

**STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS**  
**CEQA Guidelines Section 15093**  
**For:**  
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY 2045 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**  
**Final Program Environmental Impact Report SCH No. 2021120568**

**Lead Agency:**  
**County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning**

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21081(b) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines section 15093(a) and (b), the County is required to balance, as applicable, the economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, of a proposed project against its unavoidable environmental risks when determining whether to approve the project. For a project that has significant impacts that cannot feasibly be avoided or substantially lessened, a public agency, after adopting proper findings, may nevertheless approve the project if the agency first adopts a Statement of Overriding Considerations setting forth the specific reasons why the agency found that the project's "benefits" rendered "acceptable" its "unavoidable adverse environmental effects." (CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15093, 15043(b); Pub. Resources Code, § 21081(b).)

The Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan (2045 CAP, or Project) will result in environmental effects, which, although mitigated to the extent feasible by the implementation of mitigation measures required for the Project, will remain significant and unavoidable, as discussed in the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and CEQA Findings of Fact. These impacts are summarized below and constitute those impacts for which this Statement of Overriding Considerations is made. The significant and unavoidable impacts of the Project are as follows:

- Aesthetics (Impacts 3.2-1, 3.2-2, 3.2-3, 3.2-4, 3.2-6, 3.2-7, 3.2-8, 3.2-9)
- Agriculture and Forestry (Impacts 3.3-1, 3.3-2, 3.3-5, 3.3-7, 3.3-8, 3.3-11)
- Air Quality (Impacts 3.4-1, 3.4-2, 3.4-3a, 3.4-5, 3.4-6, 3.4-7 [local Air Pollutant and TAC emissions])
- Biological Resources (Impacts 3.5-2, 3.5-3, 3.5-5, 3.5-7, 3.5-8, 3.5-10, 3.5-11)
- Noise and Vibration (All impacts)
- Utilities and Service Systems (Impact 3.17-1, 3.17-3, 3.17-5, 3.17-7)

**Finding:**

The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) finds and determines in approving the Project that the Final PEIR has considered the identified means of lessening or avoiding the Project's significant effects and that to the extent any significant direct or indirect environmental effects, including cumulative project impacts, remain unavoidable or not mitigated to below a level of significance after mitigation, such impacts are at an acceptable level in light of the social, legal, economic, environmental, technological and other project benefits discussed below, and such benefits override, outweigh, and make "acceptable" any such remaining environmental impacts of the project. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15092(b).)

The following benefits and considerations, taken together or individually, outweigh such significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impacts. All of these benefits and considerations are based on the facts set forth in the Findings, the Final PEIR (including, without limitation, the response to comments and appendices and attachments thereto), and the record of proceedings for the Project. The Board determines that the evidence in the record constitutes substantial evidence to support the determinations made in this Statement of Overriding Considerations, that the facts stated in this document and in the Findings are supported by substantial evidence in the record, including testimony received at the public hearing, the staff presentations, staff reports and all materials in the project files. The Board also determines that to the extent other evidence was presented that is contrary to the determinations made herein or in the Findings, such evidence was nevertheless considered, weighed and determined to be either lacking in credibility or insufficient in weight to detract from the determinations made herein or in the Findings such that the Board reached these determinations after due consideration of all evidence presented to it. Each of these benefits and considerations is a separate and independent basis that justifies approval of the Project, so that if a court were to set aside the determination that any particular benefit or consideration will occur and justifies project approval, this Board determines that it would stand by its determination that the remaining benefit(s) or consideration(s) is or are sufficient to warrant project approval.

#### **Facts in Support of Statement of Overriding Considerations:**

In determining whether to approve the 2045 CAP, the County has weighed the economic, legal, social, technological, environmental, and other benefits of the Project against its unavoidable significant environmental impacts. The County finds that the adoption and implementation of the 2045 CAP would have substantial overriding benefits, supported by substantial evidence in the PEIR and elsewhere in the administrative record, warranting approval of the Project and the Board of Supervisors determines that the adverse environmental impacts of the Project are “acceptable” if any one of these benefits will be realized. The Project will provide benefits to Los Angeles County and the region as follows:

1. Improves Regional Air Quality

Degraded air quality can aggravate a wide range of health problems, including asthma and other debilitating and costly respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. The Project would improve air quality in the region, which in turn reduces these health impacts related to air quality. The Project also offers many co-benefits to public health, including reducing chronic disease, lowering obesity levels, reducing respiratory diseases, and improving mental health.

2. Increases Community Resiliency

The Project facilitates community resiliency by reducing the impacts of climate change such as extreme heat, drought, wildfire, pollution, extreme storms and wind, invasive species, and vector-borne illnesses.

3. Promotes Green Jobs

The Project facilitates the development of a wide range of green jobs and provides meaningful employment opportunities across job sectors.

4. Lowers Energy Costs

The Project promotes lower energy and transportation costs by encouraging the use of cost-efficient renewable resources.

5. Fights Drought

The Project promotes water conservation which lessens the dependence on imported water sources, which is especially beneficial economically during drought years.

6. Improves Active Transportation

With an emphasis on active transportation and reducing vehicle emissions, the Project promotes safer walking and cycling throughout the region.

7. Improves CEQA Streamlining

Per section 15183.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, this Project provides CEQA streamlining benefits for future development projects. This simplifies the GHG emissions analyses necessary to comply with CEQA in the future.

8. Achieves Statewide Climate Goals

The Project helps the County meet and/or exceed Statewide climate goals.

9. Encourages Green Investment

The Project positions the economy for growth by encouraging green investment and infrastructure spending. Additionally, the Project improves the opportunity for access to statewide climate grants and other funding sources.

10. Promotes Environmental and Social Justice

The Project promotes environmental and social justice by focusing efforts and improvements within disadvantaged communities through infrastructure investment, creation of greenspaces, active and accessible transportation, and building decarbonization.

## Conclusion

CEQA requires a public agency to balance the benefits of a proposed project against its significant and unavoidable adverse impacts in determining whether to approve the project. As discussed more fully above, the proposed Project would result in significant and unavoidable project-level and/or cumulative impacts to on aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, noise and vibration, and utilities and service systems, which, although mitigated to the extent feasible by the implementation of mitigation measures required for the Project, will remain unavoidable significant adverse impacts. This Board of Supervisors finds that such impacts are at an acceptable level in light of each of the Project benefits described above, which make “acceptable” any significant environmental impacts of the Project.