

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

MISSION, VISION, VALUES

Comments:

Page 9 Mission We take action to protect everyone in Los Angeles County from public health risks created by toxic exposures and climate change. -- Maybe change to "negative climate change" Develop and foster community partnerships that promote trust, guarantee community input in decision-making, and drive community directed action to reduce environmental injustice and climate health-related impacts. -- Maybe change to "negative climate change"

I would add more heart into this section- add more photos, life, and vibrance too this area- this should set the tone for the work that will be done.

The Vision and mission statements are completely flawed and disingenuous. There is not such thing as Environmental justice! The idea that the State of California which is one of fifty United States of America is not owned by a specific race of previous occupiers of this land. We are a melting pot of an American identity. Your attempt to divide and conquer for the purpose of destabilizing our Constitutional Republic must be stopped at all costs including this absurd plan.

Overall, I do feel like the values themselves are very important - I do like the values themselves. A couple questions I have is: 1) how are we being accountable to the public? 2) is the reason to not specify frontline communities is to ensure no one is left out? Vision: I still feel like the phrase "free from toxic exposures and the negative effects of climate change" is limiting and forces us to think in response-mode rather than take more proactive action; similarly with the mission statement: if we are only focused on public health risks, would that limit our abilities to take action towards building more resilient and regenerative communities? I also think if we are going to be responding to public health risks, we really need to elevate responsiveness as a value (in practice!)

This section is vague but optimistic. I would like to know which areas will be specifically addressed such as Air Quality, Water (drinking, areas of recreation, etc.), and land use or reclamation.

Great vision, mission, and values.

Not understanding who the target audience for this document would like to have definitions of Environment Justice, Climate Health and resilience as it relates to the Climate Health.

My humble opinion is: we must all be aware of and take care of our planet since we live on it and few of us do the noble work of teaching our children the value of environmental care.

This section sounds great, but in many instances those impacted (frontline communities) are not aware of the impact of pollution, environmental risk etc. there needs to be strategic plan to ensure those effected are at the table.

very good and it is very true.

They look fine



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
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Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Weaknesses: Vision Scope: While the vision is inspiring, it might be geographically broad for actionable local efforts. Mission Specificity: The mission could benefit from specifying the types of actions taken. Values Prioritization: While all values are important, prioritizing them could provide clearer direction. Recommendations for Improvement: Vision: Consider adding a timeframe or a more specific image of a thriving Los Angeles. Example: "By 20XX, Los Angeles County will be a model for healthy communities where everyone enjoys clean air, safe water, and a thriving environment." Mission: Specify the types of actions taken to protect public health. Example: "We... by conducting research, advocating for policy changes, providing resources to frontline communities, and..." Values: Prioritize the top 3-5 values or group them for easier focus. Example: "Core Values: Collaboration, Community Focus (including Equity & Inclusion), Innovation & Objectivity, Responsiveness & Transparency & Accountability." Additional Points: Consider adding a Focus Area briefly outlining the specific environmental concerns the organization addresses. Ensure the vision, mission, and values statements are readily available and communicated to the public and stakeholders. By incorporating these suggestions, you can strengthen the overall message and provide clearer direction for achieving a healthy and sustainable Los Angeles County.

"public health risks created by toxic exposures and climate change" should also include the risks these elements pose to community food systems (e.g. urban agriculture), which are directly and broadly tied to land use and affected by EJ issues and climate change, particularly around soil health. Urban agriculture is becoming an increasingly relevant policy priority in urban sustainability and climate mitigation strategies and needs to be considered in EJ and Climate planning.

The term "frontline communities" is referenced a few times but it would be beneficial to include what communities are included in this category. I would like to see in writing that the unhoused community, black communities and indigenous communities are being heard and prioritized. Since transparency and accountability are part of the values it would make sense to be transparent in what communities are being prioritized.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
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Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

This is a good start to a vision statement, but it could be stronger by including a goal or aim to address historical harms and repair them. The vision could also be more specific when identifying the people that the plan is visioning for e.g., “all people” or “frontline communities” etc. The values are comprehensive but could be strengthened by expanding on the following points: - While objectivity can be useful it’s important to acknowledge that community members are the experts and their experiences should be uplifted. The DPH should aim to work with communities to practice community or citizen science so that the people impacted by environmental injustices are able to research and create solutions that best address their concerns. Community science is an innovative technique that presents an opportunity to defer to community decision-making processes.- When talking about transparency and accountability it is important to name how agencies will be accountable to the public. It is important to note DPH’s lack of enforcement power and provide alternative ways to ensure these strategies will be implemented and that the work towards these goals does not stop. - We appreciate this statement about equity and Inclusion, but it may be helpful to include something around a commitment to language justice and accessibility or a statement that defines what equity means to DPH. What does equity mean beyond inclusion (accessibility, power, safety, justice. Distribution of resources etc.).

The vision is not explicit on if “toxic exposure” is chronic or emergent. Should be clear that this addresses all cases.

The Vision, Mission, and Values section sets a solid foundation by aligning with crucial principles of collaboration, community, equity, inclusion, and innovation. The collaboration fosters partnerships and collective action, ensuring diverse perspectives are incorporated into decision-making processes. Emphasizing equity and inclusion promotes fairness and accessibility in all initiatives, fostering a sense of belonging and representation within the community.

"I would add economic development. If a caveat is included of professional development, we can easily branch into private sectors and investors to want to take part in these initiatives. Which isn’t always easy but there are plenty concepts, tried and true that can make this possible.

Revised Tax Credits, Worker Credits and Write Offs for participating in innovative solutions towards energy. Research and Development towards Water Solution Power Plants, Emphasis on Transferrable Energy from Fuel to Electric partnerships, companies such as BuildingDecarb.org are great leads I simply haven’t had the time to follow up with. A partnership with LAWP would be great partnership for Building Decarb for example.

Its great to want to have a safe and toxic environment, but what does that mean for creating revenue? These are a few examples that would be great catalysts to this environmental agenda. Structuring this out will win out the biggest critics. "

Well done as long with ACTUAL valid enforcement. The County should consider enshrining the right to a healthy environment based on a totality of factors in this section.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

South Coast AQMD supports the Draft Strategic Plan and recommends OEJCH establish an ongoing partnership with South Coast AQMD, as many of the CERP objectives are consistent with the goals, strategies, and actions included in the Draft Strategic Plan.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4: INCLUDE A DISCUSSION ON ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS AVAILABLE TO EJ COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE GOALS, STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS IN THIS STRATEGIC PLAN Goals, strategies and actions require enforcement mechanisms to ensure that their goals are realized. The Strategic Plan should focus on current code enforcement staffing levels versus identifying enforcement capacity required to implement the Strategic Plan could go a long way to ensure that community conditions improve.

