste Characterization Studies for sectors, sub-sectors, and public space to gather data on actual waste generation, composition, and recycling rates.	DPW
114	Develop a Net Zero Water Ordinance for new development.	DPW
119	Ensure that all County facilities over 25,000 square feet report their energy and water use to Energy Star Portfolio Manager.	ISD
*120	Establish guidelines for large-quantity food waste or green waste generators to perform on-site composting, mulching, or anaerobic digestion, and develop a marketing plan for the product.	ACWM, DPR, DPW
*121	Promote and communicate source separation, organic waste collection requirements, food waste reduction and donation, and local organic waste recycling programs.	ACWM, DPH, DPW

122	Expand and support existing Countywide programs that incentivize the development of local upcycling and recycling markets and quality recycled materials.	DPW
*123	Increase the diversion requirements in the County's Construction and Demolition debris ordinance.	DPW
Goal 10: A sustainable and just food system that enhances access to affordable, local, and healthy food		
*127	Maximize enrollment in CalFresh by partnering with public-facing agencies to promote the program and assist residents with the application.	DPSS
128	Enhance and expand the County's existing Food DROP food donation and redistribution program to divert edible food from landfills and make it available to food insecure communities.	DPW
*130	Support the use of public and private land for urban and peri-urban agriculture.	CEO
132	Implement Good Food Purchasing Policy and/or other model policies that promote local, fair, and sustainable production of agricultural products and seafood.	DPH, DPR
Goal 11: Inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance that facilitates participation in sustainability efforts, especially by disempowered communities		
138	Develop equity goals and metrics for the OurCounty initiatives.	CEO
145	Develop a climate-related health equity data initiative that includes collection and dissemination, builds stakeholder capacity, and drives decision-making.	DPH
148	Implement arts-based civic engagement strategies to support planning and implementation of the OurCounty initiatives.	Arts and Culture
149	Work with historically-impacted communities to produce asset maps that identify community resources, desires, and opportunities around sustainability efforts.	Arts and Culture
Goal 12: A commitment to realize the OurCounty sustainability goals through creative, equitable, and coordinated funding partnerships		
150	Coordinate multi-jurisdictional efforts to seek local, State, Federal, and philanthropic funding to support the OurCounty initiatives, and provide technical assistance for smaller jurisdictions and tribal governments.	CEO
151	Inventory and document County-owned arts and cultural assets.	Arts and Culture
156	Apply sustainability as a lens for consideration of departmental budget requests, especially to support the implementation of the Sustainability Plan.	All

157	Develop a Master Services Agreement to simplify the contracting process and increase opportunities to contract with Native American-owned businesses and community-based organizations.	DPH
158	Modernize the County's purchasing and contracting policies, including its Green Purchasing Policy.	ISD

ATTACHMENT II

Summary of Public Comments for High Interest Actions

This attachment provides a summary of public feedback for the ten actions that received the highest interest from stakeholders based on the total number of comments received. Note that this attachment is intended to summarize public feedback; it is not intended to indicate that these actions are higher priority than other actions on the 2021 Priorities List. While both comments of support and comments of concern are summarized below, stakeholder support was more common than concern for every high interest action. The summaries are not comprehensive of every comment the CSO received; however, the full content of each comment related to these and all other actions will be provided to the lead department responsible for implementing each action.

Action 2: Expand the minimum setback distance for oil and gas operations from sensitive land uses.

- Support: Several stakeholders identified Action 2 as a top priority action, citing public health and equity impacts, and some stakeholders asked that a 2,500-foot setback be implemented.
- Concern: Several stakeholders expressed concerns over potential negative job impacts and other costs associated with increased setbacks. Stakeholders indicated a need for an inclusive process with the business community to identify mutually beneficial solutions.

Action 7: Utilize fenceline and community air monitoring data to improve emissions regulations on refineries and other industrial facilities, and expand enforcement resources for these regulations.

- Support: Several stakeholders expressed the importance of Action 7 to achieve public health and environmental justice goals, and to meet long-term sustainability targets.
- Concern: Some stakeholders requested that this action be revised with input from the business community to reduce negative economic impacts and any potential duplication.

Action 28A and 28B: Conduct a Countywide climate vulnerability assessment that addresses social vulnerability and physical infrastructure and use it to guide priorities for investments.

- Support: Stakeholders strongly support this pair of actions, elevating them as critical for planning for resilience. Stakeholders highlighted the complexity of the social vulnerability component and asked that progress reports on the Climate Vulnerability Assessment process be made available publicly.
- Concern: Some stakeholders expressed concern that this action might be implemented using a benchmarking system, which they indicated could add burdensome, duplicative, and costly regulations for property owners.

Action 29: Develop a comprehensive heat island mitigation strategy and implementation plan that addresses cool pavements and roofs, pavement reduction, and urban greening.

- Support: Stakeholders support this action and link it to related efforts around electric vehicle infrastructure and urban canopy improvements.
- Concern: Some stakeholders expressed concern about the potential for this action to result in new limits to the types of building materials they use, including concerns about cost, flexibility, and overall environmental impacts. Stakeholders also expressed concerns that this action may be duplicative to other efforts, including the County of Los Angeles (County) Cool Roof Ordinance and Measure W.

Action 59: Collaborate to develop a "Just Transition" plan and task force that examines the impact of the transition to a cleaner economy.

- Support: Stakeholders strongly support this action, and several identified this as a top priority action.
- Concern: Stakeholders express that potential job and economy impacts should be carefully considered in any "Just Transition" strategy and requested that a formal analysis on job and other impacts be conducted. Stakeholders also asked that businesses directly impacted by this action be included on this taskforce.

Action 60: Partner with community-based organizations, educational institutions, and the private sector to connect and place graduates and workers with meaningful on-the-job training and employment opportunities within growth sectors of the economy.

- Support: Stakeholders expressed support for this action, and several stakeholders indicated that they would like to be considered as partners in this effort.
- Concerns: None.

Action 85: Collaborate to develop building energy and emissions performance standards that put the County on a path towards building decarbonization.

- Support: This action received the strongest stakeholder support from the Priorities List. Stakeholders elevated this action as critical to a transition away from fossil fuels and as an important public health measure for indoor environmental quality.
- Concern: This action also received the most stakeholder concern of any action on the list. Stakeholders expressed concern about technology readiness, emergency preparedness, costs, and potential job impacts. Stakeholders called for additional evaluation of potential impacts.

Action 88: Maximize the installation of solar and energy storage systems on County property whenever cost-effective.

- Support: Stakeholders expressed support for this action as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower energy costs, and accelerate a renewable energy transition.
- Concern: None.

Action 92: Install electric vehicle (EV) chargers at County facilities and properties for public, employee, and fleet use, prioritizing locations in disadvantaged communities.

- Support: Stakeholders strongly support this action, noting that this action seeks to protect disadvantaged communities, which are the most vulnerable to the health impacts of air pollution associated with transportation-related emissions.
- Concern: Some stakeholders expressed concern that this action could require EV charging stations to be provided by facilities, such as hospitals, at their own expense.

Action 107: In collaboration with the City of Los Angeles, develop and implement an equitable strategy to phase out single-use plastics.

- Support: Stakeholders support this action and emphasize the increased importance of this action due to the plastic waste impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Concern: None.