



February 5, 2014

The Honorable Eric Garcetti
200 North Spring Street
City Hall, Room 370
Los Angeles, California 90012

RE: Presidential Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Adaptation

Congratulations on your appointment as a member of the President's Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. Your commitment to being a leader in this sustainability issue is heartening.

We have not seen a comparable Presidential Task Force on Climate Mitigation. While adaptation is important, it is not enough. At any decision point, mitigation – that is, reducing the extent of climate change - must be front and center. We urge you to carry the message of the importance of mitigation to the President's Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience.

As a City Los Angeles is working in both arenas – adaptation and mitigation. It co-sponsored the *Climate Change in the Los Angeles Region* project (<http://c-change.la/groundbreaking-science/>) which has detailed how our neighborhoods and region will be affected by depleted water reserves, rising temperature, rising sea level and other effects of climate change.

The study projects that the green house gas emissions for our region are starkly different depending on whether mitigation measures are taken or not. The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles recognizes the imperative nature of climate mitigation on middle and long-term effects. Without meaningful mitigation measures these effects will create huge physical, psychological, and security costs. The Los Angeles League advocates that each and every city representative consider and act in ways that mitigate the drivers of climate change while of course preparing for needed adaptations.

Taking mitigation out of any climate change discussion may seem expedient for focusing on immediate deliverables. But mitigation creates not only new economic drivers, it creates hope in each person that strengthens resolve to work toward solutions rather than just palliative measures, urgent as these may be.

Los Angeles is mindful and working hard toward adapting to the effects of climate change. However the city sees mitigating climate change as equally important as demonstrated by its efforts toward reducing carbon emissions in its transportation, building standards, and energy production.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Ralston, Co-President

Sandra Trutt, Co-President

League of Women Voters of Los Angeles

**Marjorie Engel, Chair
Climate Change and
Carbon Reduction Committee**