The Strategic Plan establishment should be revisited before any further planning processes. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) instructed that DPH, in consultation with Chief Executive Office, Los Angeles County Fire Health Hazardous Materials Division, Department of Public Works, and the Chief Sustainability Office, to develop a Strategic Planning process to operationalize the Environmental Justice and Climate Health Board Directed Priority and include the creation of the OEJCH. While these offices are imperative and critical to public and environmental health, it's shortsighted that the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP) was not included in the Draft Strategic Plan establishment. Land use and zoning policies can have life-changing impacts for residents in unincorporated communities that can result in, or continue, legacy pollution and environmental racism. We urge the Draft Strategic Plan build off of existing efforts such as the Just Transition Taskforce so as to not recreate existing processes. The planning process should also consider other environmental based agencies such as the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Goal 1: Community Engagement

Comments:

1.3.1. Train DPH staff on current environmental justice and climate health issues and resources. -- seems a bit vague as training can mean everything from workshops/seminars/skills-building webinars to informational pamphlets. Which one is that 'training' leaning towards? 1.3.2. Actively pursue funding opportunities for both DPH and community based organizations in coordination working directly with communities on environmental and climate justice issues. -- The wording of "in coordination working directly" seems a bit clunky. 1.3.6. Work with at least five community based organizations each year to advance environmental justice and mitigate health impacts from climate change. -- Maybe change to "negative climate change" -- Does working specifically with tribal nations need to be called out in this section?

Community engagement is fantastic but not for this neo-Fascist movement.

Suggest including facilitated Participatory Planning (and Budgeting) processes be undertaken with Community Partners to determine the strategic actions and priorities of OEJCH. Give transparency on what funds/programs are earmarked for what purposes, and have discussions about where/how to prioritize limited resources. This may also determine how DPH advocacy can be wielded under Goals 2-3.

1.2.1 is really important - compensation for community partners! Really glad this is in here. 1.2.4 - have we utilized the translations team for translations of the Strategic Plan? I understand it was translated in Spanish separately, but we should be utilizing them for the other key languages. Will there be another public comment round that includes the strategic plan in other languages besides English/Spanish?

I think it's good that they take us into account because this disaster harms us all.

I like the use of developing culturally engaging materials and the idea of hosting listening sessions. At the same time, I would like to see more on the report back and dissemination of information about making a difference. Which sectors are included? Also, will the info be updated and shared on the website and across social media outlets?

Great goal1 with very supportive sub goals.

Excellent to be able to be a participant in such a great project so that we have a better example and set an example for our children that they are our priority for the future and that better by example.

Ensure that the local faith based community members are included the partnership.

With participation and opportunities you will achieve success.

"1.1.4 - yes! Love seeing a plan for youth engagement.

1.1.5 - is there a planned structure for the advisory board? A charter, number of seats, roles?

1.2.1 - please define ""periodic"" but YES to funding partners when capable. "



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
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Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Action 1.1.4 should say “youth voices” not “youth voice.” In response to Action 1.1.4 (and to complement Action 1.2.5), it would be beneficial to mention that DPH will provide other means for outreach for individuals who may not have access to reliable, high-speed internet. Action 1.2.3. should also include language on coordinating with OEM and Public Works to discuss how the County can ensure a unified response during a disaster by informing residents on what to do in instances where they may not have access to their utilities for a considerable amount of time (e.g., water, gas, electricity, etc.). This would also be a good complement to Action 1.3.3.

Inform, Engage, Empower, Inspire... also co-design

Is there a timeline established for the community engagement mentioned (ex: Will there be meetings/listening sessions monthly, quarterly, annually, etc.)

Areas for Improvement: Consider adding measurable outcomes for community engagement activities. Recommendation: Develop metrics to track participation in listening sessions, website traffic, and the number of community partners engaged.

I think that 1.2.2 is going to be very helpful in keeping the community informed and involved but not everyone who has a comment or needs this information has access to the internet. If there is room in the budget it could be used to fund local organizations’ outreach efforts to communities who have limited to no internet access. Organizations that serve the unhoused community can distribute flyers or information and can even survey community members and report their findings. These local organizations can help build that trusting relationship with the community.

"Overall these goals are good however it would be more inclusive if DPH aimed to co-develop community-driven solutions instead of “informed”. It’s important to highlight the expertise of communities and defer to their knowledge of the environmental justice issues that they face. Additionally, it would be helpful to detail what clear and ongoing communication looks like with communities (e.g., modes of communication, frequency, duration etc.). An accessible and updated website is a great way to share information with communities and improve transparency. A spatial component or map might also be helpful to show where policies, programs, meetings and other actions are happening for communities to stay updated on. Lastly, for the advisory board or other partnerships, it would be helpful to invite additional organizations that do environmental justice work to the table that may be able to provide more insights into other issues affecting communities."

Community engagement opportunities are vital as they are bringing the community together to identify and address their needs. By actively involving community members in decision-making processes, gain valuable insights, and create sustainable solutions that resonate with local priorities such as the environmental challenges. This inclusive approach not only strengthens relationships but also enhances the effectiveness and relevance of initiatives aimed at improving community well-being.

Including sponsorships from LAWP and further in these initiatives. Chevron, 76 and further is possible once you include private sectors. It is best to repurpose what we have already.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Great ideas yet expand into providing credit and internships for students at all levels, the underemployed and unemployed to become more involved in these projects to gain experience and serve this mission. See the LA Cleantech Incubator (LACI) and West LA College for their green jobs programs. I have contacts at both to share. Make an EJ corps similar to the CA Climate Corps based on President FDR's New Deal program. Evaluate using the vacant lots, brown fill sites to remediate and focus on achieving the Plan's goals. A fee on shipping containers (40% of US trade) and disproportionate burden on LAC could be used to clean and retrofit them to grow healthy regenerative food and provide shelter especially in disasters. For instance, A LACI startup specializes in this functionality based in San Diego.

For activities related to collaborating with community-based organizations, it would be helpful to name the parameters you are using to identify these CBOs. For example, activity 1.3.6 states that you will be working with 5 CBOs - this will be more meaningful if it clearly states that these CBOs will be those with a track record of serving BIPOC & EJ communities, or most affected SPAs/other geographic parameters.

Good

Goal 1: The OEJCH will sustain and enhance its effective community engagement, working directly with community partners and the Department of Public Health Regional Health Offices (RHOs) to remain apprised of community needs and priorities and to provide requested or needed critical information, services, and referrals. Members of the public will be supported to engage with environmental policy and regulations that impact their health. Thank you for prioritizing community engagement and partnerships. In order to foster partnerships and promote trust with the community it is imperative that your staff represent the diverse LA community including in a culturally and linguistically relevant manner so we urge you to consider hiring and assembling such a team, and articulate this intent in your strategic plan. Community listening sessions are an important way to connect with residents especially if the OEJCH states that "members of the public will be supported to engage with environmental policy and regulations that impact their health." Please do not just "explore compensating the partners and community members for their advisory efforts" but commit to doing so. Nonprofits/community based organizations (CBOs) juggle many responsibilities and are often expected to offer input because they are connected to the community - often many are willing but this adds to the burden of work. How about "Commit to compensating partners for their advisory efforts through the DPH Community Engagement fund" instead of "Explore using the DPH Community Engagement Fund to compensate partners for their advisory efforts." The County has a very diverse community and hundreds of CBOs - the proposed "Work(ing) with at least five community based organizations each year to advance environmental justice and mitigate health impacts from climate change." - seems like such a light lift and will exclude many overlooked communities. Will you consider increasing the base to at least 15? There are several county coalitions that work to be inclusive, and they include over a dozen community partners - five is just insufficient. We suggest this edit - "Work with at least twelve to fifteen community based organizations that represent the diverse LA community, each year to advance environmental justice and mitigate health impacts from climate change." CBOs, interpreters and translators can assist in clearer & necessary communication & while the Center for Health Equity's Language Justice translation and interpretation resources are useful the OEJCH should develop contracts directly with community based language service providers as the Center's language budget is not limitless.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

To demonstrate commitment to community engagement the OEJCH should have its own resources and access to language services and articulate this intent in the plan. In fact, to meaningfully operationalize the strategic plan, linguistically & culturally relevant engagement/services should be included/clearly stated in each public facing & engagement goal and not just under Community Engagement. For example, Goal 3.1.2 & 3.1.4 can be restated as “Incorporate Community Listening Session feedback on policies and programs by ensuring meaningful communication through the provision of trained interpreters and translated materials.”

