

PRESS RELEASE

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Greig Smith Council District 12



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

Councilman Smith Introduces Motion to Improve City Response to Extreme Heat in Advance of Summer

Los Angeles - Councilman Greig Smith introduced legislation Wednesday, May 30 to improve the City's ability to respond to extreme heat in an attempt to avoid some of the problems experienced during last year's record-breaking heat wave.

"We are in a severe drought and we expect a hot summer," Councilman Smith said. "So we must prepare to assist and inform the public during a heat emergency and apply the lessons learned from last year."

This is expected to be the driest year on record in Los Angeles, and summer temperatures are expected to be very high. During heat emergencies, many recreation centers, senior centers and other public buildings serve as crucial cooling centers where people can find refuge from the heat.

However, during last year's record-breaking heat wave, when power outages affected thousands of residents across the City, there were delays in opening cooling centers for the public, informing the public where cooling centers are located, and providing water and cots.

Extreme heat is especially dangerous for elderly people, young children and people with disabilities, and is compounded by power outages.

Councilman Smith's motion would identify all the City's public cooling centers in advance, and draft a plan for the centers to provide water, food and cots, and be prepared to staff the facilities that will provide overnight services. The plan will include methods to give critical information to the public before the summer heat arrives and ensure thorough public outreach during a heat crisis, so that people know where to go and what to do.

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