



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

June 4, 2021

The Honorable Luz Rivas
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3126
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 585 (Rivas)—Climate Change: Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program

Dear Assemblymember Rivas,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support AB 585. This bill proposes to establish the Extreme Heat and Climate Resilience Program, with a local and regional grant initiative. As a coastal city with seven miles of beaches and two rivers, the City recognizes the importance of addressing the impacts of climate change.

Long Beach strives to be a resilient city in the face of climate change impacts such as extreme heat. The City has developed a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) with actionable goals to adapt to and mitigate further climate change impacts. The CAAP's first adaptation goal relates to making the City more resilient to extreme heat events by taking steps to improve public health and safety. AB 585 will help to accomplish this goal benefitting the 275,000 Long Beach residents living within extreme heat vulnerability zones.

We recognize the risk extreme heat events create for the health and safety of our residents. In 2015, a large portion of downtown Long Beach experienced a multi-day power outage during a major heat event. In the Long Beach Vulnerability Assessment which shaped CAAP goals, extreme heat impacts are concentrated in Central, West, and North Long Beach—areas with predominantly low-income communities of color. CAAP extreme heat actions include developing plans to prevent power outages and increase green infrastructure. Additionally, an equity lens is integrated throughout CAAP to ensure residents most impacted by climate change benefit from implementation and investments. The City looks forward to the funding AB 585 will provide for CAAP initiatives.

The City supports legislation that will provide funds for local government actions to address climate change. AB 585 would aid statewide projects in response to extreme heat and climate change while building upon existing local government climate change resiliency plans. Given these reasons, the City supports AB 585.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", written over a white background.

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District