Community outreach is one of the key strategies used in the CERPs. CERP health outreach objectives include informing the community about steps that can be taken to reduce exposure to air pollution (e.g., limit outdoor activity during air quality events). Such outreach focuses on locations where sensitive populations spend time, such as schools and childcare centers. The CERPs also include outreach to inform the community how to file air quality complaints (e.g., idling trucks, odors from rendering and waste transfer facilities, dust). Further, outreach also involves spreading awareness to the community about steps South Coast AQMD has taken to address emissions (e.g., outreach material regarding rules and regulations, available incentive programs). South Coast AQMD recommends incorporating additional language to address air quality impacts by distributing outreach materials on how to reduce exposure to air pollution, receive air quality advisories, and file an air quality complaint.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2: REVISE GOAL 1 AND ASSOCIATED STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS TO INCLUDE 3-WAY COMMUNICATION RATHER THAN 2-WAY (pages 10 - 12) Restricting conversations between environmental justice (ej) and climate health professionals could have the detrimental effect of excluding or constraining awareness of all available “innovations and solutions.” Climate resilience experts could help weave together conversation strands between EJ and climate health experts into integrated, multi-beneficial strategies. Community members and health experts know where solutions are needed, but climate resilience experts know what solutions work best. Additionally, climate resilience experts can ensure that these strategies do not inadvertently cause unintended consequences and further contribute to GHG emissions. Please revise this goal to include climate resilience professionals.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3: ENSURE THAT PLANS EMERGING FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH NEW SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION REFLECT COST-EFFECTIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE, ENERGY EFFICIENT STRATEGIES Community engagement efforts need to incorporate facilitators who are up to date with the latest integrated approach to cooling the built environment. Reaching the state’s aggressive goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 is proving difficult. It requires a rapid move to zero-emissions strategies to cool and heat our homes. A principal and popular method to achieve indoor cooling is to install electricity-zapping electrical air conditioning units. Sole reliance on mechanical cooling tends to overload our electrical grid capacity. When blackouts result, low-income communities of color bear a disproportionate impact. Engagement efforts should strive to expand efforts to improve public awareness of innovative and comprehensive cooling strategies and adoption of energy efficiency measures.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

We appreciate the continued efforts to improve community engagement and partnerships with frontline communities in promoting environmental justice and climate health. To continue improving responsiveness to communities, the OEJCH should develop strategies to not only address community concerns but provide updates on interagency coordination efforts. CBE manages projects where agencies are in contradictory of each other resulting in delayed responses, ambiguous answers, and inconsistent report backs.

We welcome the action of establishing an OEJCH advisory board with representatives from community organizations and residents to review and advise on OEJCH actions and activities. CBE recognizes the importance of an advisory board for their role in creating a culture of accountability and creative problem-solving. For a community led advisory board, we summarize our comments here:

- Ensure that the advisory board’s purpose and role is one of accountability.
- Provide clarification on how the advisory board will implement environmental justice principles.
- Advisory board applications should consider lived experience among its criteria, regardless of status.
- Ensure the advisory board has a framework that outlines clear goals and outcomes.
- Provide support and training for potential applicants who are not familiar with the regulatory landscape.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
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Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Goal 2: Interagency Coordination

Comments:

2.1.4. Utilize community data to inform and recommend enhancements to interagency actions to reduce environmental threats. -- a bit vague, is community data specific to lived experiences or weather stations, etc.?

2.2. Establish intentional and proactive engagement with Tribal groups around environmental justice and climate health. -- Is there an area for Tribal member to join advisory committees for OEJCH, in addition to OEJCH participating in standing public meetings?

Staff will also coordinate with other jurisdictions on regional and state policy and develop and share best practices on emerging issues. -- maybe end the sentence with "... and state policy, with an aim to develop and share best practices on emerging issues" or use an oxford comma.

Add graphic or image to provide a visual of the goal

Interagency Coordination and Governmental Engagement in this case can be characterized as a dangerous even treasonous plan. Read Rules for Radicals and you will see your plan is almost exactly from that playbook.

Suggest including facilitated Participatory Planning (and Budgeting) processes be undertaken with Community Partners to determine the strategic actions and priorities of OEJCH. Give transparency on what funds/programs are earmarked for what purposes, and have discussions about where/how to prioritize limited resources. This may also determine how DPH advocacy can be wielded under Goals 2-3.

2.1.3 - this one is really important - I would also add that it would be updated based on lessons learned responding to environmental disasters or add a section that includes evaluation after each environmental disaster. 2.2 - the UN grants Indigenous People the right for free, prior and informed consent for any projects impacting their territories - this would be important to add to elevate a human rights approach in our collaboration with tribal communities. the FAO has a document that is a framework for implementing free, prior informed consent here: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/8a4bc655-3cf6-44b5-b6bb-ad2aeede5863/content>

Perfect, union is strength

When you state "Tribal" organizations do you mean Urban Indian organizations? Or nonprofits with a leadership that is comprised of Native Americans that serve the Native American community either federally tribal members or their descendants? As you may know, LA has one of the largest urban Indian communities in the country, and wondering if that is what it means.

Great Goal 2. Can't wait to hear more re: results of partnering with Tribal groups.

Working as a team and knowing how to share ideas and put them into practice will help us reach the goal. Absolutely imperative that interagency and government collaboration is present!!!

It's very important.

For Action 2.1.4., this might have been intentionally left somewhat vague, but it's unclear if this a data goal or a quality improvement goal from the language. If there could be additional specificity about what data or what interagency actions are intended to be improved it might help clarify the scope of what specifically is to be done to accomplish this activity. This activity just does not sound as specific or targeted as many others in terms of being clear to execute and monitor outputs from.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
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Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

2.1.4 - also add "and compensate for when possible" after utilize.

2.2.2 - Again, YES to this! I appreciate seeing the strat. plan have fair compensation in it.

Add distributional justice as a goal

What is the timing of the asset map? Will it be shared?

"Areas for Improvement: Some strategies could be more specific. Recommendations: For strategy 2.1.5, specify how timely responses to complaints will be measured. For strategy 2.2.3, identify specific standing public meetings with Tribal organizations."

