El Segundo City Council Meeting, July 18th, 2017
Public Communication from:
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RECONSIDER MOTION TO JOIN CLIMATE MAYORS NETWORK WITH 357 OTHER CITIES

My name is Dr. John Dorsey
- El Segundo resident since 1983
- Professor, Dept. Civil Engineering & Environmental Science, Loyola Marymount University; marine biologist and board certified environmental scientist.
- Member of many scientific and policy committees focusing on water quality (e.g. The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation—Board of Directors, Technical Advisory Committee)
- Author of about 37 scientific papers published in peer-reviewed journals or books.
- Devoted husband and father

In the El Segundo Herald, I was impressed and proud to read that your Environmental Committee introduced a motion at the July 5th Council meeting for El Segundo to join 338 other U.S. cities in the Climate Mayors Network.

But then I was quickly disappointed to read that the motion failed.

Please reconsider this motion, especially since more cities are joining this network—357 as of June 1st.

Mayor Fuentes voted against the motion stating it was outside the City’s scope, while two other council members abstained due to uncertainties with enforcement and controlling emissions.

I would like to make some points here for your consideration in the hope that you will revisit the motion.

- Climate change impacts must firmly be in the scope of El Segundo’s concerns, especially as a coastal city. It is critical that we adapt to a changing climate, and continue to reduce our greenhouse emissions.

- Climate change is real, it’s happening now, and our community will be increasingly affected in many ways. Some examples:
  - Water resources are decreasing throughout the State; we will need to conserve more, and develop alternative sources as the cost to import supplies increases. The cost of water will increase—but further developing sustainable practices should help control costs.
• Longer and more frequent heat waves impact air quality (smog/ozone) while increased wildfires coupled with other polluting sources impact air particulates taking a toll on people with respiratory issues.

• Our city now has many programs underway through its Environmental Committee to help reduce our carbon footprint, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase sustainable City operations and neighborhoods. We must continue this trajectory.

• Since President Trump and his administration have abdicated national leadership on climate change and abandoned the Paris Agreement, it now is essential for us to work with other municipalities and businesses across the nation to mitigate climate change impacts and reduce emissions to levels described in the Paris Agreement.

I am eager to provide you with an extensive network of contacts, resources, and research which will aide El Segundo in it’s participation in the Climate Mayor’s Network

For example:
• El Segundo can exchange information internationally through the Mediterranean Climate Change Consortium (MC-4):
  o Network among municipalities, academic, scientific, and resource agencies in Mediterranean climate regions.
  o Provides members with the tools needed to build climate change resiliency into all adaptation planning efforts.
  o Loyola Marymount University’s Center for Urban Resilience (CURES) is a member and can provide resources to El Segundo (http://cures.lmu.edu/our-programs/the-mediterranean-city-climate-change-consortium/).

• Working in concert with others is powerful—we need to add our voice and expertise in dealing with this critical issue.

• In closing, I urge you to reconsider adopting the motion from your Environmental Committee given the points I’ve discussed along with all the positive gains for the City described in the motion.

• I surf our beaches nearly daily with my daughter, and we’ve dove coral reefs together – lets work to ensure our grandchildren and their kids can have the same wonderful opportunities!

• I’ll be glad to help in anyway I can.

Thank you.