

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles must take the lead in pursuing environmental justice in our coastal communities. Recent debates over land return at Bruce's Beach are just one example of the painful legacy of racism and exclusion that was for too long built into our land use policies. The Coastal Zone must be made accessible to all Angelenos. As a City we must heal those communities harmed by a legacy of discriminatory practices.

The California Government Code §65040.12 defines "environmental justice" as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Furthermore, AB 2616 (Burke) amended the Coastal Act in 2016 to give all local governments, including the City of Los Angeles, the authority to consider environmental justice, or the equitable distribution of environmental benefits, when acting on a coastal development permit.

Subsequently, in 2019, the California Coastal Commission unanimously approved an 'Environmental Justice Policy' to ensure equitable access to clean, healthy, and accessible coastal environments. This policy document recognizes the injustices carried out against indigenous communities, communities of color, and other marginalized populations through discriminatory land use policies. However, local jurisdictions like the City of Los Angeles remain squarely responsible for ensuring equitable and fair housing practices, as the Coastal Commission lost authority to protect and create affordable housing in 1981.

To empower our local decision makers to advance State policy and Coastal Commission guidance, the City of Los Angeles would benefit from a similar framework to integrate environmental justice and equity into land use decisions in the Coastal Zone that require a Coastal Development Permit. A 'Coastal Equity and Environmental Justice Policy' would not only place our local determinations in greater conformity with Chapter 3 of the California Coastal Act of 1976, but take a step towards correcting decades of injustice and exclusionary land use practices.

I THEREFORE MOVE the City Council DIRECT Los Angeles City Planning in coordination with the Department's Office of Racial Justice, Equity, and Transformative Planning to report back within 60 days with a work program to develop a 'Coastal Equity and Environmental Justice Policy' that will inform future land use policy, promote greater public participation and engagement with underrepresented and/or underserved communities, and be reflected in project determinations in the Coastal Zone.

I FURTHER MOVE that City Council DIRECT Los Angeles City Planning, with assistance from Los Angeles Housing Department and other relevant agencies, to report back with a detailed analysis within 60 days on topics related to housing equity and access in the Coastal Zone; including, but not limited to:

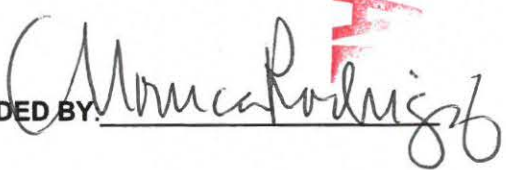
- historic housing and demographic trends;
- displacement and gentrification effects on historically marginalized populations;
- impact of new development and housing typologies (e.g. small lots, mansionization) on available market rate and affordable housing stock; and
- the cumulative impacts of historic downzoning and land use policy on housing capacity.

I FURTHER MOVE that City Council INSTRUCT the Los Angeles City Planning, with assistance from Los Angeles Housing Department and other relevant agencies, to develop and present Environmental Justice policy and program recommendations as part of the upcoming Venice Local Coastal Program, Venice Community Plan, and the "Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles" updates.

SEP 28 2021



PRESENTED BY: 
MIKE BONIN
 Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY: 

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