Section 2.1.5 was a relief to see. Acknowledging the lack of urgency in past problem solving strategies and committing to a timely and more importantly an effective response is refreshing. 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 are also extremely important. Having indigenous partners as the formal advisors is the only way to properly address the climate crisis and their time and effort should be fairly compensated. My only concern would be with how much control the advisors would have because their opinions are valuable and they need the ability to move past the conversation and into the solution.

We appreciate this goal naming the need for collaboration and coordination to co-create effective solutions to address environmental and climate threats. One recommendation to strengthen this goal would be to detail what the ongoing relationship between local regulatory agencies and community organization will look like. Also, to ensure that the plan for communication protocols includes responses to agencies and the public. In order to build and develop partnerships with communities, funding is needed so there could be a goal to work with EJ and Tribal groups to secure more funding to continue doing this work.

Goal 2's focus on interagency coordination and governmental engagement is crucial for addressing environmental threats effectively. By leveraging community data, OEJCH can pinpoint priorities and recommend improvements to interagency actions, ensuring targeted and impactful interventions. Collaborating closely with regulatory partners to enhance responsiveness to community concerns demonstrates proactive governance and builds trust. It's essential that the Strategic Plan includes mechanisms for data collection, analysis, and dissemination to facilitate informed decision-making. Moreover, fostering a culture of transparency and accountability among agencies strengthens the overall effectiveness of environmental management efforts, fostering a healthier and more resilient community environment for all stakeholders involved.

Same as question 7. Emphasis on transferrable or renewable energy. Note from EA/BWG: Language taken from answer to Mission/Values/Vision question: Revised Tax Credits, Worker Credits and Write Offs for participating in innovative solutions towards energy. Research and Development towards Water Solution Power Plants, Emphasis on Transferrable Energy from Fuel to Electric partnerships, companies such as BuildingDecarb.org are great leads I simply haven't had the time to follow up with. A partnership with LAMP would be great partnership for Building Decarb for example.

I would like to see this office coordinate with counterparts and provide capacity in San Bernardino County and Riverside County, whose constituents face the brunt of extreme heat and heat illnesses in the region.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Reach out to Federal & CA governments to provide funding and incentives under the Infrastructure Act and EPA/CalEPA grants. Work with all levels of governments and all stakeholders to provide incentives and expertise for collaborating to focus on these goals. Place a high annual fee on fossil fuel powered garden equipment and provide incentives for electric replacements. Leaf blowers have no pollution controls while motor vehicles (MV) have strict standards. Allow residents to report violations via an app rather than require limited gov't staff to witness the violations. Violations can be inspected by requiring annual inspections and smog checks just like for MVs. Gardening workers are disproportionately affected by the air pollution and brooms can do the job until electric equipment is available. Has anyone like CARB or EPA calculated the air pollution impacts of all these gas powered gardening equipment without pollution controls which is constant in LAC? Buildings have improved in energy efficiency via US EPA Energy Star programs etc. yet transportation and other fossil fuel powered devices need to catch up to reduce pollution. Feds and CA need to better protect LAC residents from hazards like lead from Exide Battery Recycling disaster. Focusing on short-term profits only usually results in long-term greater and unintended harms. Focus on providing leases/funding etc. to businesses and groups that help rather than thwart this Plan.

Vague, does not explain in more concrete detail (and no metrics/KPIs) on how to engage more proactively with City of Los Angeles, largest city

Collaborations with other agencies is another CERP strategy to address emissions as many factors impacting air quality are outside of South Coast AQMD's authority, such as land use and mobile sources. Many CERP objectives include collaborating with land-use and planning agencies to incorporate measures into proposed projects to reduce the impact a facility's emissions may have on the community. Several CERP objectives involve working with land-use agencies regarding South Coast AQMD permits. Either to help identify industrial facilities which might be operating without South Coast AQMD permits or during the permitting process, land use agencies should collaborate with South Coast AQMD to ensure that all necessary South Coast AQMD permits are obtained. Other collaborative CERP objectives involve working with CARB and/or local transportation agencies to identify and establish truck routes, install "no truck idling" signs at CSC-identified locations, and develop mobile source regulations. Additional CERP objectives include collaborating with local fire departments to inspect auto body shops. With respect to interagency coordination, South Coast AQMD recommends OEJCH partner with South Coast AQMD to address land use, permitting, and truck routes issues.

Interagency Coordination and Governmental Engagement

CBE appreciates the development of an asset map that showcases all regulatory agencies' roles, resources, and enforcement authority to increase understanding among all agencies and the community. While it's important to improve regulatory understanding, the map should also include state and federal agencies to better understand who and how policies are being implemented. Additionally, the map should highlight which agencies have oversight and enforcement authority, as well as a jurisdiction map. The asset map should be accessible, available in multiple languages, and easy to navigate.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Goal 3: Policy

Comments:

3.1.4. Work with community based organizations to support resident led policy change efforts. -- are 'community based organizations' inclusive of housing or neighbor-led associations that can impact rental/owner housing policies on resiliency towards negative climate change impacts? 3.4.3. Develop and support land use policy and guidance to mitigate the health effects of polluting industries on residential areas, such as creating residential buffer zones, consistent truck routes, and caps on diesel emissions. -- I might add pedestrian safety as well around truck/heavy duty vehicle policies.

Add graphic or image to provide a visual of the goal

Suggest including facilitated Participatory Planning (and Budgeting) processes be undertaken with Community Partners to determine the strategic actions and priorities of OEJCH. Give transparency on what funds/programs are earmarked for what purposes, and have discussions about where/how to prioritize limited resources. This may also determine how DPH advocacy can be wielded under Goals 2-3.

3.1.4 minor edit "resident-led" 3.4 is there a particular reason for calling out land-use policy decisions in particular? I am curious about if this will still allow us to lead on other climate-related health issues that are not directly tied to land-use, such as ocean health and sanitation, or if this is merely to highlight the important collaboration between us and DRP, etc.

Policy 3.4.2 should be clarified to say DPH will provide recommendations to DRP to inform land use policy. DRP, which has land use authority, would still be responsible for developing the land use policy.

Realists

Will policy also include developing a priority of funding or allocation of resources to agencies that implement environmental policies that will have a positive impact on the local areas' environmental health? Also, will policy include education at a younger age, in schools, where the next generations will be prepared as custodians of the land, air, water, etc.

Great Goal 3. Looking forward to hearing more building capacity to ensure knowledge & skills to meaningfully engage and communicate on environmental justice and climate health policy.

I believe that the policies must always be present for what they are intended to be and do, I know that it is a great project and if we do it in time we can achieve a lot.

Inform is the biggest hurdle I see. Because those impacted in the most negative way usually are not aware. An intentional effort has to be made to ensure they are aware, have a voice and resources are made available in a way that is easily accessed. Land use policy reform is a must.

Excellent.

3.1.4 - please define more. What does "work with" mean or look like?

