

December 15, 2023

Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury
222 South Hill Street, Suite 670
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: 2022-2023 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Zero Emissions and Air Quality Monitoring Report

Dear Members of the Civil Grand Jury,

The City of Long Beach (City) appreciates the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury's (CGJ) dedication to examining the operations of various government agencies within Los Angeles County. The CGJ initiated an investigation and compiled a report titled "Zero Emission and Air Quality Monitoring" to investigate the transition to zero emissions in support of the Los Angeles County carbon neutrality goal. The City is committed to significantly reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and creating a more sustainable and resilient city in the face of climate change impacts. The City's efforts are in alignment with Los Angeles County's goal to reach carbon neutrality by 2045.

On August 16, 2022, the City Council approved the [Long Beach Climate Action Plan](#) (LB CAP), which provides a framework for reducing our city's greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change. One of the primary objectives of LB CAP is for the city to reach complete carbon neutrality by 2045, with a target of reducing GHG emissions to 40 percent by 2030. To help reach this goal, LB CAP outlines detailed actions across several sectors to combat issues related to extreme heat, air quality, drought, sea level rising and flooding, building and energy, transportation, and waste. With the newly established Office of Climate Action and Sustainability, the City is now organized to centrally coordinate interdepartmental efforts for LB CAP implementation and take steps to reduce GHG emissions. Furthermore, through the Grow Long Beach Initiative, the City has set in motion a citywide transition towards a more climate-sustainable economy and away from its historical dependence on oil revenues by investing in five strategic industry sectors that show promise for continued growth: aerospace and aviation; healthcare; ports and logistics; housing and education; and arts, culture, and tourism.

The Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report identifies key needs to create a zero emissions environment by addressing the importance of a cleaner and more stable electric grid, sustainable transportation modes, and decarbonizing buildings. Stationary Sources Recommendation 1.8 calls for energy efficiency through building retrofitting of schools, public facilities, and commercial offices aligns with the following LB CAP Building Energy Goal: Long Beach buildings are energy efficient, and our communities run on affordable, renewable



electricity. This LB CAP goal is comprised of eight actions that identify the importance of transitioning to a carbon-free more resilient electricity system, increasing the efficiency of buildings/facilities, and ensuring new buildings are low-carbon or carbon-neutral. The LB CAP utilizes a development checklist to guide discretionary projects subject to the California Environmental Quality Act analyses to decarbonize buildings through various strategies, including building energy efficiency retrofits. Decarbonizing buildings is an effective way to mitigate climate change and effectuate sustainable development.

In response to the specific findings and recommendations in the Grand Jury Report, however, it is important that Recommendation 1.8B stating “Construction building codes should reflect ZE goals” be fleshed out in greater detail. As currently written, the recommendation is unclear and vague. Additionally, while the City shares the report’s support of expanding adoption of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, the report should also consider the equity impacts for lower-income communities. Expanding support and resources for public transit and multi-modal transportation options are important considerations for the effort to decrease air quality impacts from the transportation sector, in an equitable and inclusive manner.

Regarding Recommendation 1.9 related to food waste, the City directly services all single family residences for trash collection along with a portion of the City’s commercial and multifamily locations. Private waste haulers service the remaining commercial and multi-family locations. Private haulers have already implemented organics collection to almost all of their customers in the City. For City-serviced accounts, the City will be providing organics collection to our customers and has just completed providing the service to all city-serviced commercial customer accounts that are required to have the service. The City is in the planning phases to provide the service to remaining accounts. The City is working closely with Cal Recycle on the status of the implementation of this program. Prior to 2020, as required by SB 1383, the City updated the Municipal Code to require services as outlined by SB 1383.

Lastly, transportation-related items, including Recommendations 1.1-1.7, are addressed by the Port of Long Beach’s comments, and Recommendation 1.10 is related to the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, not the City.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments in response to the CGJ report.

Sincerely,



THOMAS B. MODICA
City Manager

