

# NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER  
**PAUL KORETZ**  
FIFTH DISTRICT



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Contact for Councilmember Koretz: Alison Simard, (213) 473-7005, Alison.Simard@lacity.org  
Contact for The Climate Mobilization: Ezra Silk, 860-916-8964, Ezra.Silk@ClimateMobilization.org

## For Immediate Release

### **Los Angeles City Council Approves Exploration of New Climate Emergency Mobilization Department**

**LOS ANGELES**, April 27, 2018 - On the heels of an extreme and unprecedented winter wildfire season, the Los Angeles City Council voted this morning to explore the creation of a [Los Angeles Climate Emergency Mobilization Department \(CEMD\)](#), which would oversee a citywide mobilization on climate change, including interdepartmental, intergovernmental and citywide coordination. Per the motion, the mobilization will be directed under the banner of a “just transition” so that as we move to a clean energy economy, displaced workers will receive retraining, the communities that have been the most negatively affected by fossil fuel pollution will receive the first benefits of clean energy pilot projects and a clean energy economy, and a green jobs initiative implementation plan will be launched.

The motion, authored by Councilmembers Paul Koretz, 5th District, and Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District, was approved unanimously by the City Council, 14-0, directs the City’s Chief Legislative Analyst and Chief Administrative Officer to report back on the establishment of a Climate Emergency Mobilization Department with all powers to plan, coordinate and help fund via robust grant writing, all of the City's climate and resilience responses. Councilmembers Mike Bonin, 11th District, and José Huizar, 14th District, seconded the motion. The City’s Environmental Affairs Department, established in 1989, was disbanded in 2009.

The proposed CEMD has been endorsed by a variety of groups and individuals from across the City, including Communities for a Better Environment, Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE), the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 848, Esperanza Community Housing, Pacoima Beautiful, American Indian Movement SoCal, The River Project, The Center for Biological Diversity, The Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, Global Green, Heal the Bay, The Trust for Public Land, Grid Alternatives, SoCal 350 Climate Action, 5 Gyres, The Climate Mobilization, The Leap, South Bay 350 Climate Action, Surfrider Foundation, Californians Against Waste, and Ed Begley, Jr.

The original motion proposing the CEMD quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., stressing that, “We are confronted with the *fierce urgency of now*. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late,” and adding that if the city acts too late or does too little it risks condemning LA citizens to an uninhabitable future. The proposal was developed in collaboration with the non-profit organization [The Climate Mobilization](#) (TCM) and a coalition of Los Angeles social and environmental justice leaders that advocate for an emergency response to climate change rooted in the struggles of communities on the frontlines of the ecological crisis.

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Councilmember Paul Koretz  
200 North Spring Street, Room 440  
Los Angeles, CA 90012