3.4 - I know this would be a hard sell, but it would be great to see DPH/OEJCH work on actually becoming a regulatory/approval agency for land use projects.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

For Action 3.1.2, mention how DPH will establish a feedback mechanism so that communities feel heard. How will DPH demonstrate that the County is listening to their concerns and incorporating their feedback into actionable steps, where feasible, so it feels like a full partnership rather than transactional (one-sided) info-gathering. For Action 3.4, please specifically include references to the Los Angeles County Office of Oil and Gas as a partner. This would be best included in Actions 3.4.1 and 3.4.2 after DRP (e.g., "Work with the Department of Regional Planning, the Los Angeles County Office of Oil and Gas, and other relevant agencies...").

Areas for Improvement: Some strategies could be more specific.

Recommendations: For strategy 3.1.1, specify the frequency of policy and topical training. For strategy 3.2.3, define the format and target audience for policy issue briefs.

3.1.2. "Incorporate Community Listening Session feedback on policies and programs where possible." sounds nice but there should be something that includes a mandatory minimum of community listening sessions like a specific number in a year. 3.1.4 is a great addition! Working with community based organizations to support resident led policy changes is a huge way to support the community and build trust. Trusting the community with what they know and supporting them in making that change will build a strong relationship with community members and in turn lead to more open and honest conversations. "This goal has some great strategies and actions. We want to uplift the need for ensuring that working in partnership with communities on the ground is prioritized for DPH. Also reiterating the importance of updating the website with a dashboard or tracking tool that follows environmental justice and climate policies that may affect the work being done by frontline communities and community based organizations. It may also be helpful to share which departments DPH plans to develop and maintain partnerships with."

Goal 3, focusing on policy, emphasizes a commendable approach by collaborating with community-based organizations (CBOs) to empower residents in driving policy change. Engaging trusted community promoters who reside within and understand local dynamics enhances credibility and effectiveness. This resident-led approach not only fosters grassroots involvement but also ensures policies are more representative and responsive to community needs.

Less bureaucratic and more inclusive towards professional development.

The policy focus of this office should be broad and include transportation advocacy to support and accelerate transportation mode shift from cars to rail, bus, and bike. Transportation is our largest source of GHG emissions and diesel pollution in the region. Therefore, action to support and build rapid bus lanes and protected bike lanes can have an outsized impact on reducing emissions and promoting climate resilience.

Good job. Reach out to UCLA Luskin experts especially on Excessive Heat and at the City of LA. Consider funding from tourism such as hotel stays and polluting industries such CERCLA violators, oil extraction, and refining in our county to help fund these programs.

Make an EJ corps similar to the CA Climate Corps based on President FDR's New Deal program. Ask Federal branches in LAC to join like the Army Corps of Engineers who are responsible for the LA rivers and harbors (navigable waterways). CARB and other CA agencies too.

Great, opportunities for those to get educated and engage with an inviting manor



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Please see the comment under Goal 1 which recommends the inclusion of a clear statement that the OEJCH will offer language interpretation and translation services at listening sessions and when engaging with residents through partners.

Many of the CERPs include a regulatory strategy to achieve emission reductions for mobile and stationary sources. South Coast AQMD is committed to developing and enforcing air pollution regulations while utilizing outreach and interagency collaboration approaches in regional planning, rule development, and CERP implementation. For example, South Coast AQMD developed the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) in collaboration with the Southern California Association of Governments, CARB, U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency, industry and businesses, community-based organizations, residents, and other stakeholders. For rule development, South Coast AQMD conducts working group meetings to engage with various stakeholders and gather input and feedback on proposed rules. In addition to engaging with public stakeholders, participation in interagency workgroups is beneficial to developing and sharing best practices on emerging issues within South Coast AQMD; therefore, South Coast AQMD recommends OEJCH participate in relevant South Coast AQMD's public and interagency processes.

While we appreciate that the OEJCH is tackling land use policies in the Strategic Plan, we are concerned that strategies fall short in protecting environmental justice communities. Establishing the OEJCH as a thought leader is only as effective as the transformation of land use policies. The Draft Strategic Plan states that the OEJCH will work with DRP to ensure input and support on environmental justice land use planning issues but lacks clarity on strengthening implementation or addressing current land use issues.

2 Section 3.4. of the Draft Strategic Plan only summarizes previous or current actions lead by DRP instead of new strategies that ensures the safety and healthy of frontline communities who are victims to incompatible land uses. The OEJCH should instead develop strategies that prioritize existing community-led policies such as the Green Zones program, anti-displacement policies for residents living on contaminated land, and reviewing all planning programs (Climate Action Plan and General Plan Elements) for accuracy, overlap, and any contradictory practices. The OEJCH should present these findings to not only ameliorate land use policies but to advocate for the transformation of land use policies to the BOS.CBE appreciates any data that is transparent and promotes equity and environmental justice to frontline communities. At the same time, data that is incomplete, missing, or ineffective can have negative consequences to public health. Los Angeles County's Electronic Permitting and Inspections portal, or EPIC-LA, is an instrumental tool to check permit applications and project progress.³ Unfortunately, it lacks data elements that are necessary and conducive to public health. The internal portal should include community health profiles, environmental and climate health data to accurately depict the surrounding community of proposed projects. Including other environmental agency data such as the Department of Toxic Substances Control or AB 617 programs, would effectively showcase the suitability of projects and its compatibility with existing environmental justice programs/policies. The OEJCH should approach a transformative research process where data is open and accessible, and shaped by the lived experienced of community members. There are over 50 interactive data initiatives in LA County with important information and yet they lack interagency information sharing. All related environmental data, policies, and programs should be shared across all data platforms regardless of project objective. As mentioned previously EPIC-LA portal lacks any data sharing, such as links or tabs, that supplements critical information to proposed projects. The LA County Community Health Profiles ⁴ data initiative has many themes, yet it lacks information on community engagement or what planning programs are proposed or in effect such as the Green Zones Program⁵ and



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

whether it has been implemented effectively. In other words, environmental justice and climate health data should reflect the lived experience of communities as a cumulative data project, not just separate and stand-alone interactive maps.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Goal 4: Data

Comments:

4. Data: Collect, interpret, and share accessible, actionable environmental justice and climate health data with partners and the public to highlight emerging issues and actively inform policies and programs. -- I might look towards adding trend analyses beyond just 'emerging' issues. Could also add in grant/funding justifications. 4.1. Assess data needs and establish data sharing and reporting protocols. -- This section doesn't contain any details about data sharing and reporting protocols. For instance, are there data standards in reporting that are going to be adhered to or adopted from other inter/external bodies? 4.1.2. Building on the landscape analysis from 4.1.1, conduct a needs assessment for data infrastructure and staff capacity that can better facilitate data analysis, collection, communication, storytelling, and visualization. -
 - How are communication and storytelling different? Where is dissemination in this? Where is data-governance in this and MOU/As? 4.2. Share environmental justice and climate health data with the public in an accessible, accurate, and useful manner. -- This section doesn't contain any information about how data will be shared with the public beyond just the website and again, what shape those deliverables will take. Will OEJCH provide raw data? 4.2.2. As part of Strategy 1.2, develop a public-facing online mapping tool and dashboards with climate, health, and environmental justice data. -- The former aspect doesn't quite make sense as developing an online mapping tool is completely different than using an established mapping tool (esri/arcGIS) and creating/updating map products or reports. 4.3.1. Participate in a data-focused, internal department-wide working group in partnership with the DPH Chief Science Office to share data between DPH Offices. -- This doesn't indicate if OEJCH will participate more passively or actively, as in, will OEJCH provide data to this workgroup? Is OEJCH presenting on data? Will OEJCH engage in data sharing protocol development?

Add graphic or image to provide a visual of the goal

Collection accurate data is important, but the real crime is in the research methods and types of questions being asked.

consider Citizen Science approaches as a data source (with clarity on how data will be used) and engagement tool. Natural History Museum-LA is doing incredible work in this area you might consider, such engaging schools and libraries in their campaigns, using social media challenges, and generating tons of data that helps ongoing monitoring efforts at hyperlocal scale.

appreciate the call out to storytelling and visualization. would assess staffing needs be enough to make the case to hire staff trained in data visualization and storytelling?

It's good

Data will help decide if the desired impact is being achieved. I am wondering if there are numbers to attach to show that the methods implemented will move the needle on addressing these issues. Also, how can we share the information with other areas around the country as a way they can implement a similar program and replicate positive results.

Great 4 Goal.

If we focus on data, we know well that we are deteriorating our planet more and more every day and we must be more aware of taking care of and protecting it.

Looks great.

Very Good



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

"For the goal, I might say ""share accessible, actionable environmental justice and climate health data and information with partners..."". Technically speaking ""data"" means something specific like data sets only, but sharing ""information"" can encompass things like data sets, as well as reports, dashboards, maps, etc. which are more focused on providing information to inform action. Sharing ""data"" alone still requires someone to analyze and interpret this data to make it meaningful. For 4.1.1., I might also mention ""other stakeholders"" (however you want to phrase this) in addition to regional, state, and federal agencies since there might be useful resources by non-profits, research institutions, or other non-governmental entities that would be important to include in this landscape analysis. For 4.1.2., this language might be better as ""conduct an assessment to determine technology, people, and processes needs to better improve our ability to execute data analysis, collection, etc.. Technology and people are two of the three common parts of these types of assessments. Also, the needs assessment cannot help better facilitate, but it can help identifying your deficiencies to improve your capabilities. For 4.1.3., I would say ""governance bodies"" instead of ""work groups"" since we don't use the term workgroups for any of the official governance entities. As written, 4.2.4. might be a very difficult activity to be able to provide evidence for completion of. You often can't control whether the data will be used to drive solutions, and it's not clear what about the data would be trackable in terms of whether it ""can be used to drive solutions"" or not. 4.3., I would revise this to include ""central hub for environmental justice and climate data-sharing for..."". You most likely can't/don't want to be the central hub for ALL data sharing. 4.3.1. - Does such a working group already exist or is this something you want to create? I don't know of such a think in the CSO already, and I wouldn't want you to put into your plan an activity that requires something that doesn't exist and there isn't a plan to create. 4.3.2. - I might rephrase this just slightly so it outlines the goal of the workplan, instead of the workplan activities. For example, develop a workplan in collaboration with partners to identify priority initiatives for OEJCH to improve the ability to collect and/or share data for topics such as... You are either collecting/sharing data, OR you're developing a workplan with a goal for said workplan (likely to identify and outline things for OEJCH to do that will improve data collection/sharing in these areas)."

We see sections 4.2- 4.3 mention "serving as a central hub for data-sharing". The language could be a little stronger to state that OEJCH will serve as subject matter experts and will be the point of contact/primary respondent to data request, press inquiries, or any questions that come from the community with regards to these data.

Looks good

What is the timing of the landscape analysis? Will it be shared?

Areas for Improvement: Some strategies could be more specific.

Recommendations: For strategy 4.1.4, clarify how data will be proactively collated for future requests. For strategy 4.2.2, specify the functionalities of the public-facing online mapping tool.

Data that should be collected should also include data on soil health and the number and location of community gardens and urban farms in the county



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

I appreciate the acknowledgment in 4.1.1 of community identified climate and environmental priority issues. 4.2.3 is going to be very important when it comes to community feedback. The tools provided won't make much of an impact unless the community can use it to its full potential. Utilizing local organizations to help facilitate these demonstrations would be beneficial in many ways. Community members would be more likely to ask questions and interact with these tools after the training if they are being taught by their own community. It would also help mitigate some of the issues when it comes to language barriers and access.

We support the need for clear data collection and analysis to inform our program and policy work and are excited to see how the data will be shared with the public. We think it is important that communities, CBOs, and other external partners like researchers, universities and other regulatory agencies are involved in the data collection process. It would also be good to share a draft of the mapping tool to community partners before it is published so that they can review and provide feedback.

Do The databases used classify the issues and concerns as chronic versus emergent? Is there a time definition that makes it "chronic" versus emergent?

"Goal 4, focusing on data, highlights a critical aspect of effective environmental and climate action planning. Special emphasis on community-identified priorities ensures that data collection efforts are relevant and impactful. By enhancing the capacity of promotoras (community health workers) in data analysis, communication, and storytelling, OEJCH can empower local leaders to effectively convey the significance of data-driven insights to community members and stakeholders.

Hosting trainings, community events, and workshops to educate residents and community Promotoras on accessing, interacting with, interpreting, and utilizing data is crucial for fostering transparency and inclusivity in decision-making processes. These efforts not only democratize access to information but also enable communities to advocate for evidence-based policies and interventions that address their specific environmental concerns.

Furthermore, establishing feedback loops between data collection, analysis, and community engagement ensures that data-driven initiatives remain responsive to evolving community needs and priorities. "

Make it transparent.

Collaborate with the CA OPR, CDC NHANES database, Dept of Toxic Substances (Toxic Substances Control Act) to track and monitor the worst risks and contaminants to prevent harm.

Great! This is helpful for CBOs and media groups and will revolutionize who has access to data and its conclusions



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Goal 4: The OEJCH will collaborate with partners to source and share up-to-date, accessible, and actionable environmental justice and climate health data. This data may be utilized for purposes of County reporting, policy development, public health advocacy, and more. Thank you for including a goal on accessible and actionable data. We recommend that the OEJCH include a commitment to collect and use disaggregated data to “drive solutions to environmental justice and climate change challenges.” The Asian and the Pacific Islander communities are not a monolith. We are diverse in socioeconomic status, immigration, languages spoken, and we live throughout the County. A majority of Asians live in the San Gabriel Valley and historic neighborhoods throughout LA, while a majority of Pacific Islanders are in the South Bay (the largest of many PI groups in the continental US). This report shares a slice of our diversity and environmental risk https://www.ajsocal.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/A_Community_of_Contrasts_SGV_2018.pdf When data is aggregated - we, and our disparities/needs become invisible so please question aggregated API data and work with academic institutions to access disaggregated data to guide your work including for policy development. The SGV Recovery Hub (we are a collaborator) recently worked with the data team at USC Price to develop a mapping tool which uses disaggregated data. Please reach out and we’re happy to connect you. As stated under Goal 1 please commit to providing meaningful outreach through CBOs for listening sessions, provide stipends, childcare, and refreshments, as well as provide interpretation and translation services when engaging with the community to “Host trainings, community events, and workshops to educate community members on how to access, interact with, interpret, and use data.”

Assembly Bill 617 requires greater transparency and availability of air quality and emissions data to allow community members to better understand the sources and levels of air pollution within their communities. Objectives in the CERPs include efforts to train and educate CSC members on how to access, interact with, and interpret publicly available air quality data, such as the Facility Information Detail (F.I.N.D.) tool, the AB 617 Community Air Monitoring webpages, and the air quality index. South Coast AQMD recommends data sharing with relevant agencies and community members to make data more easily accessible.

I'd love to see community members participate in the development of research questions. For example, what data do they want available to them that could support their advocacy or answer community concerns. Perhaps this is a great way to weave in community concerns that have been shared with trusted CBOs. Secondly, providing opportunities for community members to participate in the collection of data. Examples include installing air monitors on their homes, with access to the data being collected or water/soil sampling collected from community centers, schools or local parks. Lastly, considering how community members can not only have access to the data they are providing but also ownership over the data. I am thinking about how certain data results may have unintended consequences on things like insurance rates, property value and other ways the publishing of this data may negatively impact community members. I'd love to see a model where community members have a voice in how the data is presented and shared publicly, considering their concerns. In working with community members closely in data collection and data management, I have also heard time and time again about the importance of qualitative data, and sharing community stories that put faces, names, neighborhoods and lived experiences in relation to the numbers and stats. In doing so, also considering creative ways to share personal narratives while remaining anonymous, if desired, and upholding best practices for ethical storytelling such as receiving consent and being very transparent about how this personal data will be used.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Goal 5: Communication and Accountability

Comments:

5.3.3. Define key terms like “environmental justice”, “climate health”, “frontline communities”, and “sustainability” in a public health context and publicize these internally and externally. -- this section talks about an internal communications strategy, but the subsection uses the word 'external'. Maybe more specifically saying intra/inter-departmentally instead?

Add graphic or image to provide a visual of the goal

This plan must include all stakeholders in California. It must be accountable to all citizens.

Bring in risk communication experts/consultants; Host digital Office-Hours or make more unstructured opportunities available, rather than just community meetings or outward-facing materials.

5.2 It would be great to add a section that ensures that additional communications are translated in relevant culturally-appropriate languages. I know this was included in another section, but it should also be here as well, particularly 5.2.2 the plan should be in all key languages

Very good

I like the communication plan. It may be helpful to contact trusted CBOs or leaders who can bring the message to the communities they serve to achieve buy-in and legitimacy at a much quicker pace.

"Great 5 goal. Looking forward to hearing about how OEJCH will identify and train staff to serve as spokespeople, to build awareness, clarify complex data, navigate sensitive topics, and highlight County achievements in environmental justice and climate health to diverse audiences."

I believe that the responsibility belongs to everyone and even more so when we have children, to practice by example, in terms of communication we must always be insisting so that everyone reaches an objective and reaches the goal.

Develop and strengthen an external communications strategy, keep this at the forefront.

Excellent

5.1.1 - would be good to have a few outside members from partner CBO/the public for accountability.

"Areas for Improvement: Some strategies could be more specific.

Recommendations: For strategy 5.1.2, define the format and distribution channels for the annual progress report. For strategy 5.2.5, provide examples of engaging social media content."

Building a social media platform is going to be one of the more effective ways of communication. When people within a community are not actively trying to change or address environmental issues within that community they are often completely left out of the conversation. There are many people that have thoughts and concerns about environmental issues that don't know where or how to look for information. A social media presence will give community members the opportunity to learn about environmental justice in LA county and it will give local organizations a platform to point to when questions within our own communities arise.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

"We greatly appreciate this goal focused on communications and accountability. As we continue to build and grow partnerships with one another and other agencies this will be important to strengthen and implement. It would be helpful to understand how the community will be routinely engaged and updated. It would also be useful to have a feedback and evaluation tool or system so that strategies and actions can be improved and amended going forward. Additionally, it would be beneficial for DPH to continue co-creating resources (fact sheets, websites, dashboards, glossaries, etc.) with community partners so that the resources are useful for them."

Creating informative documents and communication plans ensures clarity in messaging and dissemination of relevant information. Training promotores as spokespeople and trusted messengers strengthens community outreach efforts, facilitating effective communication of complex environmental and climate health issues. Educational materials on environmental justice and climate health serve to empower residents and promotores with knowledge, enabling informed decision-making, advocacy and adapt strategies based on community feedback.

All for it but communication needs to be specified per constituents. Public is environmental justice, taking of the lands, we are taking care of the earth, reparations etc. Investors it is we are repurposing energy to things that is mutually beneficial both financially and economically.

Make the plan part of an online TV series for people to join and discuss. Create regional groups for residents to join and discuss how to create resilience networks which will serve the Plan and in emergencies.

This is so broad - "Create resources in response to frequently asked community questions using accessible and diverse languages of the community." Will you at least commit to a number of languages? For example, rewrite it as "Create resources in response to frequently asked community questions using plain language and in the fourteen most spoken languages in the County." In our diverse LA County, residents can vote in 18 languages and the county has 14 Medi-Cal threshold languages.

The AB 617 statute and the CARB Community Air Protection (CAP) Blueprint 2.0 require air districts to report cumulative CERP implementation progress. This information is provided on the South Coast AQMD AB 617 CERP Implementation Dashboard, which is an interactive and user-friendly tool for the public to view the progress and status of each CERP objective. These efforts ensure transparency and accountability. Furthermore, to promote community engagement and communication, South Coast AQMD actively engages with the community through hosting quarterly meetings, maintaining a social media presence, participating in community events, conducting workshops and working team meetings, and distributing informational material. South Coast AQMD encourages OEJCH to utilize a similar model of accountability and communication, including regular community meetings with status and progress updates.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Additional Comments

Comments:

Overall, I want to commend everyone involved in getting this off the ground in what, I can only imagine, was a lengthy process and one that will continue to be taxing... in a good way! Congratulations to all. As for the current version of the document, the composition of the actions seemed less focused on holding OEJCH to specific, easily discernable items that can be pointed to for accountability, down the road. The language tense seemed to be more passive than I expected and largely less active-oriented and specifically for the data section: the generality of the actions lacked a sense of drive/leadership in them.

Excellent job synthesizing the comments that were shared. The document is easy to understand for department and partner agency staff. Once approved, it would be good to design a 1-page infographic or short video that can simply the goals with a human-centered approach.

The people must know who are behind this dishonest program and must be exposed.

Thank you for sharing this strategic plan with the public for further input. With the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles at the forefront of public health work, I interested to learn more about how the unhoused population was included in the strategic plan and how they (and those serving this population) will be integrated into the plan going further. As a street medicine provider who is witnessing poor health outcomes among my patients who are experiencing being unhoused, this population IS the most vulnerable, exposed, sensitive to climate and environmental extremes, and with the least amount of resources for adaptability. This marginalized population should be at the forefront of climate justice and equity plans. Furthermore, USC Street Medicine organizes the California Street Medicine Collaborative, and we are increasingly hearing concerns from street medicine teams about climate health and their unhoused patients across the state. Looking forward to more of this!

If possible- Format the feedback boxes on this form so they are wider, so respondents can see what they've typed easier.

So excited to see the comments and final product!

It seems very long but these are the experts

Great, informative 5-year plan

Are there plans to incorporate/modify these goals into Environmental and Climate Health Policies and trainings for all DPH employees?

I believe that we should all take care of our habitat. Let's make this great project more viral, our seas and marine life are increasingly deteriorating, as well as aerial animals are increasingly in captivity and without looking at the animals that are in danger of extinction, all of them are part of our planet Let's make it viral and raise awareness so that our children have the value of care and love for our planet... excellent to be able to participate in such a great project...🌍

I am excited about this effort and am looking forward to its success. Having family that suffer from asthma and allergies, this is near and dear to my heart. With recent beach closures on hot summer days due to water pollution, we all should be concerned. We should want to leave a healthy environment to our childrens, children.

should keep them informed, but also receive input and ground truthing from community in the process.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

From page 8, what were the preliminary findings from the engagement? Furthermore, will there be a component describing populations at risk (ex: seniors) and how will they be helped (ex: assisting with utility costs)? Will we receive periodic updates regarding the strategic plan? Will the plan be updated annually, for example?

By incorporating these recommendations, the OEJCH can strengthen its goals and ensure they are clear, measurable, and achievable. This will allow the organization to track progress, demonstrate impact, and hold itself accountable for achieving its mission and vision.

Overall, the strategic plan is a good guiding document to shape the OEJCH actions and priorities. We are eager to see how the strategic plan will be operationalized and hoping to be able to continue working with DPH to address the root causes of environmental injustice and ensure that frontline communities are driving the decisions made in their neighborhoods.

"Vision y Compromiso's current support for communities under climate change through the Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications underscores the importance of prioritizing resilience-building measures in the Strategic Plan. This includes not only physical infrastructure improvements but also robust community education initiatives on heat safety and enhanced emergency preparedness. Collaborative partnerships with local governments, nonprofits, and businesses will be pivotal in implementing effective mitigation and adaptation strategies that address the unique needs of Californians.

Integrating climate resilience across all facets of the Strategic Plan ensures a comprehensive approach to safeguarding community health, fostering economic resilience, and securing a sustainable future. By emphasizing proactive measures and inclusive community engagement, OEJCH can lead efforts towards climate resilience that are equitable, and effective."

there is an enormous amount of revenue that can be generated in this, if we focus on that as much as the service, this will reach its fullest potential.
Great work and loved the draft.

With regards to air quality and pollution in frontline communities, many frontline communities in LA County are bisected by freeways which generate pollution from gas powered vehicles and rubber tires that are documented to increase rates of cancer and dementia. A meaningful program this office could institute is a rebate/incentive program for HEPA air purifiers for households in frontline communities that face pollution.

This can transform our County to a regenerative, equitable, global exemplar allowing us to help other areas and be model for the Olympic Spirit! Thank you for your service especially during the SARS CoVid-2 pandemic! How can we participate and share our skills?

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the plan! The 5 goals are clear but some of the actions lack necessary details to demonstrate your full commitment to meaningful & equitable engagement with the diverse Los Angeles community.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

South Coast AQMD appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Strategic Plan. We are committed to our environmental justice communities, including elevating their voices, improving community and air district relationships, and reducing their air pollution burden. South Coast AQMD supports OEJCH's efforts to advance environmental justice, climate health, and health equity as outlined in the goals of the Draft Strategic Plan, particularly the goals that overlap with CERP objectives. South Coast AQMD is committed to collaborating with agency partners, such as OEJCH, to address air pollution impacts for the advancement of health equity and environmental justice.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1: ADD A NEW GOAL ADDRESSING THE URGENT NEED TO REDUCE MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY ASSOCIATED WITH EXTREME HEAT AND THE URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT

The climate justice narrative is recognizing that one cannot talk about environmental justice, climate health or climate resilience without centering the impact that extreme heat is having on low-income communities of color. Los Angeles County has the largest Latino population in the United States (48%) and extreme heat affects low-income Latino communities the most.⁴ Low-income communities in general have a higher propensity to be negatively affected by extreme heat. EJ and climate health can alleviate the high number of mortality and morbidity if they make extreme heat mitigation and adaptation a priority issue.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 5: FURTHER IDENTIFY CONCENTRATIONS OF PRIORITY AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS LIKE THE LGBTQ+, THE ELDERLY AND PEOPLE WITH ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS THAT CAN ASSIST CLIMATE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS DEVISE CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE INTERVENTIONS

Centering equity in the Strategic Plan helps ensure an inclusive planning process that benefits the whole community and directs information and resources to those disproportionately impacted by pollution, climate change hazards and disasters. Intentional inclusive planning ensures that everyone has access and the opportunity to meaningfully participate and contribute to a successful Strategic Plan.

While we support the mission of the OEJCH, we are concerned that the Draft Strategic Plan lacks clarity of how the OEJCH will be accountable to the public. As it currently stands, the Strategic Plan fails to establish accountability measures or standards for the OEJCH. Additionally, the OEJCH does not mention anything on holding other agencies accountable despite the potential harm on frontline communities. In the January 25, 2024, virtual meeting, the OEJCH said it does not have enforcement authority but instead will work with agencies who do have authority and raise issues regarding enforcement and can make recommendations on code changes. The OEJCH has a huge opportunity to transform environmental policy and implementation, but instead it reverts to the same process of following decades of structural misalignment. We encourage OEJCH to develop the accountability framework to protect environmental justice communities from further harm caused by toxic waste and pollution.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Public Comments received between June 10, 2024, and July 12, 2024
Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Citizen proposes the following be added as a new Page 2 to the present "Draft-OEJCH-Strategic-Plan-en.pdf".

COUNTYWIDE UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The County of Los Angeles recognizes that many regions within our boundaries contain historically Underserved Communities, which were recently recognized by US President Executive Order EO-13985. Industrialization within these regions of our county have unduly burdened Underserved Communities with concentrated and more pervasive industrial pollution, leading to locally increased cancer risks, and shortened lifespans. Because Underserved Communities have historically lacked the Community Resources of neighboring communities, many Industrial Enterprises were able to take advantage of the lack of local Community Activists to challenge the risks that these enterprises were exposing Underserved Community members to. This Acknowledgment serves as a mandate to all County of Los Angeles governments and agencies to increase transparency and public participation in identifying and mitigating risks associated large-scale industrial accidents, especially for those that can originate in Underserved Communities. A top priority shall be the development of a coordinated Risk Management Plan (RMP) between the County of Los Angeles and Los Angeles Refineries for the event of a Catastrophic HF/MHF (Hydrogen Fluoride /Modified Hydrofluoric Acid) Refinery release, which unmitigated could result in the loss of thousands of human lives, with tens of thousands or more having with permanent health impairment. Los Angeles County Agencies must also foster regular public discussions for phasing out HF/MHF use.

